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**Report of the Commission of Enquiry
on the Coca Leaf**

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

11 September 1950

Sir,

With reference to my letter of 17 January 1950 addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (document 7/1612), I have the honour to transmit to you, for submission to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the attached report of the Commission of Enquiry on the Coca Leaf, prepared in accordance with the Commission's terms of reference as laid down by the Council (resolutions 159 (VII) IV, 202 (VIII) and 246 H (IX)).

I take this opportunity to express the gratitude of the Commission of Enquiry on the Coca Leaf to the Governments of Peru and Bolivia for the co-operation and hospitality received from them at all times in the discharge of its mission. Thanks are also due to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the assistance rendered by the members of the Secretariat who accompanied the Commission of Enquiry.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my high consideration.

(Signed) H. B. FONDA
Chairman of the Commission
of Enquiry

Mr. Stane KRASOVEC
Chairman of the Commission
on Narcotic Drugs

Part One

GENERAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Chapter I

HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

On 22 April 1947, the permanent representative of Peru to the United Nations transmitted to the Secretary-General the following communication:

"I have the honour to enclose herewith a recommendation which my Government wishes to be included in the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Narcotics Commission of the Economic and Social Council.

(Signed) "Carlos HOLGUÍN DE LAVALLE
Permanent Representative of Peru
to the United Nations

"Draft recommendation presented to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by the representative of Peru to the Economic and Social Council

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Considering

"(1) That the alkaloid known as cocaine is obtained from the coca which is widely grown in the valleys of South America,

"(2) That since time immemorial the indigenous population of this part of the American Continent, especially along the Andean region of its West Coast, has indulged in the habit of chewing coca leaves, and

"(3) That there is a large and highly controversial dispute as to the harmful or harmless effects of this habit upon the biological, social and economic activities of this very vital segment of the South American population,

"Recommends

"(1) To organize a committee or study group of experts in order to carry a field survey, in co-operation with the World Health Organization, thus to determine:

"(a) The harmful or harmless effects of the coca-leaf chewing habit upon the human body in general or upon some specific organ in particular;

"(b) The factors or motives (i.e., climate, high altitude, diet, organic reserves, heredity, tradition, etc.) which prompt this chewing habit; and

"(c) The social and economic implications of this aforesaid habit; and

"(d) The measures to be taken, should this habit prove to be harmful, in order to eradicate it from the population concerned.

"7 March 1947"

At its second session (24 July to 8 August 1947) the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered with care the request by the Government of Peru and recommended to the Economic and Social Council that a

commission of inquiry be sent to Peru and such others of the countries concerned as might give their approval. At the same time, the Commission was of the opinion that it would be advisable to make, in addition, an inquiry on the spot into the possibilities of limiting the production and regulating the distribution of coca leaves. It was recommended that the membership of the commission should include two medical men and two administrative experts (E/575 and addenda 1 and 2, pages 16-19).

At its second session the General Assembly, taking note of the resolution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, expressed its interest in this important subject. It invited the Economic and Social Council, without prejudgement, to consider the matter with all the urgency which it deserved (resolution 134 (II) of 17 November 1947).

During its sixth session the Economic and Social Council, having taken note of the above resolution, approved in principle the dispatch of the Commission of Enquiry to Peru. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its next session a detailed plan for such a Commission, taking into account any request which might be received from other countries concerned (resolution 123 C (VI) of 2 March 1948).

In pursuance of resolution 123 C (VI), the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its seventh session a detailed plan concerning:

(1) The terms of reference of the Commission of Enquiry;

(2) Its membership and appointment of members;

(3) Its itinerary; and

(4) Financial estimates of expenditure to be incurred.

In accordance with the proposal made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the two medical members would be chosen by the Economic and Social Council from names submitted by the World Health Organization at the request of the Secretary-General. It was also suggested that names of three experts in international administration might be submitted by the Bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Council could then make the final appointments at its eighth session. On the basis of a two months' mission to Peru, the costs were estimated at \$35,000, a figure which would have to be revised if any further request were received from the Government of another country concerned (E/860). On 10 August 1948, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 159 (VII) IV, which reads as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having taken note of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 November 1947 concerning the problem of the coca leaf, and of the "Detailed Plan" submitted by the Secretary-General,

"Approves the despatch of a commission of enquiry to Peru at the earliest possible date to investigate the effects of chewing the coca leaf and the possibilities of limiting its production and controlling its distribution; and

"Recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the necessary funds for the Commission of Enquiry."

