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THIRD COMMITTEE
44th meeting
held on
Monday, 18 November 1985
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 106: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/646, A/40/260, 544, 777, 778)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/40/3, 771-773; A/C.3/40/8; E/CN.7/1986/2)

(a) REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

(b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

1. Mr. POLOWCZYK (Poland) said that, several years earlier, the use of poppy straw extracts as narcotics and the illicit cultivation of cannabis had begun creating an entirely new problem in Poland. As a result, activities to prevent young people from becoming drug addicts had been intensified, and a special law on drug abuse, which had entered into force on 1 March 1985, had been adopted by the Polish Parliament. Under the new law, the poppy could be cultivated only for the pharmaceutical and food industries, and the cannabis plant only for the textile industry. The regulations concerning the control of manufacturing, turnover, storage and sale of medicines containing narcotic and psychotropic substances were in strict conformity with Poland's obligations as a signatory of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. A special fund for the prevention of narcotic drug addiction had been established, and the law also envisaged the establishment of a committee on drug abuse prevention as a policy-making and advisory body in the office of the Prime Minister. Poland was involved with and would continue to participate in the activities of relevant organizations of the United Nations system, for it believed that Polish experts could make a significant contribution to those activities. His delegation also felt that other States should consider the possibility of acceding to the two Conventions already in force, for control of narcotic drug abuse was one of the notable examples of fruitful co-operation among countries with different social and political systems and countries at different levels of development.

2. He hoped that the proposed United Nations conference on drug abuse control (A/C.3/40/8) would be a significant step in efforts to strengthen international co-operation and exchange of experience.

3. Mr. POERSCHKE (German Democratic Republic) said that the documents before the Committee made it obvious that more dangerous drugs were available on the illegal market than ever before; the World Health Organization's estimate of 48 million drug addicts was alarming, and vigorous national and international measures were urgently needed to counter that development. His delegation generally supported the Secretary-General's proposal to convene a United Nations conference on drug abuse control. It shared the view of other delegations that thorough preparation of the proposed conference was a prerequisite for its success, and that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was the appropriate forum for the preparation of the conference. In that connection, he suggested that it would be helpful to draw on

(Mr. Poerschke, German
Democratic Republic)

the experience gained in the preparation of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

4. The German Democratic Republic regarded international legal instruments as an important means of combating drug abuse and would be in favour of further international co-operation in solving some of the crucial problems involved. However, it felt that priority should be given to the initiation of effective national measures, for not all countries had laid the requisite political, legal and organizational foundations for effectively combating the problem. Of particular urgency was the need to investigate the activities of criminal drug syndicates in the consumer countries. Moreover, the social aspects of the problem of drug abuse could no longer be ignored. Educational campaigns had proved to be insufficient when they were not accompanied by improved social prospects, especially for young people. He noted that drug abuse was unknown in the German Democratic Republic, because social conditions there did not provide a breeding-ground for the existence of an illicit drug market. His country would, however, continue its efforts to promote better international co-operation in combating drug abuse.

5. Mrs. DEVER (Belgium) said that Belgium shared the Secretary-General's belief that the international community should make an even more concerted and resolute effort to combat drug abuse. The Secretary-General's report on international co-operation in drug abuse control (A/40/771) gave a well-organized overview of the activities of the principal international bodies dealing with the subject. She noted in particular that the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control were all conscientiously implementing their responsibilities deriving from relevant provisions of the existing drug control treaties and from specific mandates set forth in resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Division had been receiving an increasing number of requests from Governments for legal advice, information on the latest law enforcement techniques and other assistance, while the Board continued to provide assistance to national authorities in controlling the international movement of narcotic drugs. It was encouraging to note that Governments' voluntary contributions to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control had increased considerably.

