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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 106: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 106: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/646, A/40/3, 260, 544, 771, 772, 773, 777, 778; A/C.3/40/8)

1. Mr. BROWERS (Netherlands) said that he shared the view that it was increasingly urgent to strengthen world-wide action to combat drug abuse and illicit traffic in drugs. To that end, the Netherlands remained committed to harmonizing its national drug policies with policies at the regional and international levels. At the regional level, it was actively participating in the important consultations among the 16 countries members of the Council of Europe, which had established a group, known as the Pompidou Group, for co-operation to combat drug abuse and drug trafficking. At the international level, his Government took part in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was the principal intergovernmental technical body in that field. Its policy of co-operation with other countries was based on the recognition that the consumption and production of drugs and illicit drug trafficking could not be disentangled. Producer, consumer and transit States should seek to co-ordinate their action to the fullest possible extent. His Government fully supported international action to intensify efforts to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

2. With regard to the preparation of a draft convention against traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and after close examination of the penal provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, his Government had concluded that those Conventions already provided the framework of a fairly complete penal system. Their provisions offered a solid basis for many of the proposed measures in the field of legal and investigative assistance, such as measures on so-called controlled deliveries, monitoring the flow of precursor chemicals, drug smuggling through the mail and by aircraft, the exchange of information and police co-operation in frontier areas. For that reason, the introduction of further measures on those subjects did not seem necessary. However, his Government was willing to support, in principle, the development of such measures.

3. His Government agreed that there was a need for new measures concerning the tracing, seizure and forfeiture of the profits from illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. The huge amounts of money involved were undoubtedly the main incentive for many drug traffickers. It would be an important step forward in the effort to combat drug trafficking if that incentive could be diminished. The introduction of provisions on the international validity of court decisions on freezing and forfeiture of the proceeds of drug crimes should be studied. His Government would prefer those provisions to take the form of a protocol amending the existing conventions. The balance struck in the existing conventions between measures to combat illicit trafficking and to maintain the licit supply of substances for scientific and medical purposes and for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, was of great value and should be maintained. The drafting of a new

(Mr. Browsers, Netherlands)

convention which was not related to the existing ones and whose sole purpose would be to introduce certain obligations concerning penal matters, many of which had already been provided for in the existing conventions, could be dangerous as it might undermine the prestige and effectiveness of the existing conventions. It was gratifying that, at the Milan Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, a consensus had been reached on recommending the preparation of a new international instrument on illicit drug traffic, thus leaving open what the best legal option might be.

4. His country supported, in principle, the convening of a United Nations conference on drug abuse control in 1987. Such a conference should be of a highly technical nature and focus on narcotics control issues. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be the centre of gravity for discussing the objectives of the proposed conference, drafting its agenda and outlining its modalities. Given its terms of reference and the fact that its members were national experts in the field, the Commission seemed to be the best equipped United Nations body to prepare for the conference. In the early stages of preparations, particular attention should be given to its cost. It was to be hoped that the financial implications of holding the conference would be absorbed within the budget estimates to be approved for the biennium 1986-1987.

5. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria) said that the People's Republic of Bulgaria attached major importance to combating illicit drug traffic. Its contribution to that field, as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was well known. His country's active participation was determined by its position of principle concerning the promotion of international co-operation on all current problems and by its awareness of the catastrophic dimensions of drug trafficking and drug abuse in many countries where those activities and their social and other consequences constituted a real disaster.

6. His country supported the Organization's efforts to establish a comprehensive system of measures against illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse and related activities. In creating such a system, account should be taken of all aspects of the grave issue under consideration, including the relationship between drug trafficking and drug abuse, on the one hand, and the socio-economic conditions prevailing in any particular society, on the other. If consideration was not given to the underlying social mechanisms which tended to give rise to the demand for and illegal supply of narcotic drugs, measures against illicit drug trafficking and abuse might be directed at curing only the symptoms rather than the causes of that social scourge affecting many countries in the world.

7. The campaign against illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse was a universal humanitarian question, which all States could and should help to solve, including those which, like the People's Republic of Bulgaria, were unaffected by that social ill. In other words, the fight against illicit traffic in drugs and drug abuse would be successful only if all States applied the necessary legislative, administrative, educational, medical and other control measures at the national level and were prepared to co-operate internationally.

