

CHAPTER XV

NARCOTIC DRUGS

The system created by the international treaties on narcotic drugs and designed to regulate the production, movement and consumption of narcotic drugs, and to combat the illicit traffic, continued to operate during 1955, and further measures were taken to extend and improve it. Five international organs play principal roles in international narcotics control: the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs are the chief policy-making bodies, while the Permanent Central Opium Board, the Drug Supervisory Body and the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drugs Liable to Produce Addiction carry out administrative semi-judicial and technical functions.

The Commission is composed of 15 govern-

ments, chosen by the Council because they are the principal manufacturers of narcotic drugs, or are producers of opium or coca leaf, or have a serious social problem caused by illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. The present members are Canada, China, Egypt, France, Greece, India, Iran, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Turkey, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yugoslavia.

The Permanent Central Opium Board consists of eight private persons, elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of their technical competence and impartiality, and the Drug Supervisory Body of four private persons, two of whom are chosen by WHO, one by the Permanent Central Opium Board and one by the Commission.

The WHO Expert Committee is composed of specialists chosen by the Executive Board who meet annually to determine, *inter alia*, whether newly developed drugs notified by governments are addiction-producing, or capable of being converted into addiction-producing drugs, and should therefore be placed under international control.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

There are three essential sources of information which enable the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to exercise supervision over the international traffic in narcotics: (1) annual reports from governments on the execution of their treaty obligations; (2) reports on seizures of drugs from illicit traffic; and (3) the texts of the laws and regulations on narcotics which are in force in the various countries and which must be in conformity with the obligations undertaken for the effective functioning of the controls set up by the international instruments.

In addition, governments are required to furnish periodically to the Permanent Central Opium Board statistical information on their narcotics trade and advance estimates of their annual narcotics requirements, the latter for examination by the Drug Supervisory Body. The Board submits to the Economic and Social Council an annual report on its work, including available statistical data on the narcotics trade in all countries and territories. The Drug Supervisory Body publishes annually for the following year a statement of the estimated narcotics requirements for each country or territory as well as world totals for each drug. The maximum amounts of narcotics which countries or territories may manufacture or import are computed on the basis of these estimates.

All these reports are reviewed by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which consider measures for improving and extending the system of control and for dealing with particular problems which may arise.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its 10th session from 18 April to 12 May 1955. At

that session the Commission examined the implementation of the narcotics treaties; it dealt with the special problems connected with the following drugs: opium, coca leaf, cannabis (Indian hemp, marihuana, hashish), diacetylmorphine and synthetic narcotics; it reviewed the illicit traffic in narcotics; it discussed the problems arising in connection with the cure and rehabilitation of drug addicts and continued its work on the draft of the Single Convention, which is designed to replace all multilateral treaties in the field.

The decisions taken by the Commission came under the following main headings: (1) the implementation of the treaties under which new adherences to the narcotics treaties are reported and matters relating to the reports of governments, the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body are considered; (2) particular aspects of the control of narcotic drugs, *i.e.*, those relating to particular drugs—opium, coca leaf, cannabis (Indian hemp), diacetylmorphine (heroin) and synthetic drugs—as well as problems of drug addiction and the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs; (3) measures for improving the system of control under which the proposed Single Convention on narcotic drugs is discussed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATIES STATES BECOMING PARTIES TO THE TREATIES ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

The Economic and Social Council at its 20th session adopted resolution 588 G (XX) by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, inviting Spain to become party to the protocols of 1946 and 1948. The draft resolution had been recommended by the Social Committee, where it had been proposed by the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt and Venezuela.

Subsequently, Spain became a party to the Protocol of 1946 amending the international instruments of narcotic drugs, and a party to the Paris Protocol of 1948 (for the control of synthetic narcotic drugs).

During the year, Hungary also became a party to the 1946 Protocol, and Japan, Luxembourg and Mexico became parties to the Convention of 1936 for the suppression of the illicit traffic in dangerous drugs.

Australia, the United States, Pakistan, the Philippines, Luxembourg and Ecuador became

parties to the Protocol of 1953 (the Opium Protocol).

