CND Res.V(XIII). Opium origin determination

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

A

Having considered with the closest attention the report of the Committee of Experts on the United Nations Programme of Opium Research and the accompanying recommendations (E/CN.7/338), in particular,
1. Thanks the Committee for the very valuable work it has accomplished and for its practical conclusions which should ensure the establishment of a combination of methods for determining the origin of opium;
2. Draws the attention of Governments, of the scientists participating in the joint research programme and of the Secretary-General to the recommendations in that report.

B

Noting that, despite the encouraging progress made in recent years, the establishment of a method or group of methods for reliably determining the origin of seizures cannot be rapidly and successfully worked out unless the laboratories working on the problem have at their disposal a range of authenticated samples covering practically all the producing countries,
1. Urges the Governments of the following countries: Bulgaria, Greece, India, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia, to provide or continue to provide the United Nations Laboratory with sufficient authenticated opium samples from the various regions of production inside the country over a period of years covering possible fluctuations in local production, accompanying each sample with the following information: year of production, precise locality of production, details of harvesting - e.g., first or second lancing, weight of the sample, whether it is opium from one cultivator or several neighbouring cultivators, local name of the variety of poppy and other relevant data;
2. Requests the Governments of the countries mentioned in the preceding paragraph and those of the following countries: Afghanistan, Burma, Ecuador, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Thailand, the United Arab Republic and Viet-Nam:
   (a) To furnish the United Nations Laboratory, after authenticating them with samples of illicitly produced opium which they have seized and, while recognizing that the details listed in paragraph 1 above may not be available in such cases, expresses the hope that Governments will nevertheless provide as much information as possible when sending such samples;
   (b) Also to send the United Nations Laboratory samples from opium seizures in cases where they have not been able to authenticate them as having been produced within their territories, so that these samples can be compared with the existing authenticated samples;
3. Renews the request made to Governments by the Commission at its tenth session as formulated in operative paragraph 3 of resolution I(X), with a view to determining the origin of the seizures.

C

Considering also the need for the rapid establishment of methods for determining the origin of opium and desiring that the largest possible number of countries should participate in the joint research programme,

Recalling the resolutions relating to the nomination of scientists to participate in the joint programme, and in particular, paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 159 C (VII) of 3 August 1948, and resolution III(XII) adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its twelfth session,

Noting that, in accordance with the wish expressed by the Committee of Experts, the United Nations Laboratory is shortly to be provided with the permanent staff whose recruitment the Commission recommended at its twelfth session, and that it will thus be in a position to speed up the implementation of the programme laid down for it in resolution III(XII), adopted by the Commission at that session,

Noting also that the existence of methods of agreed value would assist Governments in their efforts to combat the illicit traffic,
1. Requests the Secretary-General to implement the joint research programme as soon as possible with a view to a rational evaluation of the various methods and the assessment of their accuracy and reproducibility;
2. Expresses the opinion that to fulfil these conditions the most suitable system would be to organize, with the assistance of all the laboratories participating in the research programme, an extensive analysis of samples selected from the stock of authenticated samples, the origin of which would not be communicated to the laboratory undertaking the analyses;
3. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on the desirability of making available to active participants in the research programme a representative collection of samples of the principal opium types included in the collection of the United Nations Laboratory;

4. Suggests that the Secretary-General, in the spirit of the recommendation on the publicity to be given to new developments in the field of research on opium, should prepare a series of documents intended mainly for the scientists collaborating in the research programme;

5. Recommends that, in addition to the programme assigned to it, the United Nations Laboratory, which is already working along these lines, should pay particular attention to the selection of methods providing easily reproducible results and requiring a minimum of time, materials and special equipment;

6. Recalls the authorization given to the Secretary-General under paragraph 4 of resolution I(X), adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its tenth session, and requests him to take appropriate action, accompanying the results obtained with any reservations he may consider necessary in view of the present state of the methods;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to apply as soon as possible the recommendations of the Committee of Experts with regard to the organization of the United Nations Opium Distribution Centre.

April/May 1958