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TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1945.

I R A Q.

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 and to other States.

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

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ

For the Calendar year 1945

On

The Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs.

A. GENERAL.

I. *Laws and Publications.*

- (1) and (2) No new laws, orders or regulations were made during the year 1945 on matters relating to dangerous drugs.
- (3) No official or unofficial publications likely to be of interest to the opium advisory committee were issued during the year.

II. *Administration.*

- (1) (a) No modifications in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international conventions were made during the year.
(b) There is nothing to report under this item.
(c) No difficulties were encountered in the application of the Conventions, though the limited quantities of dangerous drugs that were ordered and imported had took considerable time to reach this country largely due to war conditions.
- (2) There have been no new development regarding addiction in this country

III. *Control of International Trade.*

- (1) The system of certificates for the control of imports of dangerous drugs worked satisfactorily during the year and no difficulties arose with any country in this connection.
- (2) There has been no change in the authorities responsible for issuing import certificates and export authorisations. Certificates were issued for transit across Iraq of 60,000 kilograms of opium from Turkey consigned to the United States of America.
- (3) The conditions of issue of import certificates and export authorisations have not been modified.
- (4) Iraq is not an exporting country, but all copies of the export authorisations sent to this Government were endorsed and returned to the exporting country on receipt of the drugs in accordance with the provisions of article (13) of the Geneva Convention of 1925.
- (5) No cases of forged or falsified import certificates or export authorisations have come to the knowledge of this Government at any time during the year.
- (6) No difficulties have arisen with regard to transit, transshipment or diversion and there are no free ports, free zones or bonded warehouses for depositing dangerous drugs.
- (7) No transaction in dangerous drugs were carried out with countries which have not adopted the system of import certificates.
- (8) Nothing to report under this item. Indian Hemp was not imported during the year and no difficulties have been encountered.

IV. *International Co-operation.*

- (1) No international treaties or agreements were concluded during the year.
- (2) There are no points of interest or importance as regards co-operation with other governments.

V. *Illicit Traffic.*

- (1) There is nothing of special interest or importance to report regarding illicit traffic which as last year relates principally to prepared opium

and Hashish. These drugs are illicitly introduced into this country from Persia and Syria and partly from India. Police and Customs authorities combine their efforts in reducing to a minimum the smuggling of these drugs.

The addicts obtain these drugs only from illegitimate channels.

There were no confiscation of other dangerous drugs during the year apart of opium and Hashish and there are no new details or information to add to these previously given in government reports regarding the methods of smuggling these drugs into this country.

- (2) Opium poppy, coca plant and Indian Hemp are not cultivated in Iraq and there is no evidence of its illicit existence.
- (3 & 4) There were during the year 42 cases of prosecutions and convictions for offences connected with illicit traffic in opium and Hashish etc. as compared with 60 cases for last year. Penalties imposed in the form of fines totalled £166/5/- as compared with £95/15/- for previous year and the total of punishment inflicted was two years, five months and twenty days. The highest penalty in one case was imprisonment for a term of one year and the lowest was imprisonment for ten days.

There were during the year three important cases of which the one at Khanaqin involved the seizure of 6500 grammes of Hashish and the other two connected with the confiscation of 4500 grammes of Sukhta and 2437 grammes of opium.

- (5) The total amounts of substances confiscated by the Customs authorities during the year under review were as follows as compared with 1944:—

	1945		1944	
	KG.	GM.	KG.	GM.
Opium	7	259	17	130
Hashish	8	118	7	954
Sukhta	8	408	1	242
Shira	0	240	0	328

All drugs confiscated were subsequently destroyed.

- (6) No reliable information as to the prices of drugs in the illicit traffic is available, but the total price of opium confiscated is £72/12/- calculated at the reported rate of £10/-/- per kilogramme and of Hashish £405/18/- calculated at the rate of £50/-/- per kilogramme.

VI. Other information including any suggestions which might be useful either to the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium or to Governments.

The authorities here are of the opinion that the illicit traffic in Iraq of opium and of Hashish are in the main attributed to the low prices at which these drugs are sold in Syria and Persia.

B. Raw Materials.

VII. Raw Opium.

The opium poppy is not cultivated in Iraq and no raw opium is produced.

VIII. Coca Leaf.

The Coca plant is not cultivated in Iraq.

IX. Indian Hemp.

The Indian Hemp plant (*Cannabis Sativa*) does not grow wild in Iraq and is not cultivated there.

No developments have taken place as regards the use of the Galenical preparations (Extract and tincture) of Indian Hemp.

C. Manufactured Drugs

X. International control of Manufactured Drugs.

Full information is given in this government report for the year 1940 and there were no alterations or modifications to report this year.

XI. Chapter IV of the Hague Opium Convention 1912.

There is nothing to report.

XII. Prepared Opium.

The possession and use of prepared opium other than for medical use is totally prohibited in Iraq. Persons practicing opium smoking are mainly aliens. Both Customs and Police Officers exercise the strictest vigilance possible to prevent illicit traffic and there is evidence that opium smoking is steadily declining due to these measures.

Offences connected with the smoking of opium are brought before the court for trial and utensils etc., are confiscated and destroyed.

The number of persons known to the police as being addicted to the use of Hashish and opium in the year under review was 486 and 820 respectively.

XIII. Other durgs.

There is nothing to report.

D. Other Questions.

XIV. Additional information.

Nil.