

The War on Narcotics

CANADA RATIFIES SINGLE CONVENTION

ON MARCH 30, 1961, at United Nations headquarters in New York, a new multilateral treaty for the control of narcotic drugs was opened for signature until August 1, 1961. Canada and 63 other countries signed the instrument, the "Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961", which codifies provisions in the field of narcotic drugs. When it comes into force it will replace eight existing multilateral treaties on the subject concluded between 1912 and 1953. Though Canada has signed only six of these eight treaties, it is a signatory to all existing conventions for the international control of narcotics. On August 31, 1961, Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, signed the formal instrument of ratification for Canada. When this instrument was deposited with the United Nations Secretariat on October 11, 1961, Canada became the first country to ratify the Single Convention. Canadian ratification was, for Canada, the final step in 15 years of work towards a new treaty, which, by replacing existing treaties with a single instrument, would simplify and improve the mechanism for the control of narcotic drugs.

Previous Narcotic Treaties

The Single Convention, when it comes into force, will replace the following treaties:

- (1) International Opium Convention, signed at The Hague, January 23, 1912. (Ratified for Canada by the United Kingdom on December 17, 1912.)
- (2) Agreement Concerning the Manufacture of, International Trade in and Use of Prepared Opium, signed at Geneva, February 11, 1925. (Canada is not a party.)
- (3) International Convention Relating to Dangerous Drugs, signed at Geneva, February 19, 1925. (Ratified by Canada on June 27, 1928.)
- (4) Agreement Concerning the Suppression of Opium Smoking, signed at Bangkok, November 27, 1931. (Canada is not a party.)
- (5) International Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, signed at Geneva, July 13, 1931. (Ratified by Canada on October 17, 1932.)
- (6) International Convention for the Suppression of Illicit Traffic in Dangerous Drugs, signed at Geneva, June 26, 1936 (terminated by the Single Convention except as amended by the Protocol of December 11, 1946). (Ratified by Canada on September 27, 1938.)