

ARTICLE 18

If any Contracting Party finds it impossible to apply any provision of this Chapter to trade with another country by reason of the fact that such country is not a party to the present Convention, such Contracting Party will only be bound to apply the provisions of this Chapter so far as the circumstances permit.

CHAPTER VI.—PERMANENT CENTRAL BOARD

ARTICLE 19

A Permanent Central Board shall be appointed, within three months from the coming into force of the present Convention.

The Central Board shall consist of eight persons who, by their technical competence, impartiality and disinterestedness, will command general confidence. The members of the Central Board shall be appointed by the Council of the League of Nations.

The United States of America and Germany shall be invited each to nominate one person to participate in these appointments.

In making the appointments, consideration shall be given to the importance of including on the Central Board, in equitable proportion, persons possessing a knowledge of the drug situation, both in the producing and manufacturing countries on the one hand and in the consuming countries on the other hand, and connected with such countries.

The members of the Central Board shall not hold any office which puts them in a position of direct dependence on their Governments.

The members shall be appointed for a term of five years, and they will be eligible for re-appointment.

The Central Board shall elect its own President and shall settle its rules of procedure.

At meetings of the Board, four members shall form a quorum. The decisions of the Board relative to Articles 24 and 26 shall be taken by an absolute majority of the whole number of the Board.

ARTICLE 20

The Council of the League of Nations shall, in consultation with the Board, make the necessary arrangements for the organization and working of the Board, with the object of assuring the full technical independence of the Board in carrying out its duties under the present Convention, while providing for the control of the staff in administrative matters by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General shall appoint the secretary and staff of the Board on the nomination of the Board and subject to the approval of the Council.

ARTICLE 21

The Contracting Parties agree to send in annually before December 31st, to the Permanent Central Board set up under Article 19, estimates of the quantities of each of the substances covered by the Convention to be imported into their territory for internal consumption during the following year for medical, scientific and other purposes.

These estimates are not to be regarded as binding on the Government concerned, but will be for the purpose of serving as a guide to the Central Board in the discharge of its duties.

Should circumstances make it necessary for any country, in the course of the year, to modify its estimates, the country in question shall communicate the revised figures to the Central Board.