The General Assembly at its third session made an appropriation of \$17,000 for the Commission.

During its eighth session (7 February to 18 March 1949) the Economic and Social Council referred to its Social Committee the question of the "appointment of members of the Commission of Enquiry into the effects of chewing the coca leaf". The Social Committee had before it the "Detailed Plan" (E/860) and also a note by the Secretary-General communicating the names of candidates proposed by the World Health Organization on 19 January 1949. As regards the experts on international administration, it was stated that the Bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, having examined the situation, agreed that it would be preferable for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs itself to draw up a list of candidates from names to be suggested by its members. Accordingly, the Secretary-General asked the members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to communicate to him the names of suitable candidates before 20 April 1949, so that the Commission would be able to select the non-medical members during its fourth session in May. In these circumstances the Secretary-General proposed in document E/1124 that the Council should defer further consideration of this matter until its ninth session.

At its meeting on 2 March 1949 the Economic and Social Council examined the report of the Social Committee. The Peruvian representative stressed the international character of the problem under discussion and pointed out that a time limit of one month for the Commission of Enquiry to make its investigation on the spot was insufficient. The Economic and Social Council thereupon approved a resolution (202 (VIII)) requesting the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to select during its fourth session, for membership of the Commission of Enquiry into the Effects of Chewing the Coca Leaf, a team of two experts in the international administration and control of narcotic drugs, and a team of two medical experts to be chosen after consultation with the World Health Organization from the list of candidates already proposed by that organization.

On 20 April 1949 the Secretary-General received the following request from the Government of Bolivia:

"SC-41/49

"19 April 1949

"The Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and kindly requests, in behalf of his Government, that the Commission created to study the matter of chewing the coca leaf, which is leaving for Peru during next June, would extend its investigations in the Bolivian country."

On 5 May 1949, the Secretary-General informed the permanent representative that his request would be transmitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during its fourth session and to the Economic and Social Council during its ninth session and drew his attention to the fact that it was not foreseen that the Commission of Enquiry would leave for Peru before September 1949.

This request was duly considered by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in June 1949, when the Commission decided that it would be desirable for the Commission of Enquiry to visit Bolivia as well as Peru, and made a strong recommendation to the Economic and Social Council that it should be given the financial means to enable it to spend enough time in each country to make a thorough study of the problems confronting it.

In accordance with resolution 202 (VIII) of the Economic and Social Council of 2 March 1949, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs designated the following as members of the Commission of Enquiry on the Coca Leaf:

As the team of two experts in administrative questions and international control of narcotics:

Mr. Howard B. FONDA (United States of America). Senior vice-president and director of Burroughs Wellcome and Co., Incorporated; vice-president and director of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association; director of the Wellcome Foundation, Incorporated; director of the National Vitamin Foundation, Incorporated; director of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Tuckahoe, New York; director of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce, New York; treasurer of the Industrial Association of the Nation.

Mr. Jean-Philippe RAZET (France). Chief Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture of France; director of the Narcotics Bureau of France for the last twenty years; author of the regulations governing the application in France of the five narcotics conventions; technical adviser in all the sessions of the Opium Commission and in three Opium Conferences of the League of Nations.

As the team of two experts on medical questions:

Professor Frederic VERZAR (Hungarian nationality). Doctor of Medicine; former Privat-Dozent at Budapest University; Professor of Physiology, former Rector and Dean of the Medical Faculty of Debreczen University (Hungary); at present: Professor of Physiology and Director of the Physiological Institute, University of Basle (Switzerland); former Dean of the Medical Faculty, Basle; President of the Swiss Physiological Society; member of the Académie and foreign member of various scientific societies, etc.; member of SAC of Nutrition of the Food and Agriculture Organization; acting director of the Nutrition Division, FAO, 1948; author of numerous scientific publications.

Dr. Marcel Alfred GRANIER-DOYEUX (Venezuela). Professor of Pharmacology at the Central University of Venezuela; permanent member and rapporteur of the Board for the Revision of Pharmaceutical Specialties, Ministry of Health and Social Assistance; member of the Society of Natural Sciences of Venezuela and of the Medical College of Venezuela, Caracas Station; member of the National Academy of Medicine; member of the Academy of Physical, Mathematical and

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the resolution of the Economic and Social Council (159 (VII) IV, 10 August 1948, document E/968) the terms of reference of the Commission of Enquiry into the effects of chewing the coca leaf include the following two points:

- (1) Investigation of the effects of chewing the coca leaf in Peru and Bolivia, and
- (2) Investigation of the possibilities of limiting the

production and controlling the distribution of the coca leaf in the said countries.