6. Although all those bodies were fulfilling their responsibilities satisfactorily, the drug abuse situation continued to deteriorate. The United Nations must therefore pursue the struggle against the scourge of drug abuse with greater determination than ever, through a global and innovative offensive aimed at reducing drug supply, trafficking and demand. An effective means of reducing supply was offered by the crop substitution policy, which should be incorporated in more general development aid programmes. She noted in that connection that the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was allocating a considerable portion of its resources to financing such projects. Belgium despite the severe budgetary constraints to which it was subject, was striving to maintain its voluntary contribution to the Fund.

/...

(Mrs. Dever, Belgium)

7. Another significant means of reducing supply was the development of more effective national measures to control the movement of chemical products which were essential to illicit drug manufacture. Belgium was currently examining draft regulations with that end in view.

8. With regard to the establishment of a new international instrument to combat the illicit drug traffic, she said that Belgium was prepared to co-operate actively in the preparation of such a text; its views and comments on that subject were set forth in document E/CN.7/1986/2. She reaffirmed her delegation's hope that the question would be considered in depth and without undue haste.

9. In order to reduce the illicit demand for drugs, it was essential to develop educational and preventive programmes whose principle aim would be to inculcate in young people a positive outlook and encourage them not to use drugs. She drew attention in that regard to programmes which had been developed by the French-speaking and Flemish-speaking communities in Belgium.

10. Her delegation felt that the proposed United Nations conference on drug abuse control could provide the impetus for a more intense, concerted and widespread effort. However, such a conference should be devoted solely to problems of drug abuse and should not allow the introduction of political or other irrelevant questions into the debate. Moreover, the proposed conference should concentrate on general ideas and on raising the level of world awareness of the dangers of drug abuse. In order to achieve real and lasting progress, national government authorities must establish their own priorities, because they were the only ones in a position to take the necessary measures in their own areas of competence.

11. Mr. KASEMSRI (Thailand) observed that although activities to counteract the burgeoning growth in illicit drug traffic and on drug abuse had intensified at the governmental, bilateral and multilateral levels since the Committee last met, there was a need to co-ordinate the efforts being made and to rationalize the activities of the various United Nations agencies and entities whose co-operation was crucial to the successful management of international activities in drug abuse control.

12. At the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at Kuala Lumpur on 9 July 1985, strong support had been expressed for the Secretary-General's proposal to convene a United Nations conference on drug abuse control. Several interested countries had co-operated closely with the ASEAN countries in the preparation of a draft resolution for the consideration of the Committee, with a view to complementing the Secretary-General's timely initiative. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would enjoy the full support of the Committee.

13. Thailand welcomed the efforts to prepare a draft convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. His delegation would like the draft to incorporate measures aimed at facilitating the tracing, freezing and forfeiture of the proceeds of drug crimes; a provision urging parties to the Convention to initiate appropriate legislation providing for preventive detention of illicit drug

(Mr. Kasemsri, Thailand)

traffickers, manufacturers and financiers; and a provision requesting parties to the convention to take all possible measures consistent with their national laws to keep the accused in custody pending trial and to deny temporary release on bail.

14. Thailand had adopted a two-pronged approach to the problem of illicit narcotic drugs. Firstly, it aimed at reducing the supply of illicit drugs by instituting stringent measures to suppress illicit poppy cultivation. Secondly, it sought to reduce the demand for narcotic drugs through two major Government programmes, one school-based and the other community-based. Dissemination of information, incorporation of drug prevention education in the school curricula at all levels, and consultative services for drug dependents formed the core of both programmes. Treatment and rehabilitation programmes were also provided for drug addicts.

15. His Government had made international co-operation one of its priorities in the fight against the scourge of drug abuse, and it wished to ensure all concerned that Thailand would continue to pursue its policies aimed at combating illicit drugs.

16. Mr. SERAT-ALMERAS (France), referring to the report in document A/40/771, said that his country, as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, co-operated closely with the International Narcotics Control Board and was pleased to note the considerable efforts those bodies had made during 1985 in combating drug abuse, including the provision of legal assistance to Governments with regard to the implementation of treaties and the drafting of domestic legislation, the issue of useful publications and the organization of meetings in various parts of the world. France welcomed the spirit of continuing dialogue in which the Board had worked, and shared its desire to see improved co-ordination of national, regional and international efforts. It likewise appreciated the quality and diversity of the help provided through the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control; the record number of requests for assistance received by the Fund during 1985 testified to the scale of the problems involved.

