

When approved, resolutions of the Council dealing with narcotics control are transmitted to member governments of the United Nations to be referred by them to the narcotics control agencies in their countries.

Col. C. H. L. Sharman, CMG., CBE., ISO., who retired in 1954, was Canadian Representative to the Narcotic Drugs Commission for more than 20 years.

The Permanent Central Opium Board is composed of eight persons appointed in an individual capacity and for a term of five years by the Economic and Social Council. Established by the Convention of February 19, 1925, the Board is charged with the continuous surveillance of the licit movements of narcotic drugs with a view to preventing licitly produced drugs being diverted into illicit channels. It receives from parties to the Conventions of February 19, 1925, and July 13, 1931, statistics on imports and exports of narcotics, including stocks, seizures, manufacture and trade; from this data, the Board prepares an annual report to the contracting parties and to the Economic and Social Council. The Board is empowered to take semi-judicial measures against countries which fail to carry out their obligations under the international narcotics treaties or are in danger of becoming centres of the illicit traffic.

The functions of the Drug Supervisory Body are described below.

The World Health Organization, a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, with headquarters in Geneva, has been entrusted with the specific responsibility of extending international control to new drugs and, in particular, of estimating the properties of these new drugs and determining whether they should be classed as narcotics or not. This work is carried out with the cooperation of the United States Government at the Bethesda, Maryland, clinical centre for pharmacology and chemistry and at the Lexington Drug Addiction research centre. The Drug Addiction Committee of the National Research Council of the United States also gives great assistance to the World Health Organization.

Approach to Narcotics Control in Various Countries

It is interesting to note the differences in many countries in the type of governmental agency which control narcotic drugs. In Canada, which is a non-manufacturing and non-producing country, the Narcotic Act is essentially criminal law, the administration of which is the responsibility of the Division of Narcotic Control of the Department of National Health and Welfare, with the criminal side of the Act being enforced by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. However, in the United States of America, which is primarily a narcotic-manufacturing country, narcotic legislation is in the "nature of a taxing measure designed to have the effect of regulating the domestic trade and distribution of narcotic drugs". It is, therefore, not purely criminal law as in Canada. The United Kingdom, like the United States, is also a manufacturing country and control of "Dangerous Drugs" in that country is treated in a somewhat special way, i.e., as a national problem arising out of international obligations. The United Kingdom Minister responsible for the administration of the United Kingdom Dangerous Drugs Act, 1951, is the Secretary of State for the Home Department (the Home Secretary).

In France, the control of narcotic drugs is based on legislation and regulations which are essentially of a preventive nature, and are based on a most