Both questions have been dealt with in this report. On the basis of the investigation conducted in Peru and Bolivia, the Commission unanimously decided to submit the following conclusions and recommendations, Mr. H. B. Fonda dissenting only on the recommendation concerning "Gradual limitation" (recommendation B, 1, (c)).

Chapter XIX

CONCLUSIONS

A. COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEM OF COCA-LEAF CHEWING

The chewing of coca leaf must be considered not as an isolated phenomenon but as a consequence of the social and economic conditions under which large sections of the population of Peru and Bolivia are living. These conditions affect principally but not exclusively the indigenous agricultural and mining populations of the two countries. The great majority of chewers is to be found in those two population groups. Although the chewer is predominantly Indian, there are also chewers amongst the *mestizos*. It is not always easy to draw a sharp distinction between the two, for the living conditions of certain sectors of the *mestizo* population are very similar to those of the population regarded as Indian.

B. DANGER OF CHEWING

The leaves of the coca plant contain cocaine. In the present state of knowledge the indications are that the effects produced by chewing coca leaf are to be explained by the action of cocaine.

C. NATURE OF CHEWING

It does not at present appear that the chewing of the coca leaf can be regarded as a drug addiction in the medical sense.

The Expert Committee on Drugs Liable to Produce Addiction gave the following definition of addiction at its meeting of 9-14 January 1950 (World Health Organization, Technical Report, Series No. 21, 1950):

"6.1 Definition of drug addiction.

"Having considered the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the committee drafted the following definition of 'drug addiction':

"Drug addiction is a state of periodic or chronic intoxication detrimental to the individual and to society, produced by the repeated consumption of a drug (natural or synthetic). Its characteristics include:

"(1) An overpowering desire or need (compulsion) to continue taking the drug and to obtain it by any means;

"(2) A tendency to increase the dose;

"(3) A psychic (psychological) and sometimes a physical dependence on the effects of the drug."

Compared with this, the observations of the Commission show that coca-leaf chewing is not an addiction (toxicomania) but a habit. It may, however, in some individuals, become an addiction, but generally it can be given up like other habits.

D. HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CHEWING

Briefly the harmful effects of chewing coca leaf, from the point of view of the individual and of the nation, are the following:

(1) It inhibits the sensation of hunger and thus maintains, by a vicious circle, a constant state of malnutrition.

(2) It induces in the individual undesirable changes of an intellectual and moral character. This is especially clear in exceptional cases, and it is much discussed how far this is general. It certainly hinders the chewer's chances of obtaining a higher social standard.

(3) It reduces the economic yield of productive work, and therefore maintains a low economic standard of life.

E. NUTRITIVE VALUE OF COCA LEAVES

Coca leaves contain, as do other green leaves, vegetables and fruits, most of the known vitamins, especially

B₁, B₂ and C in significant quantities. In spite of this fact it would by no means be advisable to supply these vitamins in the form of coca-leaf chewing, i.e., together with the toxic substance, cocaine. In no way can the chewing of coca leaves therefore be regarded as a substitute for an adequate diet.

F. ACCLIMATIZATION OF THE ANDEAN MAN

The Andean man is highly acclimatized to living at great altitudes. All our knowledge up to the present time supports the conviction that it is unnecessary to regard the Andean Indian as a race for which special physiological laws must be assumed. We have no right to suppose that cocaine acts differently on him. No advantage of coca chewing for acclimatization and for continuous life at high altitudes has been shown scientifically, and persons of non-Andean origin have become acclimatized in large numbers to life in the high altitudes of the Andes without chewing coca leaf.

G. SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM

Since chewing coca leaf is not an isolated phenomenon, but the consequence of a number of unfavourable social and economic factors, the solution of the

problem involves two fundamental and parallel aspects: first, the need for improving the living conditions of the population amongst which chewing is a general habit, and secondly, the need for initiating simultaneously a governmental policy to limit the production of coca leaf, to control its distribution and eradicate the practice of chewing it.

H. GRADUAL SUPPRESSION OF CHEWING

The chewing of coca leaf is a habit which can be eradicated if the conditions under which it originated are suitably modified.