17. Despite the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy, and the basic five-year programme of action, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 36/168, world-wide narcotics consumption, and the development of illegal trafficking techniques had escalated rapidly during the past five years. His Government, concerned by the growing problem, had established in 1982 an inter-ministerial mission to combat drug addiction, which had been placed under the direct control of the Prime Minister in early 1985. It had also adopted a total of 31 drug control measures involving research, prevention, health and social problems, rehabilitation and so forth. Research efforts accorded priority to cocaine abuse and the incidence of AIDS, to which addicts were known to be particularly susceptible. "Prevention clubs" aimed at combating the alienation of young people had been in existence since 1972, and a network of treatment centres provided confidential consultations and free care. Legislation adopted since 1970 had increased the severity of penalties imposed on drug traffickers and changes were being considered which would provide for different penalties for major traffickers and pushers. Legislation was also being drafted to govern the use of certain addictive solvents used in the manufacture of adhesives.

(Mr. Serat-Almeras, France)

18. However, national measures would be of little avail in the absence of international co-operation. France was a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. His country endorsed the proposals for the preparation of a draft convention, but stressed that it must be based on the provisions of existing international instruments, and that the latter should be generally ratified as a prerequisite to its implementation.

19. At the international level, France was prepared to consider bilateral agreements aimed at controlling the drug traffic in international waters and felt that co-operation among the members of the European Community in research and in the suppression of licit traffic should be strengthened.

20. His delegation agreed that a world ministerial-level conference, as proposed in the Secretary-General's note (A/C.3/40/8), would serve to intensify international action and help mobilize all the resources of the United Nations system. In order to succeed, however, the Conference must be adequately prepared; his delegation wondered whether the proposed date would allow enough time for that.

21. Ms. CLARK (New Zealand) said that her country supported United Nations efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit drug traffic, and was active at the national, regional and international levels in pursuing that effort.

22. At the national level, the growth in hard drugs abuse and trafficking had been reversed, but cannabis cultivation and distribution were increasing, as was evidence of links between cannabis trafficking and other social problems. The National Drug Intelligence Bureau, which comprised officials of the Police, Customs and Health Departments, had the primary responsibility for combating illicit traffic. The rate of seizure of illicit drugs by enforcement agencies had improved in recent years thanks to the use of a variety of methods of detection, and it was hoped that the planned computerization of entry and departure cards at points of entry would greatly assist in the screening of suspect individuals and the tracking of their movements. In addition, legislation regarding internal concealment of drugs was currently being prepared. Drug education programmes focused in particular on young people.

23. New Zealand maintained links with overseas enforcement agencies, particularly in South-East Asia, and was represented at annual regional meetings of the Heads of Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA). Its success in reversing the trend in hard drugs trafficking was largely due to co-operation with the countries of the region, particularly Malaysia, which some New Zealanders were known to visit to obtain heroin. As part of that regional co-operation, New Zealand had produced a South Pacific Drug Manual for the South Pacific Commission, copies of which had been supplied to the Division of Narcotic Drugs. New Zealand fully supported the Organization's efforts in the matter; it was a party to the two relevant United Nations conventions and contributed to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

(Ms. Clark, New Zealand)

