

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.

C.8. M.8. 1946.XI.
(O.C/A.R.1944/51)
(Issued in English only)

Geneva, January 17th, 1946.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1944.

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO.

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 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. No new laws, orders or regulations were issued during the year on the question of opium and other dangerous drugs.
2. Nil.
3. Nil.

II. Administration:

1. Nil.
2. Nil.

III. Control of International Trade:

1. The system of import certificates worked satisfactorily during the year.
2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. Not applicable.
5. Nil.
6. Nil.

7. Not applicable.

8. Nil.

IV. International Co-operation:

1. Nil.

2. Nil.

V. Illicit Traffic:

1. The illicit traffic in dangerous drugs and particularly in opium continues, but not on an extensive scale. We have so far been unable to detect any receivers on first importation of opium or other dangerous drugs. As a war measure and as a concession to the Chinese seamen during hostilities, Government agreed to the relaxation of the rummaging of vessels, provided that there was no complaint from the Captain to the effect that there was any attempt to land opium from the ships. A shore patrol was kept at various places of landing and an occasional patrol of the coast by car has been made. The question of rescinding the relaxation with regard to the rummaging of vessels with Asiatic crews is now under consideration.

2. Not applicable.

3. During 1944, six cases were detected involving nine persons and convictions were obtained in each case for possession of opium and/or smuggling utensils. In addition to the above, there was one conviction for smuggling morphine.

4. Nil.

5. Apart from the small quantities which have been seized from time to time and destroyed, there is a quantity of 4 3/4 lbs (2 kg. 160 gr.) of prepared opium seized in 1944 awaiting destruction. The origin of this opium is unknown but it was seized from a member of the Chinese crew of a vessel in the harbour.

6. It is regretted that the wholesale and retail prices of drugs sold in the illicit traffic are not known, but the Chief Preventive Officer states that he has been informed that the price of raw opium is now approximately \$500 per lb. (454.5 grammes).

VI. Other Information:

Nil.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII & VIII. Raw Opium and Coca Leaf:

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

IX. Indian hemp:

1. The growing of Cannabis sativa is forbidden by law.
- 2 and 3. Not applicable.
4. There have been no cases of detection of Cannabis indica under cultivation.
5. Production is not permitted.
6. Evidence points to the fact that the last importation of ganja 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 smuggling of Indian hemp is prevalent.
8. Nil.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs:

1. (a) There is no manufacture of drugs.
(b) Diacetylmorphine: the importer sends the order to a firm in England: Government sends the certificate of import to the Home Office in accordance with the Secretary of State's despatch of 16.6.1934.
2. (a) Not applicable.
(b) The import certificate system has been in operation and has worked satisfactorily.
3. Not applicable.
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.

XI. Chapter IV of the Hague Opium Convention of 1912.

Nil.

XII. Prepared Opium:

1. The habit of smoking opium

(a) has never existed among the national population.

(b) As regards the alien population (Chinese), it is believed that as old addicts die out, their places are not taken to the same extent by new ones and that the smoking of opium amongst the Chinese population is not as great as it was. There are still many addicts and dens known to the Preventive Officers but it requires weeks of observation before a successful raid can be carried out and in most cases the help of an informer is necessary. Owing to the large profits that can be made by dealers, great precautions are taken and the success of a raid depends upon correct timing. Guards have been specially detailed for this work and one set of offenders has been played off against a rival set with a measure of success.

2. The Preventive Service Branch of the Customs and Excise Department in conjunction with the Constabulary make every endeavour to prevent illicit importation of traffic in or possession of prepared opium (and other dangerous drugs).

Prosecutions are undertaken by the Chief Preventive Officer - see attached statement of number of prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed.

3. See V (5) above.

4. See V (5) above.

XIII. Other Drugs:

Nil.

Return of Prosecutions and Convictions under the
Dangerous Drugs Ordinance 28 of 1928 in the Colony
of Trinidad and Tobago by Customs and Excise
Department during year 1944.

<u>Name of offender</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Alternative</u>
Soo kam	British	Possession of opium pipe	\$120.00	Imprisonment for 2 months
Hing Sing	"	Smoking opium	Bond of \$120.00	
Akong	"	" "	\$240.00	Imprisonment for 4 months
Aleung	"	" "	\$150.00	Imprisonment for 3 months
Low King	"	Present on premises on which smoking of opium was taking place	\$50.00	Imprisonment for 2 months
Joseph Kroon	Dutch	Possession of opium	\$1200.00	Imprisonment for 12 months
Dr. Siung	British	Selling morphine	\$1200.00	Imprisonment for 12 months
James Awak	"	Possession of opium pipe	\$300.00	Imprisonment for 3 months
Chong Sing	"	"	\$500.00	Imprisonment for 6 months
