

research in co-operation with the responsible United Nations authorities. Canada has already successfully trained a scientist from Singapore and is in a position to welcome further candidates.

The Commission heard with appreciation that Iran, one of the major producers of opium, had passed a law totally banning opium production in its territories and had promulgated legislation for the treatment and cure of the more than one million addicts among the Iranian population. The Representative of Iran appealed for international assistance to enable his Government to carry out this reform successfully. The Commission recommended to ECOSOC, which concurred, that technical assistance be provided for Iran. The United Nations Technical Assistance Board has since allotted \$86,500 to carry out a joint United Nations-FAO-WHO project in Iran; this will include *inter alia* the provision of fellowships to enable Iranians to use the Canadian laboratory facilities mentioned above.

The question of Afghanistan's recognition as a state authorized to produce opium for export was again considered. Under the 1953 United Nations Opium Protocol, seven countries, not including Afghanistan, are so authorized. The Commission decided to request the Secretary-General to place Afghanistan on the list of countries to be included in the Draft Single Convention as those authorized to produce opium for export. ECOSOC, however, decided unanimously to refer the matter back to the Commission for further consideration. The question was raised again at the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee of the General Assembly where many delegations expressed sympathy with Afghanistan's claim. From the Canadian point of view, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the appropriate body to weigh the merits of the Afghanistan claim, and Canada is reluctant, after the major effort made to control and limit the production of opium, to see these controls weakened in any way.

The Commission considered the problems arising from the rapidly increasing use of synthetic drugs and again urged that appropriate controls be placed on all new drugs liable to give rise to drug addiction. Canadian narcotic legislation already provides for such controls, and it is not believed that synthetic narcotics are more liable to engender addiction than natural narcotics. Indeed, only a very minor proportion of addicts in Canada are addicted to synthetic narcotics. Attention was also drawn to the danger inherent in the abuse of amphetamines.

In an effort to further the international programme on opium research, the Commission decided to convene a meeting of experts to advise the Secretary-General on a future programme for the co-operating scientists and the United Nations laboratory now functioning in Geneva. It also considered establishing a United Nations Narcotics Bureau in the Middle East, but deferred any decision until its twelfth session.

The Commission decided to discontinue the publication of an annual summary of laws and regulations, but to publish occasional studies on individual aspects of narcotics legislation. In discussing documentation, special tribute was paid by the Commission to the quality of Canadian articles appearing in the Narcotics Bulletin.