CND Res.III(XII). Opium and opiates (including scientific research on opium)

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Considering that in its resolution 548 D(XVIII) of 12 July 1954 concerning scientific research on opium the Economic and Social Council affirmed “the importance which it attaches to the United Nations programme of opium research designed to develop methods for determining the origin of opium in order to help suppress the illicit traffic” and instructed the Secretary-General “to increase the number of analyses, deferring for the time being other laboratory work except that having a direct connexion with the problem of determining origin”,

Recalling that at its tenth session, in its resolution of 1955, annex B.1, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs pointed 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”,

Taking into account that it would be desirable that the Secretariat should prepare the ground for the work of the group of experts referred to in paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 626 H(XXII) of 2 August 1956, especially with regard to the preparation "of a 'draft Code of Reference' which would set forth a routine by which laboratories in the different countries concerned could apply the methods developed”,

Stressing the importance of resolution 548 D(XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council dated 12 July 1954, and of operative paragraph 7 of the Commission's resolution of 1955, annex B.1,

Convinced that the most immediate objective of the United Nations Laboratory is to succeed, in close collaboration with Governments, in "improving methods of determining the origin of opium" so that when these methods have attained a sufficient degree of accuracy their value may be generally recognized,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to have as many analyses as possible carried out of the authenticated samples he has so far received or may hereafter receive, and to prepare tables showing the results of these analyses, together with observations indicating clearly the essential characteristics of the different categories of opium;

2. Recommends that these analyses should be conducted in accordance with all the physical and chemical methods which have so far been tried and proved;

3. Expresses the hope that the priority given to this work will facilitate consideration by the forthcoming group of experts of the conditions for drafting a code of reference, which is one of the items proposed for inclusion in its agenda;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate to the Governments which have already established or will in the future establish technical co-operation with the United Nations Laboratory the results of these analyses together with the authenticated samples in order to permit comparison of the conclusions reached and to strengthen these conclusions by the syntheses it will be possible to make of them;

5. Urges Governments within whose territories opium is licitly produced to furnish the Secretary-General, if they have not already done so, with a complete set of samples of all the varieties of opium produced in their territories; and, where there is illicit production of opium, to furnish the Secretary-General with
samples in sufficient quantities from that source;

6. Further requests Governments, in order to give the forthcoming meeting of the group of experts the best possible chance of success, to nominate scientists, if they have yet to do so, to participate in the establishment as quickly as possible of accepted standards for determining the origin of opium.

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