

The principal questions recently considered by the *Traffic in Women and Children Committee* relate to proposed amendments to the Conventions for the suppression of the traffic in women and children. The differences in national legislation and, in particular, the position in the countries maintaining the system of regulation have up to the present made it impossible to draw up the proposed amendments in a form that would be acceptable to a reasonably large number of States. The Committee therefore prepared a text covering the procuring of women of full age, even with their consent, for immoral purposes to be carried out in another country, and expressed the hope that the States would be able to reach agreement on this limited question. The Fifth Committee considered this document and recommended the Assembly to convene a Diplomatic Conference to draw up a final text for signature during the Session of the Assembly.

The Fifth Committee expressed general approval of the work done by the Traffic in Women and Children Committee and invited the Governments to continue their efforts for the suppression of the traffic in women and children.

#### *Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs*

The Fifth Committee noted with satisfaction that the Convention for limiting the manufacture and regulating the distribution of narcotic drugs drawn up in 1931, had come into force on 9th July, 1933, and that by the time the Assembly met the number of Parties to the Convention had risen to 39. We may add that the Convention was ratified by Canada on 17th October, 1932.

The Committee appealed to the Governments that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible. It was glad to learn that the Supervisory Body set up under this Convention had begun its work of examining the estimates of the drugs required by the various States for the year 1934; and pointed out that the success of the Convention depended largely upon the careful and prompt preparation by Governments of their estimates every year. In connection with the application of this Convention, the Fifth Committee also recommended to Governments the Model Administrative Code drawn up by the Opium Advisory Committee.

Satisfaction was expressed at the reduction in the amounts of drugs from authorized factories in Western Europe that have recently found their way into the illicit traffic. On the other hand, the development of secret manufacture in Bulgaria, China and Turkey makes it clear that, when traffickers are deprived of one source of supply, they immediately endeavour to create another. The Committee emphasized the necessity for drastic control with a view to preventing such developments, and in this connection called attention to the draft international convention for the prevention of the illicit traffic, which has been submitted to Governments for their observations.

The Chinese delegate expressed apprehension regarding the policy followed in Manchuria and raised the question of the validity of the import certificates for narcotic drugs issued by the present authorities in Manchuria.

In view of the development of secret manufacture, the Committee considered more necessary than ever the steps that are being taken toward the convening of a Conference to consider the possibility of limiting and controlling the cultivation of the opium poppy and the cultivation and harvesting of the coca leaf. Considering, however, the difficulties in the way and the need for thorough preparatory work for such a Conference, it expressed the hope that a preliminary agreement would be concluded as soon as possible between the principal producing countries (Persia, Turkey, and Yugoslavia).

The Committee was glad to note that the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands had ratified the Bangkok Agreement on the control of opium-