In view of the social and economic nature of the factors determining coca-leaf chewing, an immediate and radical suppression of the habit is not possible. Instead of solving the problem, such a suppression would only aggravate the existing situation. Consequently the Commission envisages only a gradual suppression of the habit, that is, a process which while taking into account the complexity of the problem should not be so long as to permit the harmful continuation of the habit nor so short as to damage the economic interests involved.

Chapter XX

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the above conclusions, two groups of recommendations are formulated. The first comprises recommendations relating generally to the existing social and economic factors which give rise to coca-leaf chewing. By their very nature these recommendations are here formulated in a general way.

The second group of recommendations is related to the possibility of limiting the production of coca leaf, of controlling its distribution and finally of gradually eradicating the practice of chewing. In accordance with the terms of reference as defined by the Economic and Social Council, these recommendations are given in detail.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FACTORS CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHEWING OF COCA LEAF

Before formulating these recommendations, the Commission desires to point out that the Governments of Peru and Bolivia have made and are at present making certain efforts to improve the living conditions of the respective populations amongst which the bulk of the chewers are to be found. But the vastness of the problem and the great complexity and cost of the measures necessary to solve it have not permitted these Governments to obtain the results which they would doubtless desire to achieve.¹ Consequently the Commission formulates the following recommendations:

1. Nutrition

The primary need is to improve the nutritional status of that part of the population which is affected by the chewing of coca leaf. One of the basic observations of this Commission was that where the food is good and sufficient, chewing stops. This observation is in agreement with many medical and military opinions in these countries. Of all the factors concerned, better nutrition abolishes most quickly the habit of chewing. Specific and detailed reference has been made in this respect to the malnutrition existing in the coca-leaf producing and chewing areas. Reference has also been made to the studies carried out both by national and international commissions and organizations.

The betterment of nutrition as recommended above implies the application of a co-ordinated plan which would take a certain amount of time and effort on the part of the Governments of Peru and Bolivia. The tech-

¹ Reference has repeatedly been made in the present report to the efforts which the above-mentioned Governments, acting either on their own account or in collaboration with some other Government, have made to improve certain aspects of the living conditions of the population in general by the establishment of special bodies.

nical assistance of the United Nations seems possible, especially of its specialized agencies whose own objectives bring them into contact with these problems.

Among these agencies special mention should be made of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization which had already made a report in 1949 on the agriculture of the Altiplano, and which has referred to the food situation of these countries at its Montevideo Conference of July 1948. The World Health Organization is equally interested in nutrition as a basis of good health which results in greater productivity and higher social standards. The International Labour Office called attention in 1943 and 1946 to under-nutrition. From an educational point of view, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is interested also. All these organizations have dealt in some measure in their own sphere with the problem and under-nutrition in these populations.

In any case the studies already made provide a more than sufficient basis for the adoption of a policy designed to produce an immediate improvement in the nutrition of the population affected by the habit of coca chewing. This population comprises not only the chewers but their families and all those who live in the coca-leaf producing and chewing areas.

The Commission is of the opinion that the *keynote of the whole action* against chewing coca leaf can and must be the bettering of nutrition.

2. Other recommendations

(a) Hygiene

Sanitary and hygienic conditions should be improved in the regions affected.

(b) Housing

The improvement of housing conditions both in rural areas and in the mining districts is also essential. Here education in what housing is and means should form an integral part of the policy to be adopted.

(c) Education

This should be understood in a general sense and also in a special sense. The first involves an improvement in general education and the speediest possible elimination of illiteracy. Between the latter and coca-leaf chewing, there is a clear connexion. The Commission has been able to observe that where education increases, there is a parallel decrease in chewing.

The second aspect relates to education in agricultural, hygiene and health matters already mentioned in the preceding recommendations. An improved agricultural education is essential in order to secure:

(i) A general improvement in the peasant's living conditions,

(ii) An improvement in production and thus in the diet of the people.

(d) *Labour*

The existing labour conditions, particularly in the rural districts, should be improved. An essential condition of such an improvement is the institution of a legal system of land tenure (*arrendamiento*) which would gradually replace the existing system, since the latter cannot be regarded as suited to present agricultural requirements.

The new system should also institute more equitable relations between landlord and tenant. The latter should be given greater legal security than he now has.

The form of sub-tenancy, particularly those of the so-called *allegados* in Peru, should be carefully studied with a view to finding if possible a contractual form more in harmony with modern legal, social and economic requirements.

