

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Communicated to the  
Council and the members  
of the League.

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Issued in English only.

Geneva, March 9th , 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1941.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Note by the Acting Secretary-General.

In accordance with Article 21 of the Convention of 1931 for limiting the Manufacture and regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, the Acting Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the above-mentioned report to the parties to the Convention. The report is also communicated to other States and to the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs.

(For the form of annual reports, see document O.C. 1600).

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A. GENERAL.

I. Laws and Publications.

1, 2 and 3. No new laws or regulations relating to the control of opium and other dangerous drugs were issued during the year.

II. Administration.

1 (a) There were no important modifications during the year in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international conventions. The Department of Public Health continues to administer the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act, No. 13 of 1928, which deals with narcotic drugs.

(b) There were no new developments regarding addiction to drugs in the Union.

(c) No difficulties have been encountered in the application of the Conventions.

2. No information is available to indicate that there are any new developments regarding drug addiction.

III. Control of International Trade.

1. The system of import and export certificates for the control of imports and exports of opium and other narcotic drugs worked satisfactorily.

2. { There has been no change in the authority responsible
3. { for the issue of import and export certificates or  
in the conditions of issue of such documents.

4. Small quantities of narcotic drugs were exported to Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Mozambique, Kenya Colony, Zanzibar and the Belgian Congo. Copies of the authorisations forwarded to Governments of the importing territories were duly returned in accordance with the terms of paragraph 5 of Article 13 of the Geneva Convention of 1925.

#### V. Illicit Traffic.

1-6 See Schedules A and B.

There is very little evidence available to indicate that illicit traffic in narcotic drugs takes place to any great extent in the Union of South Africa.

Dagga (Cannabis sativa) is mostly smuggled into the country by Natives from the adjoining territories, as profitable markets are found in the larger towns of the Union where, owing to strict police control, local cultivation is almost non-existent. Large quantities of dagga grown illicitly were destroyed.

#### VI. Other information.

Nothing to report. The opium dealt with, referred to in Schedule B, and small quantities of narcotic drugs were confiscated from persons on ships arriving at South African ports, and in the interior of the country.

### B. RAW MATERIALS.

#### VII. Raw opium. VIII Cocca leaf.

Raw opium and cocapant are not grown in the Union of South Africa.

IX. Indian Hemp, (Cannabis sativa) or dagga, as it is commonly known, is indigenous to South Africa.

The cultivation and sale of the plant is prohibited except under special permit issued under the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act No. 13 of 1928. No permits have been issued during the year as the stocks on hand are quite adequate to meet the demands. No authorisations to export the plant have been granted during the year.

### C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

#### X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

1, 2 and 3. There are no factories in South Africa engaged in the manufacture or conversion of narcotic drugs.

4 (a) Under the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act, No. 13 of 1928, only firms of registered chemists and druggists (wholesale and retail) may trade in dangerous drugs. Medical practitioners, dentists and authorised veterinarians may use or supply

such drugs only in the course of their practice for strictly medicinal purposes.

For the year under review, eleven wholesale and distributing chemists and druggists were authorised to import narcotic drugs; two wholesale distributing chemists imported special products; five retail chemists imported for their own dispensing requirements on a small scale; two medical practitioners, in their capacities as hospital superintendents, and one dentist obtained import certificates.

Six firms of wholesale chemists and druggists were authorised to export narcotic drugs during the year.

(b) The registers of habit-forming drugs, which must be kept by virtue of the provisions of section 65 of Act 13 of 1928, by all persons dealing in such drugs, are regularly inspected by officers of the Department of Public Health as also are stocks of such drugs on hand, in order to ascertain whether there are any discrepancies. Orders and prescriptions are carefully examined and the balances shown in the registers are checked. Explanations are called for in connection with any omissions or irregularities brought to light. Irregularities are usually susceptible of adjustment by correspondence but, in flagrant cases of contravention of the provisions of the Act, resort is had to prosecution. The Department of Public Health is in frequent communication with medical practitioners, pharmacists, dentists and veterinarians, in order to elicit details as to the uses to which narcotic drugs made available to them have been put.

Every person who keeps in his possession or under his control or uses any narcotic drug without exercising all reasonable care in the custody thereof is guilty of an offence.

#### D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

#### XII. Prepared Opium.

1 (a) No case of opium smoking has been discovered amongst the national population, either white or black.

(b) Among the alien population, particularly the small Chinese population, and, to a lesser extent, amongst the Indians, the habit of opium smoking is practised clandestinely.

2, 3, and 4. Any person found in possession of opium or any paraphernalia in connection with opium smoking is prosecuted. Opium confiscated is disposed of, where possible, to chemists and druggists for use medicinally. See Schedule B.

SCHEDULE "A".

RETURN OF DAGGA SEIZED AND PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR BEING IN POSSESSION OF DAGGA DURING THE YEAR 1941 IN RESPECT OF EACH POLICE DIVISION IN THE UNION AND ALSO OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Police Division	Number of persons prosecuted.	Quantity of Dagga seized			
		Lbs.	Ozs.	Kg.	Gr.
Cape Western	1296	2625	4	1193	176
Cape Eastern	699	357	1	162	286
Kimberley	369	240	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	109	257
Transkei	106	1043		474	43
Natal	2772	11900	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5408	678
Orange Free State	377	3726	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1693	680
Witwatersrand	2600	2136	7	971	11
Transvaal	1622	49493	12	22494	909
Union total	9801 (x)	71522	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	32507	40
South West Africa	24	13	5	6	50
Grand Total	9825 (x)	71535	15 $\frac{1}{4}$	32513	90

(x) Note by the Secretariat.

The Union total should be 9841 and the Grand Total 9865

SCHEDULE "B".

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS AND SEIZURES UNDER THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS DEALING WITH OPIUM AND OTHER HABIT-FORMING DRUGS (OTHER THAN DAGGA) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1941.

Date	Place	Drug	No	Persons Charged		Sentence	Quantity of drugs confiscated	Country of Origin
				Race	Nationality			
Feb. 3rd, 1941	Cape Town	Opium	1	Asiatic	Chinese	£ 5 fine	1 1/2 ozs (42.6 grammes)	China
March 25th, 1941	Johannesburg	Opium	1	Asiatic	Chinese	£ 3 fine or two weeks imprisonment with hard labour	3 ozs (85.2 grammes)	China
April 20th, 1941	Johannesburg	Opium	1	Asiatic	Chinese	Fined £ 11	2 ozs (56.8 grammes)	China
Oct. 14th, 1941	Cape Town	Opium	1	Asiatic	Chinese	£ 3 fine or three weeks' imprisonment with hard labour	1/2 oz (14.2 grammes)	China
Oct. 15th, 1941	Johannesburg	Opium	1	Asiatic	Chinese	£ 5 fine	1 oz (28.4 grammes)	China

Small quantities of narcotic drugs have been seized from passengers from ships in addition to the above quantities.