

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

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(O.C./A.R. 1945/25)

(Issued in English only)

Geneva, July 24th, 1946.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1945.

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO.

Communicated by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Note by the Secretary-General.

In accordance with Article 21 of the Convention of 1931 for limiting the Manufacture and regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the above-mentioned report to the parties to the Convention.

(For the form of annual reports, see document O.C.1600).

A. GENERAL.

I. Laws and Publications.

1. There have been no new laws, orders or regulations issued during the year on the question of opium and other dangerous drugs.

2. and 3. Nil.

II. Administration.

1. and 2. Nil.

III. Control of International Trade.

1. The system of import certificates worked satisfactorily during the year.

2, 3, 6 and 8. Nil.

4. and 7. Not applicable.

5. No.

IV. International Co-operation.

1. and 2. Nil.

V. Illicit Traffic.

1. There were two seizures of Morphine during 1945. Opium continues to be smuggled into the Colony for use by Chinese, but while ships are rummaged on arrival and occasionally smoking utensils and small quantities of raw opium are found in the quarters of Chinese crews, no quantity of any importance has been found aboard. Occasionally, however, an oriental member of the crew of a ship alongside the wharf is found attempting to bring ashore small quantities of raw and/or prepared opium. There is no reason to believe that opium is being smuggled into the Colony or used to any greater extent than in any other port to which vessels with Chinese crews go, or where there is a Chinese population ashore. Information has been received that laudanum was being smuggled into the Colony from British Guiana, and that sales were being made to druggists and/or Chinese, but no offences have been detected, or seizures effected during 1945. With regard to cocaine, hashish and ganga, there is no evidence that any of these dangerous drugs are being smuggled into the Colony.

2. Not applicable.

3. During 1945 thirty-three persons were convicted for being in possession of prepared opium and/or smoking utensils. (See attached schedule) *

4. Nil.

5. The total amount of opium seized during the year was negligible and, with the exception of one case in which 3½ lb. (1 kg. 591 gr.) of raw opium was confiscated, the rest was made up of cases involving small phials of prepared opium and small tins of opium drops and pellets of prepared opium. The total quantity of other dangerous drugs seized was only about 20 grains (1.3 gr.) morphine.

6. Prices of raw and prepared opium have fluctuated considerably during the past few years. Since the cessation of hostilities, the price of raw opium appears to have dropped from approximately \$ 2,000 per lb. (454.5 gr.) to \$ 400.00 per lb., which would indicate that stocks have increased. The prices are also dependent on the ability of the user to pay, and money is less plentiful in the Colony than it was during the war. There is no evidence as to the prices being paid for prepared opium.

VI. Other Information.

Nil.

* Kept in the archives of the Secretariat.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. and VIII. Raw Opium and Coca Leaf.

Raw opium and coca leaf are not produced in the Colony.

IX. Indian Hemp.

1. The growing of Cannabis sativa is forbidden by law.

2. and 3. Not applicable.

4. There have been no detections of Cannibas indica under cultivation.

5. Production is not permitted.

6. Evidence points to the fact that the last importation of ganga was made in 1942. The stocks were quickly exhausted in that year and licensed dealers were paid to close down in consequence.

7. There is no indication that the smuggling of Indian hemp is prevalent.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

1. (a) There is no manufacture of drugs.

(b) Diacetylmorphine: the importer sends his order to a firm in England: Government sends the import certificate to the Home Office in accordance with the Secretary of State's despatch of June 16th, 1934.

2. (a) and 3. Not applicable.

(b) The import certificate system has been in operation and has worked satisfactorily.

4. Trade Distribution.

(a) Authorisation is given to registered medical practitioners, registered dentists, registered veterinary surgeons and licensed druggists. There is no manufacture of preparations.

(b) Conditions subject to which the persons specified in (a) above may engage in the sale and dispensing of dangerous drugs are prescribed in the Dangerous Drugs Regulations 1929. In 1935 an officer was appointed by the Medical Board of Trinidad to exercise supervision over the books and registers and the conditions of storage of narcotic drugs.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

XII. Prepared Opium.

1. The habit of smoking opium

(a) Among the national population has never existed.

(b) As regards the alien population, the smoking of opium is almost entirely confined to the Chinese population and its suppression in this Colony is probably no more likely to be completely successful than it is in any other place where Chinese reside. It is believed that as old addicts die out, their places are not taken to the same extent by new ones. Picked men are placed on special duty for the detection of offences in regard both to smuggling and to smoking. In many cases they have been successful but it is extremely difficult to keep a watchful eye on all suspects and suspected places, while informers are not anxious to come forward in spite of rewards offered. Efforts to strengthen the Preventive Service Branch have been largely handicapped through shortage of staff. Owing to the proximity of Trinidad to Venezuela, and the long line which cannot be kept under close supervision, it is highly probable that smuggling of opium takes place mainly from Venezuela. The passage can be made at night in small boats and detection, even with a twenty-four-hour patrol, would be difficult.

The Preventive Service Branch of the Customs and Excise Department, in conjunction with the Constabulary, makes every endeavour to preclude illicit importation, traffic or possession of prepared opium and other dangerous drugs. Prosecutions are undertaken by the Chief Preventive Officer (see attached statement of prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed)*.

3. See (V) (5) above.

4. See (V) (5) above.

* Kept in the archives of the Secretariat.