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TURKISH CABINET LIFTS BAN ON OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN
6 PROVINCES

M011819 ANKARA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN TURKISH 1800 GMT 1 JUL 74

(TEXT) THE TURKISH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS DECIDED TO PERMIT THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES IN SIX PROVINCES. IN A STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TODAY, MINISTER OF TOURISM AND INFORMATION ORHAN BIRGIT STATED THAT THE SITUATION OF 90,000 FAMILIES WHICH USED TO CULTIVATE OPIUM POPPIES AND THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY WERE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN MAKING THE DECISION. ACCORDING TO BIRGIT, THE PROVINCES WHERE OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION WILL BE PERMITTED ARE: AFYON, BURDUR, ISPARTA, DENIZLI, KUTAHYA AND USAK. THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES WILL ALSO BE PERMITTED IN AKSEHIR, BEYSEHIR, ILGIN, AND DOGANSHISAR DISTRICTS OF KONYA PROVINCE. AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL SYSTEM WILL BE EMPLOYED TO PREVENT THE USE OF OPIUM FOR OTHER PURPOSES. PEOPLE ATTEMPTING SUCH USE AND THOSE CULTIVATING OPIUM POPPIES IN OTHER AREAS WILL BE SUBJECT TO LEGAL ACTION.

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