(Mr. Golemanov, Bulgaria)

8. Drug abuse was practically unknown as a medical and social problem in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Nevertheless, an effective system of drug control had been established for preventive purposes. Access to narcotic drugs was restricted and their medical use strictly regulated. The system for prescribing and dispensing narcotic drugs was periodically reviewed, prescription forms were marked with controlled serial numbers, there was strict monitoring of the movement of narcotic drugs and their storage was carefully regulated.

9. The People's Republic of Bulgaria participated actively in combating the illegal traffic in drugs. It had co-operated closely with a number of international organizations which had recognized its activities in that field. Despite a heavy flow of tourists and travellers in transit, the People's Republic of Bulgaria operated an effective system of drug control to counteract any attempts at illicit drug smuggling. The Bulgarian authorities had waged a successful campaign against international drug trafficking intercepting traffickers and drugs smuggled in, and had applied the Bulgarian Penal Code against the perpetrators. There had been no cases of Bulgarian citizens being involved in such offences.

10. Existing instruments in the field, such as the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, had played a substantial role in the international control of the production, movement and use of narcotic drugs. Bulgaria considered it important for all countries to ratify those international instruments and their provisions should be strictly complied with. At the same time, his delegation agreed with the views expressed by a number of delegations concerning the further elaboration of those instruments or the elaboration of a new convention which would take account of new situations. His delegation also agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal to convene a specialized international conference to consider all aspects of the effort to combat illegal drug traffic and drug abuse. Such a conference could be a major contribution to United Nations efforts in promoting international co-operation with a view to the elaboration of a comprehensive system to combat drug abuse in all its aspects.

11. Mr. RAMAKRISHNAN (India) said that his delegation shared the concern of the international community at the worsening situation resulting from drug abuse and drug trafficking, which had reached alarming proportions. Those phenomena were dangerous symptoms of a widespread malaise which was affecting all societies. Despite the determination of Member States to counteract both the symptoms and the disease, the illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances had increased. The problem should be tackled firmly through the enactment and strict enforcement of appropriate domestic legislation and through a co-ordinated strategy at the national, regional and international levels which would cover not only the consumers and producers of illicit drugs but also the countries which were used as transit countries in the distribution and marketing of illicit drugs world-wide.

12. India had sponsored resolution 1 (XXXI) adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in February 1985 and was pleased that the Secretary-General had initiated preparations for the elaboration of a draft convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities. In elaborating that convention the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should take into account not only

(Mr. Ramakrishnan, India)

various shortcomings in the existing drug control treaties, but also the development and aggravation of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances regionally, interregionally and internationally. In that context, he referred to the report prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs in January 1985, which had identified a number of important elements that did not appear in existing drug control treaties, and which it was proposed to incorporate in the draft convention. That report had also pointed out the fruitful work of the second expert group on the forfeiture of the proceeds of drug crime. It had recommended the confiscation of the proceeds of drug traffic as being one of the most important elements in combating illicit traffic.

13. An aspect which deserved special attention in connection with the preparation of a new draft convention was the problem of transit States. Drug traffic in transit States had increased in recent years in spite of various measures taken by the Governments concerned. It would therefore be desirable to consider special provisions in the draft convention to alleviate the problems of transit States. His delegation also attached particular importance to the amendment of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as suggested in the report of the expert group on the Single Convention. India, lying as it did in a strategic position on the Asian subcontinent, between the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent of the narcotic world, was increasingly being used by drug traffickers as a transit State. However, the Indian Government was alert to the situation and was taking both preventive and enforcement measures to identify and prosecute the culprits. Apart from strengthening its intelligence apparatus and working closely with Interpol and other international organizations, India was using such detection measures as electronic scanning and specially trained dogs to detect drugs.

14. Increasingly aware of the need for comprehensive legislation to combat the drug trafficking menace, the Government of India had recently promulgated a law on opium and psychotropic substances which provided for wide-ranging penalties for drug trafficking, pushing, and possession, ranging from fines of hundreds of thousands of rupees to prison sentences of up to 30 or 40 years. Those penalties were regressive in nature and it was reasonable to hope that it would become increasingly difficult for persons to ply the drug trade in view of the massive deterrents imposed.