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS

The Commission examined the "Summary of Annual Reports of Governments for 1953" and the "Annual Summary of Laws and Regulations relating to the Control of Narcotic Drugs, 1953." Reports for 141 countries and territories and 182 legislative texts had been received by the Secretary-General. The Commission established a new text of the form to be used by governments in preparing their annual reports. The Secretary-General was requested to draw the attention of several governments which had not submitted annual reports for three consecutive years to the need for submitting such a report.

The Economic and Social Council at its 20th session unanimously adopted resolution 588 B I (XX) recommending that governments of importing countries take measures to ensure regular and prompt return of copies of export authorizations to importing countries.

REPORT OF THE PERMANENT CENTRAL OPIUM BOARD

The report of the Permanent Central Opium Board for 1954 showed that legal utilization of opium was declining but that production was rising, and the Commission expressed concern lest those two trends create serious problems for the economies of the producing countries and difficulties from the point of view of control of the illicit traffic. The Board also stated that the manufacture of morphine from poppy straw had steadily increased. Some members of the Commission urged that steps should be taken to apply the same restrictions to poppy straw as to raw opium. The decision of the Commission incorporating this idea in the Single Convention is referred to below. The Commission's attention was drawn to the dangers inherent in the manufacture of increasing numbers and quantities of synthetic drugs.

The Council unanimously adopted resolution 588 B II (XX) in which it expressed appreciation of the services rendered by the Board and the Drug Supervisory Body, stressed the need for the effective and stable operation of those bodies and recommended that the General Assembly provide the necessary funds for that purpose.

The Council also adopted resolution 588 B III (XX) by 13 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, calling upon governments to transmit to the Board complete and accurate estimates and statistics, regularly and promptly.

STATEMENT BY THE DRUG SUPERVISORY BODY

The Drug Supervisory Body stated that the general increase in the licit consumption of certain drugs throughout the world was continuing. The contributing factors were: increase in population, general rise of living standards, progress of social and general medical services, discovery of new analgesics. Since the methods used in estimating consumption requirements differed considerably from country to country, the Commission drew the attention of governments to the necessity of basing estimates on medical and scientific considerations and not on import programmes. It was noted with concern that governments were still considerably overestimating their needs in narcotics.

The Council adopted resolution 588 B IV (XX), by 13 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, recommending governments to make their estimates on narcotic drugs as accurate as possible and to accompany them with statements on the methods employed to calculate the quantities involved.

PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE CONTROL OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

QUESTIONS RELATING TO OPIUM

The Council at its 18th session had designated Mr. Vaille, the representative of France on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to prepare a model code and commentary for the application of the United Nations Opium Protocol of 1953 in order to assist governments in framing legislative and administrative measures of implementation. A draft code was presented by Mr. Vaille to the Commission, which approved it. It will be published, in accordance with the Commission's decision, as a guide for the application of the Protocol.

Under the terms of the Opium Protocol of 1953 only seven countries would be permitted to produce opium for export. Afghanistan, not being one of those countries, asked the Commission to consider measures by which this situation could be changed in its favour. It was decided that this question would be placed on the

agenda of the 11th session of the Commission in 1956.

The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council also debated the question at its 20th session, expressed sympathy with Afghanistan and asked that the views of the Committee members be brought to the attention of the Commission.

The United Nations Laboratory for Opium Research, the establishment of which had been decided by the General Assembly at its ninth session, was set up in Geneva at the end of 1955.

The Commission considered that the scientific methods for determining the origin of opium by chemical and physical means had been sufficiently advanced by the chemists of the United Nations Secretariat and collaborating national scientists to warrant a measure of practical application. It requested governments, in cases of important current seizures of opium in the international illicit traffic, to transmit samples to the Secretariat for the scientific determination of their geographic origin. It authorized the Secretary-General to arrange for such determinations and to report the findings to the government submitting the opium sample in question, as well as to the country which would be found to be the country of origin.

THE PROBLEM OF THE COCA LEAF

In view of the fact that general agreement was reached that the practice of coca leaf chewing in South America constituted a form of addiction, the Council at its 18th session had adopted resolution 548 E (XVIII) recommending that the governments concerned continue their efforts to abolish progressively the chewing and limit gradually, but as quickly as practicable, the cultivation and the export of the coca leaf to legitimate purposes.

