

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No.31

FOR RELEASE IN PAPERS OF
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1953

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Mr. D.M. Johnson, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, will head the Canadian Delegation to the International Conference on the Limitation of Opium Production which will begin in New York on May 11 and is expected to last for about a month. The Deputy Head of the Delegation will be Mr. K.C. Hossick, Director, Division of Narcotic Control, Department of National Health and Welfare, and Mr. R.E. Curran, Q.C., Legal Adviser, Department of National Health and Welfare, and Mr. R.A. Crépault, Permanent Delegation to the United Nations, will serve as advisers.

Attendance at this Conference is open to all member countries and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, to non-member states which are parties to one or more of the various international narcotic treaties which have been signed since the first conference to control traffic in opium met in Shanghai in 1909, and to two of the bodies concerned with the control of international traffic in narcotic drugs, the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Supervisory Body.

The first Convention on the international control of narcotic drugs was signed in The Hague in 1915 by the United States, China and The Netherlands. Since that time six additional treaties dealing with the regulation of opium-smoking, the control of illicit traffic and the limitation of the manufacture and distribution of narcotic drugs have been concluded. Canada is a signatory to five of these treaties.

The forthcoming Conference will consider an agreement designed to control the production of opium at its source by the establishment of national monopolies in all opium-producing countries.