15. India was one of the few countries producing licit opium for export and met a substantial portion of world requirements in that drug for medical and scientific purposes. Opium was produced in India under strictly controlled conditions. The stringent system of control implemented in India ensured that the leakage of opium for illicit purposes was minimal. As was pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General, the system for controlling the licit movement of narcotic drugs continued to function in a generally satisfactory manner and licitly produced drugs did not normally constitute a source of illicit traffic. However, India welcomed the proposal of the International Narcotics Control Board to examine import certificates and export licences to assist national Governments in checking their authenticity.

(Mr. Ramakrishnan, India)

16. In India the area under cultivation for opium had been progressively reduced. As the International Narcotics Control Board had pointed out, the possibilities of providing substitute crops for a large section of the population traditionally dependent upon the cultivation of opium were limited. In order not to compound further the problems of traditional supplier countries, it was necessary to comply with the provisions of the International Strategy formulated by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 36/168, which called upon countries which had recently begun or expanded production and manufacture of opiates for export to restrict their production to their own domestic consumption requirements and to avoid displacing long-established producers in markets on which they had depended for so many years. The Strategy also stated that it was desirable that importing countries should obtain their requirements of such materials from traditional supplier countries. The implementation of those provisions of the Strategy would go a long way towards alleviating the financial burden and socio-economic consequences for those countries of the measures imposed.

17. The sole motive of drug traffic, which was striking at the very roots of society, was economic gain. More and more young people in school and college were becoming victims of modern charlatans. The problem had become so acute that a multi-pronged approach must be used to resolve it. In the first place, the problem of the drug traffickers must be dealt with nationally and internationally by close co-operation between the security agencies concerned. Secondly, the problem as it related to drug addicts was a matter which must be handled with care and tact. The drug addict had to be reformed and rehabilitated in institutions established for that purpose where he must receive physiological and psychological care. Both Governments and the United Nations and related agencies had an important role to perform in that respect. Lastly, education and information campaigns on the evils of drug abuse must be undertaken. Students, as prime targets, had to be educated, in particular through lectures and audio-visual methods. The fact that drugs ruined health and character must be brought home clearly.

18. In conclusion, his delegation reaffirmed its full co-operation in mounting concerted and co-ordinated efforts at the national, regional and international levels. Furthermore, there was a need for wider participation by other Member States in United Nations activities for drug abuse control and in complying with United Nations treaties in order to strengthen the network of co-operation between Member States by broader adherence to the treaties and a stricter implementation of existing mechanisms.

19. Mrs. BELLORINI de PARRALES (Nicaragua) said that the huge sums of money handled by drug traffickers were often greater than the gross domestic product of some developing countries. Drug trafficking and the other two elements of the drug problem, production and use, were closely interrelated. Since some countries were producers and others users, co-ordinated action by Governments was necessary for control and eradication of the traffic in drugs.

20. The physical and moral harm caused by the traffic in and use of drugs, particularly among youth, was immeasurable. Moreover, it bred corruption, violence and organized crime and threatened the stability of societies. Consequently,

(Mrs. Bellorini de Parrales, Nicaragua)

measures to control the traffic in drugs were now going beyond the purely penal aspect and assuming a political dimension, as demonstrated by the Quito Declaration against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, the Luanda Declaration, the Lima Declaration and the Special Meeting of 32 First Ladies on Drug Abuse, held at United Nations Headquarters on 21 October 1985.

21. It was vitally important to intensify efforts to combat drug abuse in order to prevent, reduce and eliminate illicit demand, for otherwise the elimination of one source of supply would be counterbalanced by the appearance of another. The high-consumption countries, which generally were developed countries where the absence of moral values led young people to use drugs, had a greater responsibility for the elimination of drug trafficking and for providing the necessary financial resources to create economic and social alternatives for the population groups engaged in production, which were located mainly in the more remote areas of the developing countries.

22. Since its establishment the United Nations had had responsibilities for the control of drug abuse, having assumed the functions previously carried out by the League of Nations. The system of control had become more complicated with the addition of the Protocols of 1948 and 1953 and had therefore had to be revised and modernized by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, which stressed both the need to continue and increase efforts to prevent the production of, traffic in and illicit use of drugs and the need to provide treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts and stated that the International Narcotics Control Board was the agency responsible for drug control. The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 broadened the scope of drug control measures to cover other kinds of drugs, such as hallucinogens and hypnotic sedatives.

