

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and Members
of the League.

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Geneva, March 29th, 1944.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE
COLONIES ON NOVEMBER 10TH, 1943, CONCERNING THE
POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
IN REGARD TO THE PROHIBITION OF OPIUM SMOKING IN
BRITISH AND BRITISH PROTECTED TERRITORIES IN THE
FAR EAST NOW IN JAPANESE OCCUPATION.

Text 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 herewith to the Parties to the Convention the text of the following statement. This text is also communicated to other States.

By The Hague Convention, 1912, His Majesty's Government undertook to take measures for the gradual and effective suppression of opium smoking. The Geneva Agreement, 1925, contained provisions supplementary to and designed to facilitate the execution of the obligations assumed under The Hague Convention and in particular provided that the importation, sale and distribution of opium and the making of prepared opium for sale shall be a monopoly of the Government. Under the system of Government monopoly, supplies of prepared opium were restricted to habitual smokers and as a result of the administrative measures and the general improvement brought about in social conditions during the 20 years preceding the Japanese aggression much progress has been made towards the suppression of opium smoking.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have now decided to adopt the policy of total prohibition of opium smoking in the British and British protected territories in the Far East which are now in enemy occupation and, in accordance with this policy, the prepared opium monopolies formerly in operation in these territories will not be re-established on their re-occupation. The success of the enforcement of prohibition will depend on the steps taken to limit and control the production of opium in other countries. His Majesty's Government will consult with the Governments of other countries concerned with a view to securing their effective co-operation in the solution of this problem.
