CND Res.2(XXX). The Problem of synthetic drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Considering the increasing importance of the therapeutic use of synthetic drugs throughout the world,

Having regard to the considerable number of aspects of the problem,

Taking into account the report submitted by the Secretariat on the problem of synthetic drugs (E/CN.7/259/Rev.1),

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council should:

1. Invite the World Health Organization to undertake, in consultation with the United Nations Secretariat, studies on the following problems:

   (a) The addictive properties and therapeutic advantages of synthetic narcotics as compared with natural narcotics;

   (b) The status of scientific knowledge on the relationship between the chemical structure of a drug and its addictive properties;

   (c) The relationship between the strongly analgesic qualities of a drug and its addiction-producing properties;

2. Invite governments which have acceded to the 1948 Protocol and other important drug-manufacturing countries to furnish the Secretariat with such information on the following subjects as they may have or be able to obtain from experts and drug manufacturers:

   (a) The economy of manufacturing synthetic analgesics in general and synthetic opium alkaloids in particular as compared with the manufacture of natural narcotics from opium and from poppy straw;

   (b) Their attitude towards the manufacture of synthetic drugs, even if this should be less economical or should not offer tangible therapeutic advantages;

   (c) Their view on the provisional measures referred to in part II, section 2 of document E/CN.7/259 and on the applicability or inapplicability of the control measures referred to in part III;

   (d) The advisability of prohibiting the use of synthetic drugs or limiting their number in view of the control problems involved, even if some limited disadvantages from the economic and therapeutic standpoint resulted therefrom.

3. Request the Secretariat to prepare forms for the use of governments in furnishing the above information.

4. Request the Secretariat to prepare compilations of the information so obtained and to submit them to
the Commission for its consideration.

March/April 1953