23. A number of organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations were doing commendable work in that field. However, in view of the magnitude of the problem it was necessary for Member States to participate more actively in drug abuse control through an increase in the number of countries acceding to existing international agreements and the consequent strengthening of co-operation between States and the United Nations.

24. In Nicaragua the illicit use of drugs was not currently a social problem. The country was aware, however, that it was a scourge that affected a large part of mankind, and it was therefore co-operating to the fullest possible extent in international efforts to eradicate that evil. It recognized the ravages resulting from drug use because during the period of Somoza's rule some of its young people had been affected by it. The Somoza police authorities had not acted to suppress the illicit traffic in drugs because they themselves had been traffickers or accomplices of traffickers.

25. Nicaragua supported the Secretary-General's call for the convening of a world conference at the ministerial level to deal with all aspects of drug abuse and to raise the level of world awareness of the dangers faced, mobilize the full potential of the United Nations system, reinforce other intergovernmental, non-governmental and regional initiatives, and encourage Governments to concert

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(Mrs. Bellorini de Parrales, Nicaragua)

their efforts and to devote greater resources to combat drug abuse and trafficking. Nicaragua, moreover, supported the elaboration of a convention that would consider those aspects of the problem not envisaged in existing international instruments.

26. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee's debate on drug trafficking was evidence of the growing world-wide concern over the dimensions of the business enterprise constituted by that traffic. The Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1984 (E/1985/47) had noted how widespread and serious the problem had become, endangering legal institutions and threatening the very security of some States (*ibid.*, para. 2). The principal causes of the increase in drug addiction were linked to organized crime, which made drugs available to young people. It was not possible to lay all the blame for the illicit production and distribution of drugs on the so-called producer countries. It would be wrong to say that the user countries were only the victims of producer countries. Organized crime in the producer countries was closely linked to organized crime in certain other countries, and was in a sense an off-shoot of the latter, from which it received funds, weapons and the necessary instructions for its activities. It was imperative to combat those organized criminals vigorously, at the national level and under government direction, by the adoption of laws and practical measures providing for severe penalties for such criminals and for those who illicitly produced and distributed drugs.

27. His country was surprised that some countries were adopting measures which distinguished between "hard" and "soft" drugs and were reducing the severity of the sanctions provided for in the regulations governing "soft" drugs. Such action was contrary to the provisions of the relevant international treaties.

28. At the international level, bilateral and multilateral co-operation between Governments with a view to eliminating the organized crime which produced and distributed drugs should be stressed. The Soviet Union supported the initiatives that had been taken in that direction.

29. In the Soviet Union, the State controlled the production and use of drugs to ensure that they were used only for medical and scientific purposes. Traffic in drugs was totally prohibited. The relevant legislation provided for extremely severe penalties for those who produced, stocked or abused drugs and for those who encouraged others, particularly minors, to use drugs. Another important factor which prevented the spread of drug addiction was the fact that the State controlled the pharmaceutical industry and the network of pharmacies. The health-care system made it possible to prevent the illicit use of drugs and provide adequate treatment for drug addicts.

30. The Soviet Union, which was implementing the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, agreed that drug abuse control measures at the international level should be improved. A genuinely universal system of drug abuse control required that all States sign and implement both international instruments, without which neither the existing instruments nor such new instruments as might be approved could be effective in the control of drug abuse.

(Mr. Yakovlev, USSR)

