

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C. 732.1925.XI.

Geneva, December 1st. 1925.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM & OTHER DANGEROUS
DRUGS.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY TO STUDY THE
OPIUM SITUATION IN PERSIA FROM THE POINT OF
VIEW OF PRODUCTION.

Note by the Secretary General

In the report on this subject which was adopted by the Council on September 28th, the following passage occurs:-

"The sum of money originally proposed was 200,000 gold francs. The Assembly, however, decided to vote the sum of 100,000 gold francs for the contemplated enquiry and to ask the Council to endeavour to obtain the balance required from sources outside the budget of the League, such as by a grant in aid from the Persian Government in view of the fact that it was thought that the substitution of a proportion of the opium cultivation by other crops touched on a question which was mainly of a domestic character.

I would suggest that the Secretary-General should be asked to enquire of the Persian Government whether it sees its way to contributing to the cost of the enquiry."

In pursuance of this decision, the Secretary General has addressed a letter to the Persian Government enquiring whether that Government can see its way to furnishing a grant in aid of the Commission of Enquiry. It has, of course, not yet been possible for the reply of that Government to reach Geneva.

In the meantime, the Secretary General has been informed by the Bureau of Social Hygiene in New York that the Bureau is prepared to contribute the sum of/

20,000 dollars or 100,000 gold francs towards the expenses of the Commission.

In Article 23 (a) of the Regulations for the Financial Administration of the League it is laid down that "gifts not involving any financial liability for the Members of the League may be accepted by the Council. . . if the Council is satisfied that acceptance will not undesirably affect the general character of the League, and is in accordance with the general policy which should be pursued."

In view of the passage quoted from the Council's Report adopted at its previous meeting, the Secretary General presumes that the Council will be prepared to accept the gift offered by the Bureau of Social Hygiene, on the understanding that such acceptance shall involve no financial liability for the Members of the League beyond the sum already authorised by the Vith assembly.

If the Council agrees, it would perhaps authorise the Secretary General to write to the Bureau of Social Hygiene accepting the offer and expressing in the name of the Council, the gratitude of the League for its generosity.