

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.

C.35.M.35.1945.XI
(O.C./A.R. 1940/65)
(Issued in English only)

Geneva, June 16th, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1940.

AUSTRALIA

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.

New regulations were issued during the year under the Queensland Health Acts 1937-1939 to provide for stricter control over the disposal of dangerous drugs. The principal amendments are:

(a) Under the new requirements medical practitioners are required to report to the Director-General of Health any case in which it is considered necessary to prescribe any dangerous drug for a period greater than two calendar months (Reg.53).

(b) Pharmaceutical chemists and dentists are required to keep a separate record of receipts and disposals of dangerous drugs (Reg.58).

(c) Chemists are required to forward all prescriptions for dangerous drugs to the Director-General of Health, after cancellation (Reg.45).

One copy of the new regulations is forwarded herewith. (x)

No other laws or regulations relating to dangerous drugs were issued during the year and no publications of interest came under notice.

Note by the Secretariat.

Not received in the Secretariat.

II. Administration .

There were no important modifications during the year in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international conventions and no difficulties were encountered in the applications of such conventions. There were no new developments concerning addiction to drugs in the Commonwealth.

III. Control of International Trade.

The system of import certificates and export authorisations continues to work satisfactorily. No change in regard to the issue of such documents has been made.

All copies of export authorisations sent to the Governments of importing countries in pursuance of Article 13 of the Convention of 1925 were duly returned.

No case of forged or falsified import certificates or export authorisations came under notice during the year.

No difficulty arose with regard to transit, transhipment or diversion. There are no free ports or free zones in Australia.

There were no transactions in dangerous drugs during the year with countries which have not adopted the import certificate system .

No change occurred in the application of the system of special import certificates for Indian hemp and no difficulty was encountered in such regard . Resin of Indian hemp is not imported into or manufactured in Australia and there have been no transactions in respect of the drug in question.

IV. International Co-operation.

There are no new points of interest or importance to report as regards co-operation with other Governments in the suppression of illicit traffic in dangerous drugs.

V. Illicit Traffic .

There is nothing of special interest to report regarding the illicit traffic during the year. The position remains generally as outlined in previous reports. Prepared opium continues to be introduced into the country to a limited extent. Such smuggling is invariably carried out by members of crews (usually Chinese) of vessels from Eastern countries. The opium involved in this illicit traffic is usually the Grade "A" ("Yik Kee") brand.

PARTICULARS OF PROSECUTIONS.

<u>Number of Prosecutions</u>	<u>Number of Convictions</u>	<u>Total Monetary Penalties imposed</u>	<u>Number of cases in which imprisonment was ordered</u>
88	84	£ 1,345	9 (ranging from 20 days to 12 months)

The classes of offences covered by the above-mentioned prosecutions are as follows:

(1) Opium in possession, opium smoking and opium pipes etc., in possession	54	(all Chinese)
(2) Attempts to obtain drugs illegally	6	(Morphine addicts)
(3) Illegal possession of morphine	2	
(4) Illegal possession of cocaine	<u>26</u>	
TOTAL	88	
	<u> </u>	

The following case is of more than ordinary interest and is reported for information:

"On August 6th, 1940, two Chinese were arrested at Inverell, New South Wales, in possession of opium. The opium had been sent by rail from Sydney by a Chinese named Lee Tow, included in a parcel of groceries. A search of the premises occupied by Lee Tow at 399 Sussex Street, Sydney, resulted in the discovery of two tins of opium. Inquiries disclosed that Lee Tow acted as a grocery commission agent and that for some time before his arrest he had been secreting opium in grocery parcels sent to other Chinese in country districts. Lee Tow pleaded guilty and was fined £100."

The quantities of opium and other dangerous drugs confiscated in the Commonwealth during the calendar year 1940 were as follows:

	<u>kg.</u>	<u>gr.</u>
Prepared opium	6	181
Opium ash		169
Raw opium		198
Morphine		61
Cocaine		152

No reliable information is available regarding the prices of drugs as sold in the illicit traffic.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw Opium.

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

VIII. Coca Leaf.

The coca plant is not grown in Australia. As regards the wholesale trade in imported leaf, control is exercised to the same extent as applies in the case of morphine, cocaine, etc.

IX. Indian Hemp.

The cultivation of the Indian hemp plant in Australia

is not authorised and no cases of illicit traffic in the drug came under notice during the year .

No new developments occurred during the year concerning the use of galenical preparations (extract and tincture) of Indian hemp.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

Apart from the change in the position in Queensland as outlined in reply to Question N° I above, there was no alteration of importance during the year in the internal control of manufactured drugs.

XII. Prepared Opium .

There is no known addiction to opium smoking among the national population. The practice, however, continues to be indulged in by Chinese members of the community despite all efforts by Commonwealth and State authorities to prevent the introduction of prepared opium and its use for smoking purposes.

It has not been found possible to obtain reliable information as to the extent to which prepared opium is illicitly introduced into the country .

For further information concerning the illicit traffic in opium please see reply to Question No. V. Such reply also includes details relating to prosecutions, penalties and confiscations.

The prepared opium confiscated is being held by the Government.

Department of Trade and Customs,

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

October 10th, 1943.