31. The United Nations and its competent organs should intensify their efforts in that field and promote the conclusion of effective international agreements. The Soviet Union, which considered the human person to be the principal object of every society's concern, could not remain passive in the face of the criminal activity directed against the human person, and it therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the convening in 1987 of a world conference at the ministerial level to consider all aspects of drug abuse.
32. Miss ABAS (Indonesia) said that although her country was not as badly affected by drug abuse as many others, her Government had devoted close attention to that scourge, which had increased to frightening and dangerous proportions in many parts of the world. The Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs had told the General Assembly during its current session that the alarming extent to which illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse had grown in many parts of the world was a serious danger to the stability and even the security of many countries. Their harmful effects were to be seen in both developed and developing countries, and the most tragic aspect of the situation was their impact on the young.
33. The problem of narcotic drugs had many facets, but the central one was that of illicit use and the resultant traffic. Given the magnitude of the problem, no nation or institution could handle it in isolation. That was also due to the fact that while drugs were produced mainly in one part of the world they were distributed and sold the world over. International co-operation was therefore a prerequisite if the steps taken to control drug abuse were to achieve success.
34. In many countries of the South-East Asian region, the old dark opium dens had been replaced by organizations of drug traffickers with international connections. The trade had become so lucrative that users were always assured of an adequate supply. In fact, it was the huge demand that made the control of drug abuse so difficult. Curtailment of demand would automatically reduce supply and trafficking. Campaigns against the illicit drug traffic should therefore be started at the national level under Government direction. An effective means of dealing with the problem was the use of the mass media to appeal to the entire population, and to parents in particular, to wage an all-out war against drug abuse.
35. In Indonesia an intensive campaign had been launched to increase awareness of the effects of narcotics on health, especially among adolescents. The Government was making serious efforts to rehabilitate drug addicts both physically and mentally. Private social organizations were also taking an active part in those efforts, which they regarded as part of their humanitarian activities. Indonesia viewed drug abuse as a priority problem, owing to the numerous deaths that occurred from drug overdoses, and as one of the country's most serious security threats. Under Indonesian law, those found guilty of illicit drug trafficking were sentenced to death or life imprisonment.
36. In recent years, the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had agreed to launch a joint campaign against drug trafficking which included a continuous exchange of information on individuals, gangs and syndicates in their territories that were actively engaged in illicit drug trafficking. The member countries of ASEAN were compelled to act swiftly because of the worsening

(Miss Abas, Indonesia)

drug situation and its potential for undermining the very fabric of their societies. Severe measures against traffickers and addicts were therefore being applied.

37. Another drug-related problem afflicting Indonesia was that it was a transit country. However, the possibility of Indonesia becoming a marketing area for narcotic drugs was remote, although international reports had warned of the dangerous growth of drug trafficking throughout the world. Transit time currently appeared to be longer than a decade previously and its very length had given rise to increasing drug abuse among the people of transit countries. Confronted with that danger, the Indonesian Government had adopted a programme aimed at finding a long-term and lasting solution.

38. It was the Indonesian Government's hope that international traffic in narcotic drugs could be confined to solely scientific and medical purposes. It therefore hoped that preparations for the United Nations Convention against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Activities would soon be concluded, and was confident that the new instrument could serve to strengthen the mechanisms and resources available to the law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities and penal institutions of Member States.

39. Indonesia welcomed current international efforts to combat drug abuse and drug trafficking and reiterated its support for the proposal by the Secretary-General to convene a world conference at the ministerial level to deal with all aspects of drug abuse. To that end, it hoped that the draft resolution presented by the ASEAN countries and other sponsors would receive the Committee's support.

40. Miss EMARA (Egypt) said that her delegation had studied all the reports on drug trafficking and was grateful to the United Nations and its specialized agencies for their efforts to combat it and to help Governments in that task. Drug abuse and drug trafficking constituted one of the most serious of current problems. There were drug addicts at all levels of society throughout the world, even in schools. It was therefore necessary to adopt joint measures at all levels to fight the problem.

41. Egypt welcomed and supported the campaign currently being waged both within and outside the United Nations system to control drug abuse, and offered its co-operation to all the United Nations bodies concerned. Her country had co-operated with every United Nations institution in the campaign against drug trafficking. In 1977 it had supported the proposal to draw up a draft Convention against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Activities which would address all aspects of the problem as a whole, especially those not covered by existing international instruments. To that end, her country supported the proposal of the Secretary-General to convene a world conference at the ministerial level to examine all aspects of drug abuse, and agreed with the Secretary-General on the main areas to be considered. Such a conference would make it possible to broaden the international co-ordination of efforts to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse.