24. Her delegation appreciated the work done by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, as reported in document A/40/771, including the improvement of co-ordination within the United Nations system, and welcomed the emphasis on practical measures such as the production and distribution of drug identification kits.
25. Her country had joined in the consensus, reflected in General Assembly resolution 39/141, to the effect that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should initiate the preparation of a draft convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, but stressed that a new convention should not duplicate the provisions of existing instruments. It also felt that to classify such traffic as a crime against humanity was unacceptable and could only lessen the chances of the convention's broad acceptance, and it shared the reservations expressed about the proposed establishment of a new fund.
26. New Zealand fully supported the convening of a world conference at the ministerial level in 1987 to deal with all aspects of drug abuse; the opportunity thus provided for exchange of information and experience would boost international efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking.
27. Mr. ALDRED (Australia) said that his country was committed to action at all levels to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Priority must, of course, be accorded to action at the national level and each nation must develop a comprehensive drug control strategy. In Australia a conference of Premiers of the various States had been convened by the Federal Government in April of the current year and had laid the groundwork for a national campaign embracing education, rehabilitation and law enforcement measures which included improved intelligence and surveillance. Measures aimed at confiscation of convicted offenders' assets were being considered. The fight against organized crime and drug trafficking were now co-ordinated through the National Crime Authority.
28. At the bilateral level, Australia had contributed to narcotics control projects in the Asian and Pacific region and Australian law-enforcement authorities were co-operating closely with their counterparts in the other countries concerned. At the regional level, his country had co-operated in the work of HONLEA and the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme. At the international level, Australia had recently concluded extradition agreements with a number of northern-hemisphere States.
29. His country took an active part in all relevant United Nations activities and had recently been re-elected to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It had also been represented for several years on the International Narcotics Control Board. Australia had contributed regularly to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control since 1971, and had pledged to increase its contribution for 1986 to \$200,000. It welcomed the Fund's growing political and financial support.
30. The initial concern expressed about the holding of a United Nations conference on drug abuse control was understandable. However, the subsequent groundswell of support for the Conference reflected the high priority attached by Governments to strengthening international co-operation. Such a conference could help to

(Mr. Aldred, Australia)

stimulate national efforts, provided it did not become submerged in a sea of lofty rhetoric. The General Assembly should give the Commission on Narcotic Drugs some broad guidelines about preparations for the conference, which must be made within a tight schedule. The Commission, as the appropriate preparatory body, must be allowed to prepare the agenda and handle organizational arrangements; the Economic and Social Council should also be involved, given the system-wide implications of the conference for programme priorities and budgets. Vienna was the logical venue, although the preference of some delegations for New York was understandable. While it might be difficult to fund such a conference entirely within existing resources, his delegation would urge the Secretariat to explore all possibilities for savings and to keep Member States fully informed in that regard. Member States should give careful consideration to the Conference agenda. The importance of concise, relevant and timely documentation should also be borne in mind. With regard to the organizational structure of the Conference, perhaps it should be divided into expert commissions to examine specific issues in such a way as to ensure that the input of experts was mobilized as effectively as possible.

31. Rather than commissioning further studies of its drug control machinery, the United Nations should use the conference as an opportunity to consolidate the findings of existing studies, with a view to filling gaps rather than replacing structures and to encouraging more countries to accede to the existing instruments. The conference could also address questions such as drug classification, the nature of offences and penalties, confiscation of offenders' assets and extradition. The international scope of the problem placed a particular onus on the Organization, to whose efforts Australia would continue to give moral and financial support.

32. Mr. WIJewardane (Sri Lanka) said that drug abuse and illicit trafficking had become a world-wide problem and were threatening not only the life and health of nations but also the cultural and social traditions which had hitherto preserved the moral fibre of societies. The Secretary-General, addressing the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1985, had rightly stressed the way in which illicit drug trafficking involved other criminal activities, including evidence of links between drug trafficking and terrorism.

33. His delegation greatly appreciated the special drug control programmes and projects launched by various United Nations bodies and co-operated to the utmost at the national, regional and international levels. Joint international action was essential for such efforts, and the relevant resolutions adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders had been a valuable step in that direction. His delegation hoped that the Organization's efforts would help reveal the connection between illicit earnings from drug trafficking and the funding of terrorist groups, so as to alert Member States to the threat posed to nations and societies and to the quest for international peace, security and economic stability.

34. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the convening of a ministerial-level conference in 1987, and welcomed the initiative taken by the United Nations in preparing a draft convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

(Mr. Wijewardane, Sri Lanka)

35. Sri Lanka had hosted the recent twelfth annual meeting of HONLEA, and earlier in the year had hosted a subregional meeting attended by representatives of India, Nepal, Pakistan and his own country as the States most affected by trafficking in the subregion. Sri Lanka had also taken firm legislative measures to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and launched campaigns in schools and colleges, through seminars and the use of the media, to alert the public to the dangers of drug abuse; relevant programmes had also been introduced as part of the International Youth Year. The country's non-governmental organizations were likewise concerned about the threat which drug abuse posed to society. The efforts of Member States, at the national, regional and international levels, would greatly help to combat and eliminate drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

36. Mr. MOYA-PALENCIA (Mexico) said that the production of, traffic in and illegal consumption of narcotics constituted a very serious international problem, the nature of which had changed completely over the past 10 years. Increasing numbers of young people were affected and the situation had worsened both quantitatively and qualitatively. Drug trafficking and illegal consumption of narcotics had had an unparalleled impact on economic, social and political life and security within States and on international relations, and threatened the economies, institutions, customs and traditional ways of life of the so-called producer countries, transit countries and consumer countries.

37. Production and consumption of drugs were causing very serious economic distortion and in some countries the tendency to abandon the production of traditional food crops in order to produce narcotics had accelerated. There were no exact figures, but the resources devoted to drug consumption were rising, and it had been estimated that the annual illegal narcotics trade in the United States had reached \$100 billion per year, of which only a tiny proportion, between \$2 and \$4 billion, went to the producer countries; the funds involved therefore stayed within the economies of the consumer countries. The sum involved was higher than the external debt of any country. The political effects were equally devastating. The drug trade had had a negative influence on the basic institutions of many countries and in some cases had caused friction between States. Social structures had also been affected in both the producer and the consumer countries. At the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year it had been stated that young people, lacking an opportunity to participate in the development of their countries, could easily become indifferent and desperate as a result of drug consumption. In the consumer countries, drug use was seen as a way of getting through life without the pressures and anxieties which were part of the human condition. The internal security of many countries was likewise affected by drug trafficking, which generated great wealth that found the basis of power structures which defied the authority and manoeuvring capacity of many Governments.

38. The aforementioned effects sufficed to guarantee the firm determination of the producer countries to eradicate drug production. Nevertheless, that determination often failed to lead to significant decreases in consumption, and the great economic incentive meant that sooner or later production would again increase. All aspects of the problem were interrelated, and must be attacked simultaneously.

(Mr. Moya-Palencia, Mexico)

Efforts should be made to eradicate the illegal production of narcotics, to combat drug trafficking, and above all to prevent and avoid consumption. Rising demand created production, as proved by the fact that in some consumer countries almost half the demand for certain drugs, such as marijuana, was satisfied by internal production.

39. Fortunately some Governments had recognized the seriousness of the situation and the Latin American countries in particular were implementing new forms of bilateral and regional co-operation to cope with the situation. Satisfactory progress had been made in some instances, but countries could not act in isolation or impose their own solutions on others. The international community, and hence the United Nations system, had a role to play because a multilateral response was required to a problem which affected everyone.

40. Specialized agencies of the United Nations were helping to form an overview of the consequences of the problem and ways of solving it. The interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, to be held in Vienna in 1986, would no doubt improve co-ordination between those agencies. His country was very interested in the Secretary-General's proposal that a world conference on the drug problem should be convened in 1987 at the ministerial level; the President of Mexico had expressed his support for that proposal. His delegation agreed that the conference should be multidisciplinary and produce an international convention to fill the gaps left by current instruments. The convention should recognize that drug trafficking was an international crime whose planning, preparation, organization, financing and implementation involved a number of countries, and therefore required a co-ordinated response. Prevention and prosecution efforts should, however, be based on national legislation, respecting the sovereign right of each State to establish its own rules. The new instrument should also envisage additional international co-operation measures but should not impose obligations that might restrict State sovereignty.