At its 10th session the Commission considered the practical measures which could be taken to promote that gradual abolition and limitation. It also recommended that governments limit their imports of coca leaf and crude cocaine to supplies originating in countries which were at present the principal coca leaf producers.

THE PROBLEM OF CANNABIS (INDIAN HEMP)

In some countries the cannabis plant is widely used for its fibre and seed in a perfectly legiti-

mate way, while at the same time other parts of the plant are illegally used by addicts. The Commission and the Council had been considering the possibility of reducing the dangers from cultivation of the plant for industrial purposes by gradually replacing it with varieties which would not produce the harmful resin, or by other fibre-producing plants.

The Commission had an opportunity to review the situation in the Union of South Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Swaziland in the light of a series of surveys on various factual aspects of the cannabis problem carried out by the United Nations.

At its 10th session the Commission considered a study prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization, in collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat, on the possibility of breeding a resin-free cannabis strain or of cultivating substitute plants. The study indicated that such breeding or substitution would involve lengthy and difficult operations.

The Council adopted unanimously resolution 588 C (XX), in which it asked the governments concerned to comment on this study. It also requested governments of countries in which research for the development of a resin-free strain was carried on to give such support as seemed practical.

THE PROBLEM OF DIACETYLMORPHINE

In 1954 the Council, by resolution 548 G (XVIII), had urged governments to prohibit the manufacture of and international trade in diacetylmorphine, since that drug has strong addictive properties which are not offset by therapeutic advantages not obtainable from other less dangerous drugs, and this recommendation was accepted by a large majority of governments.

At its 10th session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs noted with satisfaction the overwhelmingly favourable response of governments to this resolution and urged all governments which had not done so to prohibit the use of diacetylmorphine, as well.

THE PROBLEM OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS

During the past 15 years the number of narcotic substances placed under international control has approximately tripled. Most of these

new substances are synthetic narcotics. A Protocol concluded at Paris on 19 November 1948 was especially designed to bring under international control those drugs which could not be covered by the existing treaties. The Commission at its 10th session considered to what extent the growth of the number of narcotic drugs might be a danger to public health and proposed to the Council that it recommend that governments prohibit the production and use of synthetic narcotics which they did not consider indispensable to public health.

At the Council's 20th session, there was a lengthy discussion in which opinions on the advisability and timeliness of such a measure were nearly evenly divided. There was, however, general agreement on the need for strict control over synthetics, but several members of the Council felt that since both types of drugs, "natural" and synthetic, had the same dangerous qualities, there was no justification for discrimination.

The Council by adopting resolution 588 D II (XX), by 10 votes to 8, decided to defer action on the Commission's proposal until consideration by that body of the study, which was being prepared by WHO, of the relative addictive properties and therapeutic advantages of synthetic and natural narcotics. The Council also adopted resolution 588 E (XX), by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, which recommended that governments invite the members of the medical and related professions to study the desirability and possibility of prohibiting the production and use of synthetic narcotic drugs which they did not consider indispensable to public health. The Council also recommended governments to warn the members of those professions, when appropriate, of the special dangers to public health that might be caused by any new narcotic drug placed on the market.

By resolution 588 DI (XX), which was adopted unanimously, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite governments to report on the steps taken in implementing resolution 548 H I (XVIII), calling upon governments to exercise strict control over synthetic narcotics and to carry out an educational campaign among the members of the medical profession on the danger of synthetic drugs and on the necessity for exercising great care in prescribing them.

DRUG ADDICTION

The problems of drug addiction including social patterns, the under-lying economic and social factors, and methods of treatment and rehabilitation have been discussed by the Commission since its inception.

At the Commission's 10th session it was clear that there was a general increase of awareness and interest in the problem of drug addiction. One of the difficulties was that adequate statistics were lacking; not only was there not enough information in general but also the statistical data of different countries were not comparable. The Commission noted that some progress had been made as a result of the revision of the form of annual reports furnished by governments. To achieve further progress the Council recommended, by resolution 588 E (XX), that governments establish the administrative arrangements necessary for collecting information on drug addiction. The Council also requested WHO to prepare an up-to-date study on appropriate methods for treating addicts and on precautions which members of the medical profession should take in prescribing narcotic drugs.

The Council noted the view expressed by the Commission that methods of ambulatory treatment of addicts, including the so-called "clinic" system, were not advisable.

