

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.

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Geneva, May 5th , 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNEMENTS FOR 1944.

BRITISH GUIANA

Communicated by the Government of the United Kingdom.

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).

A. GENERAL.

I. Laws and Publications.

1. No new laws, orders or regulations were issued during the year on the question of opium or other dangerous drugs.

2. There was no publication, official or unofficial, likely to be of interest to the Advisory Committee.

II. Administration.

1.(a) No modifications in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international conventions were made during the year.

(b) In this Colony it has not been found practicable to establish a separate administration for the purposes enumerated at (a), (b) and (c) of Article 15 of the Limitation Convention of 1931, as trade in these drugs is very small in extent.

(c) No difficulties were encountered in the application of the conventions.

2. There were no new developments regarding drug addiction during the year. The incidence of drug addiction in this colony is low. The number of addicts known to the central office at the end of the year was 48 - 45 men and 3 women. These addicts received limited supplies of tincture of opium for drinking purposes under a system of Government control.

One person was found illegally in possession of an opium pipe and utensils used in connection with the smoking of opium and was prosecuted and dealt with by the Court.

It should be added that since the control of dangerous drugs in accordance with the international conventions was started, the incidence of drug addiction has greatly decreased. So far, such addiction is confined to Chinese of alien origin and a few East Indians.

III. Control of International Trade.

1. The system of import certificates and export authorisations for the control of imports and exports of opium and other dangerous drugs worked satisfactorily during the year and no difficulties were encountered in this connection.

2. There was no change as regards the department responsible for issuing import certificates and export authorisations, as well as diversion or transit certificates.

3. The conditions of issue of import certificates and export authorisations and of diversion or transit certificates were not modified during the year.

4. This colony is not, generally speaking, an exporting country and no dangerous drugs were exported.

5. No cases of forged or falsified import certificates or export authorisations came to the knowledge of this Government during the year.

6. No difficulties have arisen with regard to transit, transshipment or diversion, and there are no free ports or free zones in this colony.

7. No transactions took place during the year with countries which have not adopted the system of import certificates.

8. No special import certificate for Indian hemp was issued during the year and no change was made in the application of this system (Article 11 of the Geneva Convention of 1925).

V. Illicit Traffic.

1. No evidence was forthcoming of any organised illicit traffic in dangerous drugs in this colony during the year. One case occurred of unlawful possession of 2 ounces (56.8 grammes) of prepared opium and 14 1/2 ounces (411.8 grammes) of raw opium. It was not known how this opium was secured.

2. The opium poppy, the coca plant and Indian hemp are not cultivated in this colony.

3. As indicated at V.1. above, one conviction was secured under the Dangerous Drugs Laws in 1944. The defendant was fined \$1,200 and the articles were confiscated and destroyed.

5. The opium confiscated during the year is indicated above i.e. 2 ounces (56.8 grammes) prepared opium and 14 1/2 ounces (411.8 grammes) raw opium.

6. No information is available as to the price of drugs in the illicit traffic.

B. RAW MATERIALS

VII. Raw Opium.

The opium poppy is not cultivated in this colony and no raw opium is produced.

VIII. Coca leaf.

The coca plant is not cultivated in this colony.

IX. Indian Hemp.

1. The Indian hemp plant (*Cannabis sativa* L.) grows wild in this country, but to a very limited extent. No use is made of this plant, as far as is known.
2. The plant is not cultivated legitimately.
3. The harvesting of Indian hemp is not permitted by law.
4. Illicit cultivation has not been detected.
- 5.(a) and (b). All transactions in the resins of Indian hemp or in preparations of which such resins form the base, such as hashish etc., are prohibited by law.
6. Not applicable.
7. Not applicable.
8. Galenical preparations (extract and tincture) of Indian hemp are now treated in the same way as other dangerous drugs.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

1. (a) None of the drugs is manufactured in this colony.
(b) As regards diacetylmorphine, the requirements of Chapter IV of the Limitation Convention, 1931, have been brought into effect by administrative action.
(c) The control provided for by Articles 13 and 14 (Chapter V of the Limitation Convention of 1931) is applied by the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1937.
2. Licences.
(a) As dangerous drugs are not manufactured in this colony no manufacturing licences are issued.
(b) The issue of licences for trading in and dealing with dangerous drugs is controlled by the Dangerous

Drugs (Licensing Conditions) Regulations, 1937, and licences are issued only to persons belonging to the following groups or classes:-

- (i) Professional licences - approved dentists and veterinary surgeons.
- (ii) Drug Store licences - approved wholesale and retail proprietors.
- (iii) Industrial licences - the managers in charge of Sugar Plantations with certified hospitals or other persons employing labour on mining claims subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) Special authorisations - by the Director of Medical Services, whether in respect of addiction purposes or otherwise, and subject to specified conditions.

Persons of the following classes, that is to say -

- (i) registered medical practitioners;
- (ii) persons in charge of laboratories used for the purpose of research or instruction and attached to institutions, schools or colleges, approved for the purpose by the Director of Medical Services;
- (iii) public analysts;
- (iv) Government dispensers employed or engaged in dispensing medicines at public institutions;
- (v) persons acting as sampling officers under the Sale of Food and Drugs (Consolidation) Ordinance;
- (vi) persons duly authorised by the Governor under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance;

are authorised by the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1937, so far as may be necessary for the practice or exercise of their respective professions or employments in their capacity as members of their respective classes, to be in possession of and to supply dangerous drugs or preparations.

3. Not applicable.

4.(a). See 2(b) above. There were no wholesalers or other persons authorised to be in possession of dangerous drugs for the manufacture of preparations for the wholesale trade.

(b) Supervision is exercised over persons authorised to possess and use dangerous drugs principally by a departmental committee under the control of the Director of Medical Services. Inspection of wholesale and retail pharmacies and of transactions in the drugs is undertaken as a routine measure by the Inspection Committee and, in addition, any officer of police, or any police

constable authorised in writing by an officer of police, has power to enter the premises of any person carrying on the business of a seller or distributor of dangerous drugs, and to inspect any stocks of such drugs and any books or documents connected therewith.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

XI. Chapter IV of The Hague Opium Convention. 1912.

This refers to information re China and is not applicable to this Colony.

XII. Prepared Opium.

1. The possession and use of prepared opium is totally prohibited. The habit of smoking opium is practically suppressed but one case of the possession of prepared opium came to light during the year - see report at V.1, above. The confiscated opium was destroyed.

XIII. Other Drugs.

There are no facts of importance with regard to any drugs not mentioned in the foregoing report and no action was taken during the year in connection therewith.

XIV. Additional Information.

The estimated population of the colony at midyear 1944 was 365,173.

Director of Medical Services.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
Georgetown, British Guiana
January 17th, 1945.
