

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the  
Council and the Members  
of the League.

C.36.M.36.1945.XI.  
(O.C./A.R. 1941/63)

(Issued in English only)

Geneva, June 16th, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1941.

A U S T R A L I A.

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.

In the State of South Australia, action was taken by Proclamation (copy attached) (x) declaring that the South Australian Dangerous Drugs Act 1934 applied to any preparation, admixture, extract or other substance containing any preparation of any extract or tincture of Indian hemp, except any such substances intended only for external use.

No other laws or regulations of importance were issued during the year and no publications of interest came under notice.

II. Administration .

No modifications were made during the year in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international drug conventions and no difficulties were encountered in the application of such conventions .

There is nothing to report as regards new developments relating to addiction to drugs in the Commonwealth.

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Note by the Secretariat.

Kept in the archives of the Secretariat.

III. Control of International Trade.

There is nothing to report under this heading. The position generally remains as outlined in previous reports.

IV. International Co-operation .

No new points of interest or importance have arisen as regards co-operation with other Governments in the suppression of the illicit traffic in dangerous drugs.

V. Illicit Traffic.

The illicit traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs continues to operate to a certain extent despite all efforts by Commonwealth and State Authorities to stamp out the traffic. As regards illicit import, the traffic relates principally to opium and opium ash.

No instances of importance came under notice during the year of any diversion of drugs from legitimate channels into the illicit traffic.

The routes most frequently used for the contraband traffic are via the East, i.e. routes followed by vessels engaged in the Eastern trade. The known methods used by smugglers (usually Chinese members of crews) are to secrete the drug in various parts of the vessel and await a favourable opportunity to smuggle it ashore. Various devices, such as false bottom port-manteaux and other receptacles, and specially prepared belts, boots and shoes, are used in efforts made to smuggle drugs ashore.

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>
102	102	£ 796	18 (from 14 days to 12 months)

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

(1) Opium in possession, opium smoking and opium pipes etc ., in possession	78 (All Chinese)
(2) Attempts to obtain drugs illegally	3
(3) Illegal possession of morphine	2
(4) Illegal possession of cocaine	17
(5) Illegally dispensing cocaine	1
(6) Failing to keep approved records	1
TOTAL	<u>102</u>

The quantities of opium and other dangerous drugs confiscated in the Commonwealth during the calendar year 1941 were as follows:

	<u>kg.</u>	<u>gr.</u>
Prepared opium	19	977
Opium ash		365
Raw opium		63
Morphine		3
Cocaine		659

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

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw Opium.

Except for some small experimental cultivation, no cultivation of the opium poppy took place during the year. No raw opium was produced.

VIII. Coca Leaf.

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

IX. Indian Hemp.

The cultivation of the Indian hemp plant in Australia is not permitted. No cases of illicit traffic in the drug came under notice during the year.

There were no new developments during the year concerning the use of galenical preparations (extract and tincture) of Indian hemp.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

No alteration of importance was made during the year in the internal control of manufactured drugs.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

XI. Chapter IV of the Hague Convention of 1912.

Not applicable to Australia.

XII. Prepared Opium.

The position remains as outlined in previous reports. There is no known addiction to opium smoking among the National population. The practice continues to be indulged in, however,

by Chinese members of the community, despite the combined efforts of the Commonwealth and State Authorities to stamp out the traffic.

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

All prepared opium confiscated is being held by the Government.

Department of Trade and Customs,

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

October 14th, 1943.

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