ILLICIT TRAFFIC

The Commission set up a Committee on Seizures, consisting of eight of its members, to examine the available information on the illicit traffic and to prepare a report for consideration by the Commission. The Commission devoted its attention to the following matters: the situation as regards individual drugs and the situation in certain countries; general problems (trafficking by merchant ships and aircraft, the use of the mails for transmission of illicit narcotics, acetic anhydride, penalties); specific questions, such as the reporting of individual seizures and of the origins of drugs seized in the illicit traffic, the arrangements for the reporting of ships involved in the illicit traffic, procedure for reviewing the illicit traffic and related questions.

The Commission noted that the total quantities of raw opium reported as seized had remained at approximately the same level for the past 25 years, the main regions of the traffic

continuing to be the Far East and the Near and Middle East; the long-term decline in seizures of prepared opium continued; there was a developing tendency of traffickers to convert opium into morphine base at an earlier stage than previously; diacetylmorphine continued to be by far the most widely used "white" drug of addiction, and clandestine laboratories had been reported in some countries; the long-term decline in the quantities of cocaine seized appeared to be to some extent reversed; the traffic in cannabis seemed to be increasing; the traffic in synthetic drugs was relatively small. The Commission recorded its concern at the illicit traffic in certain countries and decided that this situation should be the subject of a special review at its next session.

The Commission agreed that merchant ships continued to be the principal carriers of illicit drugs and noted the increasing use of airlines by traffickers. It observed with interest that a policy of imposing stricter punishments on traffickers had been adopted in some countries and that those higher penalties had generally been found to act as a deterrent to the illicit traffic.

The Commission stressed that the exchange of information on the illicit traffic was a cardinal feature of the international struggle against this traffic. The question of the origin of drugs seized in the illicit traffic caused the Commission to recommend that official reference to origins should be made only after previous consultation with the government concerned. Finally, the Commission felt that as the preliminary sifting of information on the illicit traffic by its Committee on Seizures had proved useful, a committee (to be called the Committee on Illicit Traffic) should be set up each year to meet three working days in advance of its regular session.

MEASURES FOR IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF CONTROL THE PROPOSED SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

In accordance with Council resolution 246 (IX), the Commission had been working for years towards the completion of a convention which would codify the existing multilateral treaties governing the control of narcotic drugs,

simplify that control and improve it, particularly by closing gaps in the existing system and by giving some of the existing provisions such a modified form as to make them more widely acceptable.

The Commission during its 10th session completed a detailed review of the provisions of the draft of the Single Convention which had been prepared by the United Nations Secretariat and which it used as a working paper, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a second draft in accordance with the decisions the Commission had adopted during its last six sessions. It expressed its intention to review the draft and to submit it to governments for observations.

The Single Convention will in general retain the existing provisions laid down in the nine existing treaties. Governments would accordingly limit their supply of narcotics to the approximate amounts needed for medical and scientific purposes. Maxima for the manufacture and import of narcotic drugs would, as at present, be computed for each country or territory on the basis of estimates furnished by governments. A system of government enterprise on licensing and records would assure the control of the drug trade. Under the new treaty the Commission would continue to be the policy-making and "legislative" organ. The administrative supervision of the production and distribution of drugs, and certain semi-judicial functions, would be exercised by an "International Narcotics Control Board" which would replace the Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body. The World Health Organization would continue to be charged with the medical aspects of control.

The new regime would outlaw the use of opium, coca leaves and cannabis for the satisfaction of addicts, with temporary exceptions modelled on those of the provision of the United Nations Opium Protocol of 1953.

The new treaty would also extend the control regime created by the United Nations Opium Protocol to poppy straw and the cultivation of coca leaf, and it would prohibit the production of cannabis except for what would be needed for scientific purposes. It would provide for the possibility of prohibiting the medical use of such dangerous drugs as diacetylmorphine, ketobemidone, etc.

Since the new treaty would contain all existing multilateral treaty law, a part of which had not been widely accepted, the Commission considered whether it would be necessary to permit reservations on the more controversial provisions but felt that on this point it would have to obtain the views of governments not represented on the Commission.

The Commission decided also to apply the same procedure to the question of whether and

how far the new convention should permit amendments by decision of the Commission.

