

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.

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(Issued in English only).

Geneva, June 23rd, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1942.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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, 2 and 3. No laws or regulations relating to the control of opium and other habit-forming drugs were issued during the year.

II. Administration.

1.(a). No changes were made during the year in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international conventions, the Department of Public Health being charged with these responsibilities.

(b) There were no new developments regarding drug addiction in the Union.

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

2. No information is available to indicate that there are any new developments regarding drug addiction.

III. Control of International Trade.

1. The system of import and export certificates for the control of imports and exports of opium and other narcotic drugs worked satisfactorily.

2 and 3: There was no change in the authority responsible for the issue of import and export certificates or in the conditions of issue of such documents.

4. Small amounts of narcotic drugs were exported to Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Mozambique and the Belgian Congo. Endorsements of the export authorisations were duly returned by the Governments concerned.

V. Illicit Traffic.

1-6. See schedules A and B.

There is very little evidence available to indicate that illicit traffic in narcotic drugs other than Dagga (*Cannabis sativa* L.) takes place to any extent in the Union of South Africa.

Dagga (*Cannabis sativa* L.) is smuggled into the country by Natives mainly from the adjoining territories. Profitable markets are to be found in the larger towns, where local cultivation is almost non-existent, due to strict police supervision. Large quantities of dagga grown illicitly in the country were destroyed.

The small quantities of opium referred to in schedule "B" were confiscated from passengers on ships arriving at South African ports.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw opium.

Raw opium is not produced in the Union of South Africa. All supplies of raw opium are imported under official permits. No opium derivatives are manufactured in the Union. Importation is permitted only for the manufacture of official preparations for medical purposes.

During the calendar year ended December 31st, 1942, 888 kg. 656 gr. of raw opium were imported.

VIII. Coca Leaf.

Coca plant is not grown in South Africa. Supplies of coca leaves are imported for manufacture into medicinal preparations prepared direct from coca leaf. No supplies were imported during the year under review.

IX. Indian Hemp.

Indian hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.), or "dagga", as it is commonly known, grows wild in South Africa. The cultivation and sale of the plant is prohibited except under special permit issued in terms of the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act, No. 13 of 1928. No permits were issued during the year, as the stocks on hand were adequate to meet the demand. One authorisation to export the plant to the United Kingdom was issued, involving an amount of 760 pounds (345 kg. 420 gr.).

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

1.) There are no factories in the Union of South Africa
2.) engaged in the manufacture or conversion of narcotic
3.) drugs.

4.(a). The Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act, No. 13 of 1928, permits only firms of registered chemists and druggists, both wholesale and retail, to trade in dangerous drugs. Medical practitioners, dentists and authorised veterinarians may use or supply such drugs only in the course of their practice for strictly medicinal purposes.

Thirteen wholesale and distributing firms of chemists and druggists were authorised to import narcotic drugs; three retail chemists imported small quantities of drugs for their own dispensing purposes; three medical practitioners, two in their capacities as superintendents of hospitals and one as the medical officer to the Mandated Territory of South West Africa and one dentist obtained import certificates during the year.

Narcotic drugs were exported under certificate by six firms of wholesale chemists and druggists.

(b) Officers of the Department of Public Health carry out regular inspections of the registers of habit-forming drugs, which must be maintained by all persons using or dealing in such drugs. Orders and prescriptions are carefully examined and stocks of drugs checked with the records to ensure that drugs have only been used for legitimate purposes. The Department of Public Health is in frequent communication with medical practitioners, dentists, pharmacists and veterinarians in order to procure details of the uses to which narcotic drugs supplied to them have been put. Irregularities are usually susceptible of adjustment by correspondence, but serious contraventions of the provisions of the law are dealt with by the Courts.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

XII. Prepared Opium.

1.(a) No cases of opium smoking have been discovered among the national population either white or black in the Union of South Africa. The importation or preparation of opium for smoking or of any appliance used for that purpose is prohibited.

(b) Among the alien population, more particularly the small Chinese community, and to a lesser degree among the Indians, the habit of opium smoking is indulged in, clandestinely.

2, 3 and 4. Persons found in possession of opium or any appliance used in connection with opium smoking are prosecuted. The opium confiscated is disposed of to firms of chemists and druggists for manufacturing purposes.

Schedule "B" indicates the number of prosecutions under the laws dealing with opium and other habit-forming drugs.

SCHEDULE "A"

RETURN

OF DAGGA SEIZED AND PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR BEING IN POSSESSION OF DAGGA DURING THE YEAR 1942 IN RESPECT OF EACH POLICE DIVISION IN THE UNION AND ALSO OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

<u>Police Division</u>	<u>Number of Persons prosecuted</u>	<u>Quantity of dagga seized</u>			
		Lbs.	Ozs.	Kg.	Gr.
Cape Western	1,003	689	3½	(313	250)
Cape Eastern	559	740	½	(336	344)
Kimberley	363	180	3¾	(81	916)
Transkei	64	221	5	(100	586)
Natal	2,351	6,367	10¾	(2894	107)
O.F. State	532	4,953	8½	(2251	373)
Witwatersrand	2,345	3,256	2	(1479	909)
Transvaal	1,362	7,294	15½	(3315	556)
Union Total	8,579	23,703	1	(10773	41)
South West Africa	27	11	1	(5	28)
GRAND TOTAL	8,606	23,714	2	(10778	69)

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PROSECUTIONS AND SEIZURES UNDER THE LAWS RELATING TO OPIUM AND OTHER HABIT-FORMING DRUGS (OTHER THAN CANNABIS) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR, 1942.

Date	Place	Drug	Persons charged			Sentenced	Quantity of drug confiscated	Country of origin
			No.	Race	Nationality			
March 21st, 1942.	Durban	Opium	2	Asiatic	Chinese		10 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. (4 kg. 659 gr.)	China
May 1st, 1942.	Durban	Opium	2	Asiatic	Chinese		(12 lbs. 14 oz. (5 kg. 852 gr.) (8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. (3 kg. 863 gr.) (4 lbs. 6 oz. (1 kg. 988 gr.) (Rummage).	"
September 22nd, 1942.	Durban	Opium	2	Asiatic	Chinese		(5 lbs. 2 oz. (2 kg. 329 gr.) (4 lbs. 4 oz. (1 kg. 932 gr.)	"
October 15th, 1942.	Cape Town	Opium	3	Asiatic	Chinese	(1) £6 or 6 weeks' imprisonment with hard labour. (2) £3 or 3 weeks' imprisonment with hard labour. (3) £3 or 3 weeks' imprisonment with hard labour	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. (383.4 grammes)	"
December 4th, 1942.	Cape Town	Opium	2	Asiatic	Chinese	(1) £2 or 2 weeks' imprisonment with hard labour, suspended for one month. (2) £3 or 3 weeks' imprisonment with hard labour.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. (241.4 grammes)	"

Small quantities of narcotic drugs were seized from passengers arriving at South African ports, in addition to the above amount.