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TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

REPORT BY THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1929 ON THE TRAFFIC IN
OPium AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to
circulate the attached report for the information of
the States Members and non-Members of the League, and
the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other
Dangerous Drugs.
A. GENERAL.

1. The regulations regarding opium and other dangerous drugs were modified only by the Decree of the Minister of Labour, Trade and Industry dated February 18th, 1929, No. 192.P, Public Health Department. In virtue of Article 2, Section 1, of the Opium Law of 1923 (Legal Gazette 1928 No. 167), this Decree makes dilaudid a narcotic coming within the scope of that law.

2. Control of international trade.

With a view to the satisfactory working of the "Import Certificates" system for the control of import and export the following observations should be made:

a) Article 13, paragraph 5, of the Geneva Convention of February 10th, 1925, cannot be interpreted as prohibiting the despatch of a copy of the export authorisation to the authorities of the importing country, in accordance with paragraph 4 of that article, before the consignment itself is exported. In order to prevent any delay in this matter it would seem preferable not to wait for the exportation of the consignment;

b) the authorities of the importing country should return as soon as possible to the authorities of the exporting country the copies of the export authorisations which they have received from those authorities, in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 5, of the Convention of February 10th, 1925.
Delays in the return of these documents place serious difficulties in the way of effective control, and, as regards the point referred to in (b), also prevent the immediate institution, where necessary, of an enquiry into any differences between the quantity indicated as exported and that actually imported.

The authorities of certain countries at present return the copies of export authorisations only once a quarter, or after several months have elapsed, so that if the quantity imported into a foreign country differs from the quantity exported from the Netherlands, the difference cannot be accounted for before the quarterly statistics are drawn up.

The Decree issued by the Minister of Labour, Trade and Industry dated June 24th, 1925, No.500 P.11, Public Health Department (Official Journal of June 25th, 1925, No.144), Article 13, paragraph 5, prescribes the procedure to be followed as regards the export of narcotics to countries which do not apply the certificate system. Export certificates are issued only if the Inspector-in-Chief of Public Health, by whom certificates are issued, is satisfied that the consignee is a proper person to receive exported narcotics, or that there is no reason to believe that the drugs are intended for other than lawful purposes. As regards the export of narcotics to China, the preceding paragraph of the article referred to provides that export certificates are issued only if a request is accompanied by a declaration issued or confirmed by the Netherlands Consul of the area where the destination is situated, and stating that importation into China is allowed. The Inspector-in-Chief of Public Health, by
whom certificates are issued, may, however, in special cases, accept an equivalent declaration by another authority. In the course of 1930 the administrative rules on this subject were amplified and made more precise.

An import certificate is nevertheless required for the importation into the Netherlands of narcotics from a country which has not adopted the certificate system.

No difficulties have arisen with regard to transit, transhipment and diversion or with regard to bonded warehouses.

There are no free ports or free zones in the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Europe.

3. Internal regulation of the manufacture, sale, distribution, use, etc. of the drugs.

No new points need be noted relating to the administration of the laws in force.

Detailed particulars of the internal regulation were supplied to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations as a result of the resolution adopted by the Tenth Assembly on the standard code for the administrative supervision of the drug traffic.

For particulars of the illicit traffic, see under 9.

As in previous years, the home consumption of drugs has been calculated on the basis of the available statistics.

As regards opium and all preparations thereof, including morphine, heroin, dionine and their salts and preparations, the consumption was equivalent to 2,442 kg. of raw opium containing 10% of anhydrous morphine.

The consumption of cocaine and its salts was equivalent to 32 kg. of cocaine base.

4. International co-operation.

Close co-operation has been carried on with other countries, mainly in police matters (see under 9).
5. Raw opium and coca leaves.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands in Europe does not produce opium or coca leaves.

6. a) Prepared opium.

According to the laws in force it is forbidden to import, export, convey in transit, prepare, treat, sell, deliver, supply or transport, possess or hold or manufacture, prepared opium or any preparation whatever of prepared opium.

The Minister of Labour, Trade and Industry may authorise the import, export or conveyance in transit of prepared opium or preparations of prepared opium, but only for scientific or for police purposes.

The habit of opium smoking does not exist in any section of the national population.

Among the Chinese population of the cities of Rotterdam and Amsterdam this habit still exists, though it is only practised secretly. Despite all the efforts of the police it has not been entirely stamped out. The Chinese addicted to opium are regularly supplied with the drug through secret channels. The police and Customs authorities are doing their best to prevent opium being smuggled into the country. There is no doubt that almost every ship entering a port and having Chinese among its crew has a few kilogrammes of opium on board, often hidden in the coal bunkers.

This state of affairs can only be remedied by effective co-operation among all the authorities inspecting vessels in the various ports of the world, particularly those ports where opium is taken on board.
As has been shown by the seizures made, opium for
smoking is smuggled into the Netherlands, even in quantities of
dozens of kilogrammes.

Infringements of the above-mentioned prohibition are
punishable by imprisonment for not more than a year, and in the
case of a repetition of the offence within two years, by imprison-
ment for not more than two years, if the offence is committed
intentionally. In other cases infringements are punishable by
imprisonment for not more than three months or a fine of not more
than a thousand florins, or, in the event of a repetition of
the offence within two years, by detention not exceeding six
months or a fine not exceeding three thousand florins.

As regards the prosecutions and penalties imposed, see
the attached table.

Most of the opium seized was of Turkish or Persian
origin.

The quantity of prepared opium seized amounted to less
than one kilogramme of good quality chandu.