As has been said, Act No. 10,885 in Peru is now being revised, and there is a plan of agrarian reform in Bolivia. It is to be hoped that both plans will result in an improvement in the legal conditions of labour considered in this report.

(e) *Extension of agricultural credit*

This is to some extent now being practised in both Peru and Bolivia, mainly through the activities of the respective Agricultural Banks.

The present system is generally based on individual loans secured by a specific guarantee. Though recognizing the importance of the work done by the above-mentioned Banks, the Commission is of the opinion that greater attention should be paid to the problem of establishing and maintaining producers' and consumers' co-operatives. The individual loan, though useful, is always of limited economic and social effect, particularly in view of the conditions in which the small farmer now lives. In such conditions, he cannot always offer the guarantees necessary to obtain a loan.

The problem of establishment and maintenance of co-operatives presents evident difficulties, but they are not insuperable. An adequate policy would enable a start to be made with them in the immediate future. The spirit of co-operation existing in the present Indian communities could be enlisted to assist in the organization of these co-operatives.

(f) *Transport*

The carrying out of the preceding recommendations would be greatly facilitated by a general improvement and further development of transport, mainly roads and railroads.

The implementation of the above recommendations implies the application of a vast and co-ordinated plan which would take a certain amount of time and effort on the part of the Governments of Peru and Bolivia with the technical assistance of the United Nations and of its specialized agencies whose own objectives bring them into contact with the problems here described.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LIMITING THE PRODUCTION OF THE COCA LEAF AND CONTROLLING ITS DISTRIBUTION AND THE GRADUAL SUPPRESSION OF CHEWING

In formulating these recommendations, the principles previously laid down have been borne in mind.

Although the limitation of the production of coca leaf and the control of its distribution necessarily entail limitation of consumption, it has been considered advisable to arrange the following recommendations in two groups. Such a distinction should be understood not as a division but as an arrangement of two closely complementary groups of recommendations.

1. *Recommendations relating to the limitation of production and the control of distribution*

(a) *Simultaneous limitation of production in Peru and Bolivia*

A policy for the limitation of the production of coca leaf and the control of its distribution should be adopted simultaneously by Peru and Bolivia. The respective legislative provisions should be based on the same principles and pursue identical purposes. In implementing a policy of limitation, these legislative measures should take into account the national characteristics which the coca-leaf problem presents in each of the two countries concerned.

(b) *Purposes of the limitation*

In applying measures for limiting the production of the coca leaf, account should be taken of the purposes for which the leaf is used, namely:

(i) The satisfaction of world medical and scientific requirements and of other requirements in accordance with the existing international Conventions on narcotics;

(ii) Chewing.

The purposes mentioned necessitate a limitation of production governed by both national and international provisions. The production of the quantities necessary to satisfy (i) and (ii) should be subject to the estimates established internationally by the competent organ.²

(c) *Gradual limitation*

Limitation of the production of coca leaf for chewing should be effected gradually until complete suppression is achieved within a period of fifteen years or any shorter period which the Governments concerned may consider practicable.

For that purpose the Governments concerned should take the necessary steps to secure an annual reduction by one-fifteenth of the production of coca leaf at present used for chewing or by such larger proportion of the said production as the Governments concerned may consider practicable.

The Governments concerned shall forward to the Secretary-General of the United Nations an annual report on the progress of the gradual suppression of the production of coca leaf and its chewing.

As a minority opinion, Mr. H. B. Fonda considers that the gradual suppression should take place within

² See document E/CN.7/AC.3/3.

a period of five years. The reasons are that with the implementation by the Governments concerned of the other conclusions and recommendations on which he concurs the above period of five years is a practicable one. Therefore, a complete suppression of the habit of chewing can be achieved in the maximum of five years.

(d) *System of control*

To ensure the success of the limitation of production in accordance with purposes (i) and (ii) (see recommendation (b)), it is necessary:

(i) That a cadastral survey of the cultivation of the coca leaf should be carried out as soon as possible in Peru and Bolivia;³

(ii) That taking into account the above-mentioned economic and regional characteristics and the quality of the coca leaf, etc., the respective Governments should decide which coca-leaf producing areas will satisfy within the period during which gradual suppression is to be effected, the requirements indicated in recommendation (b).

Any other cultivation of the coca leaf, outside the scope of the purposes and limitations referred to, should be considered illicit and subject to the appropriate legal penalties.