41. At the national level his Government had for many years followed a broad educational and containment policy aimed at preventing the production, consumption and export of all forms of drugs, but its efforts were hampered by the topography of the country and the length of its land and sea borders. Mexico had spared neither efforts nor resources in combating drug trafficking, and programmes of international bilateral and multilateral co-operation had been initiated with technical and material assistance from Governments and international agencies, demonstrating the need for close relations between producers and consumers in order to ensure the success of any measures taken. Scarce resources had been allocated to those programmes and lives had been lost, but unfortunately his country's efforts had not always been accorded sufficient recognition. Regrettably, as in all countries which combated drug trafficking, cases of corruption had occurred, which had received undue publicity. The mass media should exercise their responsibility with great care.

(Mr. Moya-Palencia, Mexico)

42. His country was not only trying to combat drug trafficking but was also deploying a wide range of preventive and educational measures to avoid or discourage consumption and to rehabilitate the people affected. The main consumer countries should widen their efforts aimed at the prevention, reduction or eradication of drug consumption, and efforts should be made to combat the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking.
43. Mr. ABDUL KADIR (Malaysia) said that drug abuse represented a serious problem for his country, where 70 per cent of the population was under 35, since narcotic drug abuse affected particularly the young. Addicts were unable to contribute constructively to the development of their country, and treatment and rehabilitation diverted resources from the urgent tasks of development. His country regarded those who engaged in illicit drug trafficking as the worst of criminals and the international community should no longer ignore their machinations.
44. The immense gains from drug trafficking were used to finance other criminal activities and in some countries had even enabled the traffickers to subvert the course of justice. The drug problem could therefore no longer be regarded as merely a social and humanitarian matter, for it threatened the stability and security of Governments and States. Strong measures were needed to combat drug trafficking, and his country therefore had a mandatory death sentence for drug traffickers.
45. He commended the work being done by agencies within and outside of the United Nations and the personal involvement and interest of the Secretary-General in the problem. His delegation was encouraged by the increased interest shown in the problem by the international community in 1985 and welcomed the proposed preparation of a new draft convention. The ASEAN countries fully supported the Secretary-General's proposal that an international conference on drug abuse control should be convened in 1987. The drug issue had been perceived and addressed thus far at the national or at most at the regional level, as shown by the Quito Declaration, the New York Declaration and the Lima Declaration; the ASEAN countries also had initiated combined action. There were many signs of a willingness in the international community to undertake global action to address the international drug problem. The international conference should be well prepared, and his country agreed with the agenda and the multidisciplinary approach proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/C.3/40/8.
46. One important objective of the Conference would be to heighten international awareness of the fact that the drug problem was no longer confined within national boundaries, since drug traffickers plied their trade world-wide. It was pointless to attempt to ascribe blame for the drug problem, and the question should not be whether demand created supply or whether production stimulated demand. A global war must be waged against drug traffickers, and the international community must therefore ensure the success of the proposed world-wide conference. Accordingly, many countries, from various regions, including the ASEAN countries were working on a draft resolution that would be submitted to the Committee to seek a legal mandate

(Mr. Abdul Kadir, Malaysia)

from the General Assembly for the convening of the conference in 1987. He appealed to all Member States to support the proposed resolution.

47. Mr. BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government was greatly concerned to note that despite considerable efforts by individual countries and the international community the illegal production of drugs, drug trafficking and drug abuse had increased during the past year. The World Health Organization had estimated the current number of drug abusers world-wide to be about 48 million. Drug abuse was increasing in the developing countries and the situation was particularly serious in the drug-producing countries and in many transit countries.

48. There was growing awareness that measures at the national level must be complemented by co-operation at the international level, especially by multilateral action in the regions most concerned, since no nation could solve the problem alone. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the members of the international community to work closely together and to focus attention on the international commitment to eliminate drug abuse and drug trafficking. The Heads of State and Government who had participated in the world economic summit in Bonn in May 1985 had issued a mandate to discuss strategies and additional initiatives against illicit drug production and drug trafficking.

