

Economic and Social Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

April/May 1955

**CND Res.BI (X). Scientific research on narcotics**The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the resolution adopted at its ninth session on the progress made in developing and testing methods to establish the geographical origin of opium by chemical and physical means,<sup>1/</sup> and having regard to the views expressed at its tenth session regarding the further progress made in the work since that time,

Convinced that the programme of determining the origin of opium by these methods is an important factor in the suppression of the illicit traffic,

Considering that the entry into force 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 of 23 June 1953 will increase the importance of this programme, especially in connexion with the implementation of article 6 of that instrument,

Noting (i) the importance which the Economic and Social Council attaches to this programme as stated in its resolution 548 D(XVIII) and the view expressed by the Council therein that it would be very useful to establish a United Nations narcotics laboratory; (ii) the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 834(IX) to establish a United Nations Narcotics Laboratory in Geneva; (iii) the understanding reached in the Third Committee of the General Assembly that the proposed narcotics laboratory should not be set up until the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had had another opportunity at its tenth session of considering the matter;<sup>2/</sup> and (iv) the statement by the Secretary-General that he "would regard it as important that the laboratory should be situated in the same place, and preferably in the same building, as the Division of Narcotic Drugs as a whole".<sup>3/</sup>

1. Reminds Governments of their obligations under article 23 of the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, to report the origin of seized drugs, through the Secretary-General, to other parties to the Convention, and recommends that with respect to important current seizures of opium in the international illicit traffic, these reports should contain a determination of origin ascertained by physical and chemical methods;
2. Invites Governments to consider setting up their own facilities for carrying out physical and chemical examination of samples seized in the illicit traffic to work in conjunction with the United Nations narcotics laboratory with a view to determination of origin by such examination;
3. Requests Governments, in cases of important current seizures of opium in the international illicit traffic, to transmit samples to the Secretariat for physical and chemical investigation of origin;
4. Authorizes the Secretary-General to arrange for such investigation, and to report thereon, and on the determination as to origin resulting therefrom, and from other available information, to the Government submitting the samples, and to the Governments of countries indicated in the reports as countries of origin;
5. Agrees that immediate steps should be taken for the establishment of a United Nations narcotics laboratory for opium research and that the laboratory should be situated in the same place as the Division of Narcotic Drugs;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs statistics of the number of samples of seized opium referred for chemical and physical analyses in the calendar year ending on 31 December prior to the Commission's session, and the number of instances in which it was possible to determine the origin of opium by such analyses;

7. Points out that methods to determine the origin of opium by physical and chemical means ought to be based on opium furnished and authenticated by the Government of the country of origin as opium produced in that country, and that reference to the particular methods employed should be given when origin of a seizure is determined by such methods;

8. Recommends that the Secretary-General should request the experts who have previously co-operated in the experiments carried out in connexion with analyses for the purpose of determining the origin of opium to report for the information of the Commission by 31 December 1955 whether, in their estimation, the methods developed for the determination of the origin of opium by physical and chemical tests have reached a stage where the origin can, in a substantial number of cases, be determined by such tests with a reasonable degree of certainty.

April/May 1955

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 8(E/2606), annex A, para. 3.

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 12, document A/2829, para. 26.

3/ Ibid., document A/C.3/573, para. 9.

---