

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.

C.39.M.39.1945.XI.
(O.C/A.R.1944/5)
(Issued in English only)

Geneva, June 18th, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1944.

BASUTOLAND

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.

Nil.

II. Administration.

Nil.

III. Control of International Trade.

1. The import certificate system worked satisfactorily.
2. No changes.
3. No important modification of any certificates.
4. Basutoland is not an exporting country.
5. No instances of forged certificates have come to the knowledge of this Administration during the year under review.
6. No difficulties were encountered.
7. Not applicable to Basutoland.
8. Basutoland is not affected.

IV. International Co-operation.

1. None.
2. Co-operation is maintained with the Union of South Africa in the control of the traffic in "dagga".

V. Illicit Traffic.

1. The only illicit traffic in narcotic substances is in dagga and necessary legislation against its cultivation and use is in force.

It is an indigenous plant and grown in most parts of the Territory. Chiefs and Headmen are held responsible for its eradication in their respective areas and the Government is responsible on the Reserves. When the growth of the drug is seen by

the police on patrol they report the fact to the Chief or Headmen who carries out its destruction. In every case which has been reported by the police, action has been taken.

Smuggling it out of the country still continues. Profitable markets are to be found in the larger towns in the Union.

The ever-increasing use of motor cars for transport has made it more difficult to stop smuggling.

Close co-operation between the Basutoland and the Union Police in an endeavour to suppress this crime continues.

- 2. Not applicable to Basutoland.
- 3. The following is a list of prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed during the year:-

A. Number of prosecutions 57
 Number of convictions 55
 Penalties imposed £303.17.6
 10 years 10 3/4 months imprisonment with hard labour.

B. Quantities of dagga confiscated 750 lbs. 2 1/2 oz. (340 kg. 946.gr.)

Method of disposal destroyed by fire.

C. Narcotic substance confiscated on account of illicit import or export other than criminal prosecutions...Nil.

- 4. Not applicable to Basutoland.
- 5. Not applicable to Basutoland.
- 6. Dagga is still purchased by buyers from the Union at prices ranging from 1/6 to 2/- per lb. (454.5 grammes) and is retailed at a handsome profit.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw Opium.

Opium poppy does not grow in Basutoland.

VIII. Coca Leaf.

The coca plant does not grow in Basutoland.

IX. Indian Hemp.

Indian Hemp (locally known as "dagga") is an indigenous plant and grows in most parts of the Territory. It is used by a limited number of natives and is smoked pure or mixed with native tobacco in pipes or through a special pipe in the ground.

- 2. Cultivation prohibited.
- 3. Cultivation and harvesting prohibited.
- 4. Constant police vigilance.
- 5 (a). Not permitted.
- (b). None.
- 6. Not applicable.
- 7. Chiefs are responsible for the destruction of the wild dagga plant in their areas, but, owing to the nature of the country, particularly, the mountainous portions, eradication is very difficult.
- 8. No new developments.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

- 1 and 2. Not applicable.
- 3. Manufacture. No drugs are manufactured in Basutoland nor there any trade in drugs except as shown below in sub-section 4.
- 4. Trade and distribution. Classes of persons to whom permits are granted for use or possession of drugs are:- 1 retail chemist, 17 doctors of whom 12 are in Government employ, and 1 Government Veterinary Officer.
- 5. Inspection by Deputy Director of Medical Services.