Drugs seized at Rotterdam are sold by auction to license-
holders. Prepared opium is sold under special authorisation to
the Netherlands Pharmaceutical and Chemical Products Works at
Hillegom, which manufactures codeine from them.

7. Indian hemp.

The Inspector-in-Chief of Public Health instituted in
1925 an enquiry into the cultivation of Indian hemp (Cannabis
Sativa L.) in the Netherlands. This enquiry showed that the area
in which this plant is grown was only 17 acres; the plant is
employed solely for the production of fibre and grain. The
chemical and pharmaceutical researches carried out by the Central
Public Health Laboratory at Utrecht showed that the flowering tops
of the pistillate plant cultivated in the Netherlands cannot be used for the production of narcotics, on account of the very small quantity of active substances they contain. For that reason the use of Indian hemp as a narcotic is absolutely unknown in the Netherlands.

According to the Opium Law it is forbidden to import, export or convey in transit Indian hemp, the resin obtained from Indian hemp, or the usual preparations of which the resin is the base (e.g. hashish, eser, chiras and ajamba) except by authorisation of the Minister of Labour, Trade and Industry.

The Rotterdam police was informed that a certain group of Arab and North African traders regularly stopping at Rotterdam were secretly using hashish.

8. Other drugs to which the Hague and Geneva Conventions apply.

The N.V. Nederlandsche Cocainefabriek (Netherlands Cocaine Manufacturing Company) of Amsterdam was authorised to manufacture crude cocaine, eogonine and cocaine, and their respective salts.

The output was as follows:
- Crude cocaine ......................... 284 kg.
- Eogonine ................................. 29 "
- Cocaine and cocaine salts calculated in terms of pure cocaine ...... 281 "

The Nederlandsche Fabriek van Pharmaceutisch Chemische Producten (Netherlands Pharmaceutical and Chemical Products Works) at Apeldoorn was authorised to manufacture crude cocaine, eogonine, morphine, diacetylmorphine and cocaine, and their respective salts.

No morphine was manufactured in 1929.
The number of licences in the various categories was as follows:

- for purely scientific purposes and for purposes of demonstration: 19;
- for wholesale trade: 41;
- for wholesale trade and the preparation of medicines: 17;
- for the manufacture of narcotics: 2.

9. Illicit traffic

As regards prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed, see annexed table.

The total quantity of raw opium seized was 85 kg. The sale of this quantity must be regarded as seized on account of illicit import.

The drugs seized and confiscated are sold by auction, generally once a year. Under Article 10, paragraph 6 of the Opium Law, these drugs may not be sold, delivered or supplied except to persons authorised to possess or hold them.

All cases of illicit traffic or seizures of drugs which took place in 1929 have been communicated to the Secretariat of the League of Nations by the League of Nations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which acts as the central organ for the direct communication of information as to seizure of drugs. These cases are shown in Document O.C.1502.

In important cases the Secretariat is notified as soon as possible (see Document O.C.807 (a)).

In the campaign against the illicit traffic in drugs the Rotterdam police co-operates with the police of Amsterdam and The Hague.
In 1929 it was in constant touch with the police of Paris, Hamburg and London in connection with cases of the illicit traffic in drugs.

In virtue of the arrangement concluded with the United States of America regarding the direct communication of information as to cases of illicit traffic, the police also maintain direct correspondence with the American police authorities.

C. MISCELLANEOUS.


See under 2.

11. Other drugs.

Codeine does not come within the scope of the Opium Law of 1928.

The information available has been communicated to the Permanent Central Opium Board.

12. Additional information and suggestions.

None.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Date of Seizure</th>
<th>Place of Seizure</th>
<th>Drug Seized</th>
<th>Quantity Seized</th>
<th>Nationality of Accused</th>
<th>Date of Sentence, Court</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24-I</td>
<td>Rotterdam</td>
<td>Prepared Opium</td>
<td>50 gr.</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>30-I Rotterdam</td>
<td>F1.30 or 1 month's detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>19-III</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Morphine</td>
<td>1 kg.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>27-III &quot;</td>
<td>14 days' imprisonment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10-IV</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Prepared Opium</td>
<td>250 gr.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>15-IV &quot;</td>
<td>F1.30 or 5 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>15-IV</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>50 gr.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>19-IV &quot;</td>
<td>F1.30 or 15 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>30-IV</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>200 gr.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>6-V &quot;</td>
<td>F1.30 or 15 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>30-V</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>Raw opium</td>
<td>22 kg.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Amsterdam &quot;</td>
<td>2 months' imprisonment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>8-VI</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>27½ kg.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>2 months' imprisonment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>10-VI</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>2 kg.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>2 months' imprisonment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>26-VI</td>
<td>Rotterdam</td>
<td>Prepared Opium</td>
<td>500 gr.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>I-VII Rotterdam</td>
<td>F1.50 or 2 months' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15-VII</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Raw Opium</td>
<td>200 gr.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>19-VII &quot;</td>
<td>F1.30 or 15 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>27-VIII</td>
<td>Rotterdam</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>3½ kg.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>23-VIII Rotterdam</td>
<td>F1.30 or 15 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>24-IX</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Prepared Opium</td>
<td>10 gr.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>27-IX &quot;</td>
<td>F1.5 or 5 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>2-X</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>A few gr.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>4-X &quot;</td>
<td>F1.15 or 10 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>2-X</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>4-X &quot;</td>
<td>F1.15 or 10 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>10-X</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>14-X &quot;</td>
<td>F1.10 or 10 days' detention.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>