49. His country supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the convening of an international drug conference in 1987. His delegation would like the preparations for the conference, including a thorough study of the details set out in document A/C.3/40/8, to be left in the hands of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and suggested that the Commission's ninth special session and thirty-second regular session should be extended to enable it to function as a preparatory body for the conference. His delegation considered that Vienna would be the best venue for the conference, since all the United Nations bodies and agencies dealing with drug issues had their headquarters there. His delegation hoped that the conference would not be financed from the funds allocated to the current drug activities of the United Nations.

50. His Government also attached great importance to national efforts to combat the drug problem, such as rural development to persuade farmers to abandon drug cultivation permanently, and separate drug control measures if crop substitution assistance and social welfare programmes failed to stop illegal crop production. The livelihood of former drug cultivators should be guaranteed until the alternative crops introduced could serve as a new means of subsistence. Adequate legislation and effective action by police and customs authorities were needed to combat drug trafficking. Preventive and rehabilitative efforts were needed to reduce the demand for drugs and his Government had supported various programmes to that end throughout the world, especially in Latin America. His Government also encouraged efforts to take measures against illegal proceeds from drug trafficking.

51. The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances provided a solid foundation for international co-operation

(Mr. Braun, Federal Republic
of Germany)

and his delegation appealed to those States which had not yet done so to sign and ratify them without delay. His country supported the proposal for a new convention containing stricter provisions leading to the adoption of effective measures against illicit drug traffic at both the national and international levels. Such measures should supplement existing mechanisms, and duplication should be avoided.

52. Determined efforts and co-ordination of national policies had to a certain extent checked the spread of drug abuse and limited its harmful effects. 1985 was a year of intensified international action against drug trafficking and his delegation hoped that it would prove to be a turning point in the fight against drug abuse.

53. Mr. LY (Senegal) observed that all levels of society were affected by the drug menace, in particular youth. Senegal had long understood the need to combat drug abuse and illicit traffic in drugs and, accordingly, had established a national commission on drugs in 1965. In addition, several legislative and regulatory measures had been adopted providing for severe punishment for illicit drug trafficking and exempting addicts from penalties providing they underwent detoxification treatment.

54. However, Senegal understood that the problem of drugs was of such complexity and had such varied implications that no country could attempt to solve it by itself. It had therefore given its full support to the action undertaken by the international community to combat drug abuse and was a party to all international conventions on narcotics and psychotropic substances. While the international community had not yet been able to eradicate drug abuse and trafficking, it was heartening to note that it had become more aware of the need to strengthen co-operation in that field. To that end, all organizations of the United Nations system must systematically define their drug control programmes and projects in a co-ordinated, integrated and concerted approach. The efforts made by States themselves at the regional and national levels must also be more effectively co-ordinated, particularly in the establishment or strengthening of existing machinery.

55. His delegation supported the proposal for the elaboration of a draft Convention against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the Proposed United Nations conference on drug abuse control, which could mobilize all existing means of combating drug abuse and strengthen and accelerate international co-operation in that area. The entire international community must demonstrate its determination to make a more concerted and global effort to overcome that scourge.

56. Mrs. HAMEED (Pakistan) said that Pakistan was faced with a complex situation with respect to the production, processing and abuse of and trafficking in narcotic drugs. The geo-political conditions affecting its borders coupled with the continuing demand in Western societies compounded the problem, the magnitude and ramifications of which were fully recognized by the Government. In accordance with Islamic precepts and in response to broad public concern about the situation, Pakistan was deeply committed to the eradication of drug trafficking and drug

(Mrs. Hameed, Pakistan)

abuse. It had therefore taken appropriate administrative and legal measures within the country and had been extending full co-operation to all international efforts to eliminate the problem. Despite all the difficulties encountered, it had achieved notable successes and could therefore look forward to becoming a society free from drug abuse.

