

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

(Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.)

C.33.M.33.1945.XI.

Geneva, June 6th, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

JOINT RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 78TH CONGRESS,
COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, CONCERNING THE LIMITATION OF THE PRODUCTION
OF OPIUM TO THE AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR STRICTLY MEDICINAL
AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

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 herewith to the States Parties
to the Convention the text of the above-mentioned Resolution
(Public Law 400, 78th Congress). The text of the Resolution
is communicated also to other States.

1. (PUBLIC LAW 400 - 78th CONGRESS)

(Chapter 363 - 2d Session)

(H.J. Res. 241)

JOINT RESOLUTION

Requesting the President to urge upon the governments of those countries where the cultivation of the poppy plant exists, the necessity of immediately limiting the production of opium to the amount required for strictly medicinal and scientific purposes.

Whereas for nearly forty years the United States of America has led the fight to destroy the illicit traffic in and nonmedical consumption of opium, as evidenced by its abolishing the opium monopoly system which it inherited in the Philippine Islands; its calling at Shanghai in 1909 the first International Commission to consider the opium problem; its suggesting the calling of the three International Opium Conferences at The Hague in 1913, 1913, 1914; its urging at the International Opium Conference of 1924 and 1925 sponsored by the League of Nations that the only effective way to suppress the demoralizing use of opium and its derivatives (heroin, morphine, and so forth) was to control the source of the evil by limiting the cultivation of the poppy plant to the legitimate medicinal and scientific needs of the world; and its further participation in the Geneva Conference of 1931 to restrict the manufacture and distribution of narcotic drugs; and

Whereas the laws of the Chinese Government strictly prohibit the cultivation of the opium poppy and the use of smoking opium in all territory under its control, and the people of China have valiantly resisted the attempts of the invading Japanese militarists to enslave them by encouraging and even compelling the cultivation and use of opium; and

Whereas final defeat of Japan will terminate the illicit traffic in narcotics which has been carried on by the Japanese military in all territories they have occupied in the Far East; and

Whereas the British and the Netherlands Governments have recently announced their decision to prohibit the use of opium for smoking and not to reestablish their government

monopolies for the sale of smoking opium in the territories formerly controlled by them in the Far East when those territories are freed from Japanese occupation, stating however that the success of their action must in the final analysis depend upon the cooperation of the opium-growing countries; and

Whereas because of our military operations in certain other areas in Asia, there are now thousands of young American citizens in countries where opium is cultivated and freely available, and other Americans are on vessels delivering war materials to those countries, which condition constitutes a real threat to the health and welfare of these Americans and affords easy opportunity for the highly profitable smuggling of opium into the United States where its use has been greatly reduced; Therefore, he it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress express its conviction that this World War ought to be not an occasion for permitting expansion and spreading of illicit traffic in opium, but rather an opportunity for completely eliminating it; and be it further

Resolved, That the President be, and he hereby is, requested to approach the Governments of all opium-producing countries throughout the world, urging upon them in the interest of protecting American citizens and those of our allies and of freeing the world of an age-old evil, that they take immediate steps to limit and control the growth of the opium poppy and the production of opium and its derivatives to the amount actually required for strictly medicinal and scientific purposes.

Approved July 1, 1944.
