

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

April/May 1955

CND Res.BIV(X). Draft single convention: Control of poppy straw

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Considering that the stage of research and small-scale production of morphine from poppy straw is over and that in the light of the available statistics the international community is under a duty to take a serious view of the new industry, which is now in full development and which utilizes the poppy plant itself as raw material for the manufacture of narcotics,

Anxious to avoid a serious deficiency in the system of control and limitation which the Single Convention proposes to set up,

Considering that the production of morphine from poppy straw has reached the figure of 19,548 kg, by no means a negligible quantity inasmuch as it represents 26.4 per cent of all the morphine produced in 1953, and has doubled in the space of only five years,

Considering that the existing treaties do not provide for the control of poppy straw and that article 4, paragraph (a) (ii) of the 1953 Protocol for Limiting and Regulating the Cultivation of the Poppy Plant, the Production of, International and Wholesale Trade in, and Use of Opium deals only with the control of the manufacture of narcotic substances from poppy straw,

Noting that in 1953, a quantity of 9,611,517 kg of poppy straw, or more than 9.5 million kg of raw material used for the manufacture of narcotics, was not controlled until it reached the factories,

Taking into account the fact that the industry based on the extraction of narcotics from poppy straw has already reached considerable proportions and is expanding steadily,

Convinced that effective measures for the control and limitation of narcotic drugs cannot be taken so long as the production of this raw material is not subject to control and limitation,

Recommends that provisions relating to poppy straw analogous to those of chapter II, articles 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the 1953 Protocol should be inserted in the Single Convention, the definitions of the terms "production", "stocks" and "poppy straw" being slightly amended as set forth below:

"Production" means the cultivation of the poppy with a view to harvesting opium and poppy straw for the purpose of extracting narcotics;

"Stocks" means the total amount of opium and of poppy straw lawfully held in a State...;

"Poppy straw" means all parts of the poppy after mowing (except the seeds) which are intended to be used for the extraction of narcotics;

Articles 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the 1953 Protocol should be amended by the addition of the words "and poppy straw" after the word "opium", wherever it appears.

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