
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

April/May 1956

CND Res. III (XI). The problem of synthetic narcotic drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Having noted the third study on synthetic substances with morphine-like effect ("Relationship between Analgesic Action and Addiction Liability, with a Discussion of the Chemical Structure of Addiction-Producing Substances" [2/](#)) prepared by the World Health Organization in consultation with the Secretariat of the United Nations under resolution 505 C(XVI) of the Economic and Social Council, and expressing its appreciation of the great value of this work,

Considering that the continually increasing number of new narcotic drugs, both of synthetic and natural origin, raises increasingly difficult problems of control and constitutes a danger to public health,

Taking note that not all such new drugs have therapeutic values which are not obtainable from drugs already in use,

Being aware that scientific progress must not be hampered or impeded by any measures which Governments may take to deal with this problem,

Without wishing to anticipate the need for further measures which may have to be taken in the light of the findings of the further study being carried out by the World Health Organization in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution,

Considering the urgent need of dealing promptly with this problem of new drugs,

Recalling resolution 548 H(XVIII) of the Council recommending that Governments adhere to the 1948 Protocol,

1. Invites Governments to make the medical and allied professions aware of the special dangers to public health, if any, of any new narcotic drugs which may be placed on the market;
2. Urges Governments to pay special attention to the emergence of new narcotic drugs and to ensure that no new drug which is, or seems likely to be, addiction-producing is permitted to be placed on sale without control, even though the World Health Organization may not have pronounced upon its addiction-producing quality;
3. Urges Governments to prohibit the export of any particular drug to any country which has notified its desire through the Secretary-General of the United Nations that this should be done, provided that a reasonable amount may be exported to that country for medical and scientific needs on the formal request of the importing Governments if the request is accompanied by an import certificate and names a government department as the recipient of the consignment;
4. Recommends that Governments prohibit, except for medical or scientific research including controlled clinical experiments, the production, distribution and use of such new narcotic drugs as in their opinion are not indispensable to public health, i.e., have no specific medical value not obtainable from existing drugs;
5. Urges Governments to encourage scientists the world over to continue their research for analgesics

free from addiction-producing properties,

6. Again urges Governments which have not already done so to adhere to the 1948 Protocol.

April/May 1956

2/ Bulletin of the World Health Organization (1956), 14, pp. 353-402.