(iii) That the respective Governments should establish a system for the registration of:

(a) Existing producers, and

(b) Existing dealers (wholesale and retail) in coca leaf.³

Once the registration of the above is complete, no other person should be authorized to produce coca leaf or trade in it in any way.

Authorizations to trade in coca leaf should be understood as granted on a personal basis and should lapse as soon as the person authorized ceases for any reason to deal in coca leaf.

(iv) That a system to control the actual production and distribution of coca leaf should be established.³

(v) That an official organ or an organ under official supervision should be set up and entrusted with the task of applying the control measures to all operations affecting the coca leaf. Such an organ should also be the only one authorized to export coca leaf, for whatever purpose it is intended.³

(vi) No authorization should be granted for any other coca-leaf plantation beyond those already in existence.

(e) *Crop substitution*

The substitution of other crops for the cultivation of the coca leaf should be encouraged as far as possible by the Governments concerned. Among other measures, a preferential system might be established for providing agricultural, economic and technical aid to any grower of coca leaf who wishes to replace it by some other crop.

³ The Government of Peru has already begun to implement this recommendation.

As a complement of such a policy, it would be advisable to establish that in principle no agricultural loan will be granted for the production of coca leaf. As a consequence of a practice established by the respective Agricultural Banks, no loans for the cultivation of coca leaf are at present granted by those banks either in Peru or in Bolivia. The object of the present recommendation is to convert this practice, which is still not altogether universal, into a legal provision.

It would be desirable that in making agricultural loans preference should be given to those growers who do not produce coca leaf and who undertake not to grow it.³

Consideration might also profitably be given to the possibility of providing that the rate of interest on any loan granted to a farmer who also grows coca leaf, be higher than that on loans granted to farmers who do not grow coca leaf.

(f) *Sanctions*

Legal provisions establishing adequate administrative and penal sanctions against those who violate the provisions relating to the limitation of production and the control of distribution of the coca leaf, should be promulgated and applied.

2. *Recommendations relating to the gradual suppression of the practice of chewing coca leaf*

(a) *Legal prohibition of chewing in the army*

The practice now adopted by the armies of Peru and Bolivia of not permitting the chewing of the coca leaf during military service should be elevated to the status of a legal prohibition.

(b) *Educational propaganda*

Appropriate legislation should render compulsory the provision in every centre of education or place of work of adequate information regarding the harmful effects of chewing coca leaf.

Such legislation should be supplemented by such other propaganda measures as the Governments of Peru and Bolivia may consider it advisable to introduce, particularly amongst the Indian agricultural and mining population.

(c) *Legal prohibitions*

It should be legally prohibited on pain of appropriate penalties:

(i) To pay for work or any kind of loan or service directly or indirectly, wholly or partly, with coca leaf;

(ii) To infringe the provisions regarding the gradual reduction in the daily supply of coca leaf to the workers;

(iii) To infringe any of the legal provisions intended to secure the gradual suppression of the practice of chewing coca leaf.

(d) *Regulation of prices*

The price of coca leaf intended for chewing should be officially regulated during the period of gradual suppression in order to avoid excessive prices which might endanger the adequate satisfaction of requirements relating to food, housing, clothing, hygiene and health.

(e) *Appeal to the Government of Argentina*

In view of the existence in the north of the Argentine Republic of a large group of chewers who, though largely not of Argentine nationality, consume annually a considerable quantity of coca leaf, it would be desirable that the Government of that country should be invited to collaborate to the extent it may deem necessary in the gradual suppression of the coca leaf in that area.

(f) *International co-ordination of policies*

The complete success in one country of a policy of the gradual suppression of the habit of chewing coca leaves, of the corresponding limitation of the production of these leaves and the control of their distribution, will depend in a very large measure on identical policies being pursued and carried out in other countries where this habit exists.

To further the adoption of such policies by all countries concerned and to facilitate the co-ordination of

the measures resulting therefrom, it might be advisable to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a meeting of these countries with a view to reaching an agreement on the questions referred to above, pending the adoption of the new single convention on narcotic drugs.

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In submitting these recommendations and thus concluding the present report, the Commission is aware that they represent no more than the basic steps to be taken to secure limitation of the production of the coca leaf, control of its distribution and the gradual reduction of chewing.

The implementation of the recommendations with all the complementary aspects which that implies is a task which falls exclusively within the competence of the Governments concerned.