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

On 3 August the Economic and Social Council unanimously adopted resolution 588 F (XX), rescinding an earlier decision authorizing the preparation of a digest of national legislations dealing with the control of narcotic drugs.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL — 20TH SESSION
SOCIAL COMMITTEE, meetings 328-332.

E/2768 and Corr.1. Report of 10th session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 18 April-12 May 1955 (see Annex H of this report for listing of Commission documents).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATIES

STATES BECOMING PARTIES TO
THE TREATIES ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

E/2773. Note by Secretary-General on invitations to Spain to become a party to Protocols of 1946 and 1948 on narcotic drugs.

E/2785. Report of Social Committee (containing joint draft resolution as proposed orally by Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Venezuela, and as adopted by the Committee by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions).

PLENARY MEETINGS, 880, 890.

RESOLUTION 588 G (xx), as recommended by Social Committee, E/2785, adopted by the Council on 3 August by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

INVITATIONS TO SPAIN TO BECOME A PARTY TO THE
PROTOCOLS OF 1946 AND 1948 ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
"The Economic and Social Council

"1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit to the Government of Spain a copy of the 1946 Protocol on Narcotic Drugs;

"2. Invites the Government of Spain to adhere to the Protocol of 1948 on Narcotic Drugs in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 5 of the said Protocol."

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS

Summary of Annual Reports of Governments relating to Opium and Other Narcotic Drugs, 1953. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1955.XI.1.

Summary of Annual Reports of Governments relating to Opium and Other Narcotic Drugs, 1954. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1956.XI.2.

E/NR.1955/Form. Form of annual reports to be communicated by governments to Secretary-General of United Nations in accordance with article 21 of 1931 Convention for Limiting Manufacture and Regulating Distribution of Narcotic Drugs as amended by Protocol of 11 December 1946.

E/NA.1955/1. National authorities empowered to issue certificates and authorizations for import and export of narcotic drugs.

E/NF.1955/1. List of firms authorized to manufacture drugs.

Annual Summary of Laws and Regulations relating to Control of Narcotic Drugs, 1953. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1955.XI.2.

Annual Summary of Laws and Regulations relating to Control of Narcotic Drugs, 1954. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1956.XI.3.

Report of Permanent Central Opium Board to Economic and Social Council on Statistics on Narcotics for 1953 and Work of Board in 1954. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1954.XI.4.

Report of Permanent Central Opium Board to Economic and Social Council on Statistics on Narcotics for 1954 and Work of Board in 1955. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1955.XI.4.

Estimated World Requirements of Narcotic Drugs in 1955. Statement by Drug Supervisory Body. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1954.XI.5 and add. 1-4.

Estimated World Requirements of Narcotic Drugs in 1956. Statement by Drug Supervisory Body. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1955.XI.3.

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex A, pp. 1-3. Draft resolutions I A, B, C, D recommended by Commission (A and B adopted unanimously; C and D by 12 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions).

E/2785. Report of Social Committee.

PLENARY MEETING, 890.

RESOLUTION 588 B HV (xx), as recommended by Social Committee, E/2785, adopted by the Council on 3 August: B I and II, unanimously; B III and B IV, by 13 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF NARCOTICS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATIES

I

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having regard to the necessity for strict compliance by all States Parties to the international treaties on narcotic drugs with the provisions concerning the control of the international trade in such drugs,

"Having been informed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that, according to the annual reports

of a number of Governments, copies of export authorizations are not regularly and promptly returned by the importing countries as required by paragraph 5 of article 13 of the 1925 Convention,

"Recommends that the Governments of the importing countries take appropriate measures to ensure the regular and prompt return of the copies of export authorizations to the exporting countries."

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting the report of the Permanent Central Opium Board on statistics of narcotics for 1953 and the work of the Board in 1954,

"Appreciating the value of the services rendered by the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body in the field of international control of narcotic drugs over a long period of years,

"Having regard to the increased volume of work falling upon these expert bodies as a result of the Protocol of 1948 and the Opium Protocol of 1953, and stressing the need for the effective and stable operation of these bodies,

"1. Recommends the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the arrangements for the organization and working of the Board and the Supervisory Body shall provide these organs with the necessary facilities for their work;

"2. Recommends the General Assembly to provide the necessary funds for this purpose."

