

- (7) Protocol Amending the Agreements, Conventions and Protocols on Narcotic Drugs Concluded at The Hague, January 23, 1912, at Geneva, February 11 and 19, 1925, and July 13, 1931, at Bangkok, November 27, 1931, and at Geneva, June 26, 1936, signed at Lake Success, December 11, 1946. (Signed by Canada on December 11, 1946.)
- (8) Protocol Bringing Under International Control Drugs Outside the Scope of the Convention of July 13, 1931, signed at Paris, November 19, 1948. (Signed by Canada on November 19, 1948.)
- (9) Protocol for Limiting and Regulating the Cultivation of the Poppy Plant, the Production of, International and Wholesale Trade in and Use of Opium, signed at New York, June 23, 1953. (Ratified by Canada on May 7, 1954.)

These treaties represent virtually half a century of collective efforts by governments, supported by enlightened and mounting public opinion, to eliminate the misuse of addiction-producing substances. Before 1946, the international control of narcotic drugs rested with individual governments, international organizations established by the above treaties, and the League of Nations.

Development of Single Convention

During the first part of the first session of the United Nations General Assembly, the United Kingdom representative expressed the opinion that the existing machinery of international control could be simplified. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established a 15-member Commission on Narcotic Drugs by its resolutions of February 16 and 18, 1946. The Narcotics Commission held its first meeting at Lake Success, New York, from November 27 to December 13, 1946, and noted that the international machinery for narcotics control had not only weathered the storm created by the Second World War, but was already being revived in an even more effective manner under the aegis of the United Nations. One of the first acts of the Commission was to open for signature a protocol that amended the agreements, conventions and protocols of 1912, 1925, 1931 and 1936. This protocol, signed on December 11, 1946, by Canada and 35 other countries, authorized the Secretary-General of the United Nations to perform the duties previously discharged by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

At the third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (May 3-22, 1948), a United States draft resolution was adopted that requested the Secretary-General to begin work on the drafting of a single convention for the control of narcotic drugs. This was subsequently adopted by ECOSOC as Resolution 159 IID (IX). During its fourth session the Commission considered the problems that would be involved in reaching agreement on a single convention. These problems stemmed from (a) the need first to reach agreement on a treaty that would limit the production of raw materials (opium); (b) the loopholes, gaps, inconsistencies, obsolescence and duplication in the existing international control mechanism;