

(c) the need to devise a control system flexible enough to adapt to the changing conditions created by discoveries in chemistry and pharmacology (i.e., synthetic drugs); (d) the need to simplify and improve the machinery of control of narcotic drugs; (e) the necessity of providing workable definitions and (f) the need to agree on the scope and constitutionality of a new treaty. As a start on its long-term programme of devising a single convention, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to produce a skeleton draft of a single convention based on principles agreed to at the Commission's fourth session, and to circulate it to governments before January 1950. This draft and governments' observations on it would then be considered at the Commission's fifth session. This proposal was adopted by ECOSOC Resolution 246 D (IX).

The Secretariat presented the first draft (E/CN.7/AC.3/3 and Corr.1) of the single convention to the Commission at its fifth session (December 1-15, 1950). During the next nine years the Commission devoted significant portions of its fifth to thirteenth sessions to the drafting of the new treaty. Work proceeded somewhat slowly owing to the failure of some governments to submit promptly their observations on drafts and the difficulty of reaching agreement on complex provisions dealing with such questions as the constitutionality of the control mechanism, mandatory prohibition, mandatory use of international non-proprietary names, estimates of harvests and areas of cultivation, control of the production of poppy straw, limitations on the number of producers for export, enforcement measures, penal provisions, treatment of drug addicts, amendment and reservation clauses and the overlapping of functions of the control organs. At its seventh session, the Commission approved Sections 2 to 13, which had been revised by a drafting committee composed of the representatives of France, India, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia. In 1953, the Commission's work was aided by the signing of the 1953 Opium Protocol, which contained provisions for the limitation of production of raw opium, since it was then possible to incorporate these provisions into the draft single convention.

A second draft (E/CN.7/AC.3/7 and Corr.1) was presented to the Commission at its eleventh session (April 23-May 18, 1956) in Geneva. This draft served as a basis for discussions at the eleventh to fourteenth sessions. In its consideration of this draft during 1956-59, the Commission reviewed the draft paragraph by paragraph but avoided reconsidering questions of principle unless variants existed. During the twelfth and thirteenth sessions, the Commission relied heavily on a Drafting Committee, composed of Canada, Hungary and India, under the Chairmanship of the Alternate Canadian Representative, Mr. R. E. Curran, of the Department of National Health and Welfare. This Committee provided revised texts of articles subsequently discussed and adopted by the Commission as the third draft (E/CN.7/AC.3/9 and Add.1). At its fourteenth session the Narcotics Commission tentatively scheduled the holding of a plenary conference in Geneva in the fall of 1960 to consider the third draft. This conference was postponed because of the failure of some governments to