57. Her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for the convening of a United Nations conference on drug abuse control. Participation by a large number of countries in the preparatory work of the conference would go a long way towards ensuring its successful outcome.

58. Mr. ZURITA (Spain) said it was alarming to note that in spite of the efforts of the international community to combat drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking the situation had deteriorated in the past year. The international community must respond to that challenge with the co-operation of all countries and the co-ordination of all bodies in the international struggle against drug trafficking. Fortunately, there was growing awareness of the seriousness of the problem and that awareness was reflected in all the relevant international bodies, especially within the United Nations. In that connection, he observed that the efforts made by the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were of the utmost importance. His delegation wished to emphasize the need to provide the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control with the financing it required to enable it to develop its long-term and short-term programmes. In the circumstances, voluntary contributions to the Fund were not simply a moral obligation but also a profitable investment. The urgent need to find effective solutions to the drug problem required strong support for the relevant United Nations machinery. Furthermore, the efforts of the United Nations must be supplemented by the requisite national policies of Member States, which could not ignore the serious obligations incumbent upon them in that respect because it was their citizens who, in the final analysis, would be the ultimate victims.

59. Drug consumption in Spain was similar to that in the rest of Western Europe. In addition, because of its geographical position, Spain was unfortunately an important transit point for the international drug traffic. It was fully aware that the problem went beyond its national borders and that international action was essential for its solution. Spain therefore participated actively in the work of the Pompidou Group as a member of the Council of Europe and was also a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It likewise participated in the work of the International Narcotics Control Board and contributed financially to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. At the national level, it had recently adopted a plan for the prevention and suppression of drug trafficking and for the treatment of addicts.

60. Spain noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's proposal to convene a world conference at the ministerial level in 1987 to deal with all aspects of drug abuse. His delegation was convinced that the success of such a conference would to a large extent depend on avoiding the injection into the discussion of political

(Mr. Zurita, Spain)

elements which could only detract from concentration on the main objective. Spain also attached great importance to the proposed elaboration of a new draft convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Spain was a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. However, since the entry into force of those Conventions new aspects of the problem had emerged which had not been contemplated in those texts and a new international legal instrument was therefore necessary. His delegation believed, however, that it was essential to avoid including in such a convention provisions that would be difficult to implement or could not be integrated into the domestic legislation of the different countries.

61. Miss LEE (Singapore) said that the Government of Singapore had long been aware of the high social and economic costs exacted by drug abuse and drug trafficking. It would therefore continue to support the work of the United Nations in that field. In 1973 Singapore had ratified the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and had subsequently acceded to the 1971 and 1972 Protocols to that Convention. The vigorous measures taken by the Government to prevent Singapore from being used as a transit point for illicit drug traffic had forced traffickers to look for alternative routes to the European and American markets. At the same time, Singapore had worked very hard to reduce the consumption of drugs among its own people by educating them with regard to the tragic consequences of drug abuse. Singapore's concern about drug abuse and trafficking was shared by its partners in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), all of whom had taken concerted action to eliminate that scourge.

62. The ASEAN countries had taken action to follow-up the proposal of the Secretary-General for the convening of an international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking. An international conference would be an appropriate first step towards mobilizing the requisite political will and developing ways and means of enhancing the level of United Nations activities in those areas. Such a conference would provide the international community with an excellent opportunity to review the achievements of the five-year programme of action to combat drug abuse and trafficking that would end in 1986. The international conference should also study ways and means of improving co-ordination and rationalization of the drug related programmes within the United Nations system. The existing organizational structure led to excessive compartmentalization, resulting in a loss of effectiveness and some overlapping and duplication of responsibilities.

63. The preparation of a draft convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances would be an important step in the fight against illicit trafficking. New developments in illicit trafficking had revealed gaps in the existing Conventions and the proposed convention would plug those loopholes. Her delegation therefore urged the Committee to adopt without a vote the proposals to hold an international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking and to continue with the preparation of the draft convention.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.