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting that, as stated in the report of the Permanent Central Opium Board, certain Governments have either submitted no estimates or statistics at all or have submitted incomplete or inaccurate estimates or statistics,

"Convinced that the gaps in the estimates or statistics caused thereby seriously hamper the work of the Board,

"Calls upon Governments to comply with their obligations under the 1925 and 1931 Conventions to transmit to the Board complete and accurate estimates and statistics, regularly and promptly."

IV

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having regard to the statement entitled Estimated World Requirements of Narcotic Drugs in 1955 issued by the Drug Supervisory Body,

"Recognizing the importance of the estimates system established by the 1931 Convention in the system of international drug control and the great advantages which it presents from the point of view of public health and prevention of drug addiction,

"1. Draws the attention of Governments in particular to the observations of the Drug Supervisory Body made in the said statement and to the recommendations and advice contained therein;

"2. Recommends Governments to make their estimates of narcotic drugs as accurate as possible, and to accompany them with explanations of the methods employed to calculate the quantities involved."

PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF CONTROL OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

QUESTIONS RELATING TO OPIUM

Model Guide for the Application of the Protocol for Limiting and Regulating the Cultivation of the Poppy Plant, the Production of, International and Wholesale Trade in, and Use of Opium. U.N.P. Sales No.: 1956.XI.1.

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex B, pp. 1-3. Resolution on scientific research on narcotics adopted by Commission.

E/AC.7/L.262. United States draft resolution.

THE PROBLEM OF THE COCA LEAF

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex B, p. 3. Resolution adopted by Commission.

THE PROBLEM OF CANNABIS (INDIAN HEMP)

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex A, p. 3. Draft resolution II recommended by Commission (adopted unanimously as amended by United States).

E/AC.7/L.261. United States amendment to draft resolution II recommended by Commission.

E/2785. Report of Social Committee.

PLENARY MEETING, 890.

RESOLUTION 588c(xx), as recommended by Social Committee, E/2785, adopted unanimously by the Council on 3 August.

THE PROBLEM OF CANNABIS

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting with appreciation the study, prepared in pursuance of its resolution 548 F II (XVIII) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in consultation with the United Nations Secretariat, on the possibility of developing strains of the plant Cannabis sativa L. devoid of harmful resin or of replacing it by other crops serving similar industrial purposes,

"Noting that work on developing such strains is already being carried out in the German Federal Republic and the United States of America and recalling its invitation to Governments concerned to conduct experiments in this field,

"Considering that the technical questions discussed in the study have not yet been fully examined by all Governments, and that further data are desirable on the extent to which the illicit traffic in cannabis is related to crops grown for industrial purposes,

"1. Thanks the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for its valuable assistance;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the study for their comments to Governments which cultivate the cannabis plant for industrial purposes (fibre or seeds);

"3. Requests the Governments of countries where the cannabis plant is grown for industrial purposes, and which have not already done so, to furnish information on the extent to which illicit traffic in cannabis and its products is related to this **crop**;

"4. Expresses its interest in the work that is being carried out to produce a strain of the cannabis plant without harmful resin;

"5. Urges the Governments of countries in which such research is being conducted to lend it such support as they may consider practicable;

"6. Calls the attention of other Governments concerned to the desirability of participating in this work;

"7. Invites the Food and Agriculture Organization, in co-operation with the United Nations Secretariat, to act as a co-ordinating agency for this research; to furnish, within existing financial resources, such assistance in connexion with it as Governments may request, and to transmit a report on the progress made to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, if possible for its eleventh session."

THE PROBLEM OF DIACETYLMORPHINE

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex B, p. 4. Resolution adopted by Commission on problem of diacetylmorphine.

THE PROBLEM OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex A, p. 4. Draft resolution III A recommended by Commission (adopted unanimously).

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex A, p. 5. Draft resolution III B recommended by Commission.

E/AC.7/L.263. United Kingdom draft resolution (adopted by 9 votes to 8, with 1 abstention).

E/2785. Report of Social Committee.

PLenary MEETING, 890.

RESOLUTION 588 D I and II (xx), as recommended by Social Committee, E/2785, adopted by the Council on 3 August: D I, unanimously; D II by 10 votes to 8.

