

drug trade, including the manufacture, export, import, consumption and maintenance of stocks, are now conducted on the basis of a world plan drawn up in advance under the auspices of the League.

Another result of the operation of the Convention is that the Permanent Central Opium Board has throughout the year kept a careful check on all quarterly export and import returns against the total of the estimates for each drug for each country, and has not hesitated to use, on a number of occasions, the power given to it under the Convention of stopping exports to countries which have exceeded the total of their estimates.

The attention of the Committee was drawn to the fact that the first objective pursued by the League since the beginning of its work in the field of opium has been to draw a clearer dividing line between the legitimate and illegitimate trade in dangerous drugs, and to exercise a constant vigilance over the legitimate trade, to see that no leakages from it take place. The Committee was informed that the League has succeeded in drawing that definite line of demarcation and that, thanks to the stricter and more general application of the International Opium Conventions, there has been a progressive shrinkage in the volume of legitimate trade in opium, coca leaves and manufactured drugs. The lawful production of drugs has come down more and more nearly to the level of medical requirements, thus leaving little margin that might feed the illicit trade.

Unhappily, with the tightening of international control, which prevents legally manufactured drugs from being diverted to the illicit trade, traffickers have applied themselves to clandestine manufacture and have turned to those countries where there is a plentiful supply of raw material. Their attempt to transfer their activities to Turkey met with the energetic action of the Turkish Government, which has put an end to their operations. They then attempted to set up clandestine factories in Bulgaria, where the position has now been cleared up, and in China, both north and south of the Great Wall. This position gives rise to grave apprehensions, for, as had been earlier pointed out by Colonel Sharman, Canadian representative on the Opium Advisory Committee, attempts have been made to ship to Canada, for subsequent despatch to the United States of America and Europe, drugs manufactured in Bulgaria and the Far East. The conclusion drawn from this new situation by the League organizations is that the principal task now is to concentrate upon the discovery and elimination of the clandestine factories. The Fifth Committee requested the member States to assist the League in this work, and as regards the territories to the north of the Great Wall—Manchuria and Jehol—it requested the Governments to give their close attention to the Opium Advisory Committee's recommendation, approved by the Council, regarding the necessity for the principal producing and manufacturing countries to exercise the strictest supervision over all applications for the export of narcotics to those territories, and to the fact that, under the Hague Opium Convention of 1912, the export of raw and prepared opium to those territories cannot be authorized.

The Committee's attention was directed to the growing trade in acetic anhydride, a chemical product which is almost indispensable for the manufacture of heroin and is of only limited use for industrial purposes.

That part of the League's work which relates more specifically to the suppression of the illicit traffic and to the creation for this purpose of a united front on the part of the police throughout the world was even more strongly emphasized this year than in the past. The Committee recommended the further development of the existing co-operation between the various States by means of specialised police. The example of countries like Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Egypt, which have already created