THE PROBLEM OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS

I

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling that in its resolution 548 H (XVIII) the Council called upon all States which were not Parties to the Protocol of 19 November 1948 to become Parties in accordance with article 5 thereof,

"Recalling further that in the same resolution it called the attention of all Governments to the necessity for strict control over the possession, manufacture, import and export of, trade in, and use of synthetic narcotics, and made further recommendations concerning the use and control of narcotic drugs,

"Requests the Secretary-General to invite the Governments concerned to report on the steps taken in pursuance of this resolution.

H

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered draft resolution III B in annex A of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (tenth session) in which the Commission proposes that the Council should recommend Governments to prohibit the production and use of such synthetic drugs as they do not consider indispensable to public health,

"Decides to take no action on this draft resolution pending consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the study now being prepared by the World Health Organization of the relative addictive properties and therapeutic advantages of synthetic narcotics and natural narcotics."

DRUG ADDICTION

E/2768, Annex A, p. 5. Draft resolution IV, recommended by Commission (adopted, as amended by France, and as further orally amended, by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions).

E/AC.7/L.264. France amendment to draft resolution IV recommended by Commission.

E/2785. Report of Social Committee.

PLenary MEETING, 890.

RESOLUTION 588 E (xx), as recommended by Social Committee, E/2785, adopted by the Council on 3 August by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

ABUSE OF DRUGS (DRUG ADDICTION)

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 548 I (XVIII) and the recommendations contained therein,

"Noting that in their annual reports certain countries have provided statistics of addiction that are of great value,

"Recognizing that such statistics and the information regarding the extent and character of drug addiction which they involve are necessary for effective counter-measures against addiction,

"Noting that the work undertaken by the Social Commission in the field of prevention of crime is parallel in a number of respects to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to collect information and pursue his studies on aspects of drug addiction in consultation with the World Health Organization, the Social Commission and other bodies concerned;

"2. Notes the view expressed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that in the treatment of drug addiction methods of ambulatory treatment (including the so-called clinic method) are not advisable;

"3. Expresses its appreciation of the assistance given by the World Health Organization and requests that Organization to prepare:

"(a) An up-to-date study on appropriate methods for treating drug addicts;

"(b) Information on methods and precautions which could assist the medical profession in prescribing narcotic drugs;

"4. Recommends that Governments concerned take appropriate measures:

"(a) To establish, if they have not already done so, the necessary arrangements for collecting information on the extent and character of drug addiction in their countries;

"(b) To submit such statistics on the lines of the form of annual reports as revised by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

"(c) To warn the members of the medical and related professions, when appropriate, of the special dangers to public health that might be caused by any new narcotic drug placed on the market, and to invite them to study the desirability and possibility of prohibiting the production and use of such synthetic narcotic drugs as they do not consider indispensable to public health."

ILLICIT TRAFFIC

E/NS.1955/Summaries 1-12. Monthly summaries of reports on illicit transactions and seizures.
E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex B, p. 6. Resolution adopted by the Commission.

MEASURES FOR IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF CONTROL

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex B, p. 4. Resolution adopted by the Commission on Draft Single Convention: control of poppy straw.

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

E/2768 and Corr.1, Annex A, p. 6. Draft resolution V recommended by Commission (adopted unanimously).
E/2785. Report of Social Committee.

PLENARY MEETING, 890.

RESOLUTION 588 F(xx), as recommended by Social Committee, E/2785, adopted unanimously by the Council on 3 August.

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 557 A (XVIII) on the organization and operation of the Council and its commissions,

"Having been informed that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its tenth session agreed with the proposal to withdraw the request to the Secretary-General for the preparation of a digest of laws relating to the control of narcotic drugs, having regard to the communication to Parties to the Conventions of 1931 and the preparation by the Secretary-General of an analytical summary and cumulative index thereof,

"Rescinds the decision in its resolution 49 (IV) regarding the preparation of a digest of laws."

Bulletin on Narcotics. Quarterly.

E/2791, E/2782. Statement by Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs and note by Secretary-General on financial implications of actions of Council.

E/2768, Annex B, p. 4. Resolution adopted by the Commission.

E/2785. Report of Social Committee.