(Miss Emara, Egypt)

42. The whole international community should work together to put an end to the drug problem. Egypt was fully aware of the problems caused by psychotropic substances and had taken steps to try to eradicate them. It was in favour of continuing co-operation with other States in that connection, both bilaterally and at the national and regional levels. At the national level, Egypt had launched awareness campaigns, aimed in particular at the young. It had likewise set up a treatment programme for persons dependent on drugs so as to rehabilitate them and reintegrate them in society. In conclusion, she said that Egypt was ready to continue co-operating in efforts to combat drug trafficking, addiction and abuse.
43. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) said that the global dimension of the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs required urgent and concerted solutions from the international community. The erosive social consequences of those harmful activities manifested themselves primarily among users and especially among the young. Wasted manpower and unproductive human resources were both a result of criminal activity and a cause of other crimes, because dependence on narcotic drugs was expensive. Drug abuse was a growing scourge and affected producer, transit and major consumer countries alike.
44. Some States were in a peculiarly vulnerable position and were victimized by well-organized rings of drug traffickers simply because they were seen as lucrative sources of supply or trans-shipment points. Many of them were developing countries whose meagre resources barely supported their own fragile economies and could not be stretched to enforce and monitor effective controls.
45. Nevertheless, Jamaica, like other countries faced with that dilemma, had pledged to make the required effort nationally and to co-operate with the international community in confronting the onslaught of the drug traffickers. In fulfilment of bilateral undertakings, five patrol vessels were tracking down and intercepting coastal smugglers. Between July 1984 and October 1985, over 16 boats carrying 18,000 pounds of marijuana with a street market value in the United States of \$US 140 million had been seized. In addition, improved security measures, including the use of canine drug detectors, had been introduced, especially at international airports, ports and other strategic places. Jamaica's National Council on Drug Abuse had been working to prevent and treat addiction. In March 1985, the Government had signed an agreement with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) to implement a special programme over a three-year period; it looked forward to expanding that co-operation, which was of great value to the country. In addition, Jamaica had joined with the other countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in co-operative exchanges in the area of law enforcement and of information on drug trafficking, abuse and rehabilitation.
46. The solution of problems related to the abuse, illicit trafficking and production of narcotic drugs did not rest with any one country. Criminal organizations operated through increasingly sophisticated networks which had become ever more difficult, costly and dangerous to track down and destroy. It was essential that stricter, concerted action be taken at the international level aimed at the adoption of a draft Convention against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Activities which would deal with elements not

(Mr. Barnett, Jamaica)

covered in existing conventions. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal to convene a world conference at the ministerial level in 1987 to analyse the problem comprehensively and draw up guidelines for a programme of action.

47. Jamaica gave high priority to law enforcement measures and was confident that the meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies to be held at Vienna from 28 July to 1 August 1986 would prepare the way for efforts to dismantle the transnational system of that criminal activity.

48. His delegation appreciated the important efforts being made by the United Nations specialized agencies and bodies in the area of drug abuse control, as described in document A/39/193. However, it was imperative that those efforts be reinforced and that adequate resources be made available for them. Jamaica was confident that national, regional and international efforts were pointed in the right direction.

49. All countries represented in the Committee wished to put an end to the scourge of drug trafficking and abuse. It was time to transform that commitment into a concrete international programme of action which his delegation trusted would emerge from the important meetings planned for 1986 and 1987.

50. Mr. MORENO-SALCEDO (Philippines) said that his country's most important resource was its population of 55 million people of whom approximately 55 per cent were under 21 years of age. As a result, the centrepiece of its national policy was its human resources development programme which placed emphasis on economic, social, political and cultural matters relating to youth. Anything that threatened the well-being and security of its young people was a source of concern to his country, which therefore attached great importance to the issue of drug abuse, a scourge which destroyed the physical, psychological and mental health of its victims, alienated them from their families and society and even pushed them to their deaths.

51. At the national level, his country was devoting efforts and resources to the eradication or prevention of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. As early as 1953, a law had been enacted which imposed fixed and special taxes on all those who produced, imported, manufactured, compounded, dealt in, dispensed, sold, distributed or gave away opium, marijuana, opium poppies, coca leaves or any synthetic drugs which might be habit-forming. That law had been followed by others, culminating in the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 which implemented the provisions of the international instruments to which the Philippines was a party, namely the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol thereto, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The maximum penalty for drug offences, particularly drug-pushing, was death. Government agencies had been set up to deal with the problem effectively and all national and local police agencies had a built-in anti-narcotics unit. Since 1965, police officers had been receiving special training in that field.

52. The massive campaign in the Philippines against that complex problem involved preventive educational programmes, the provision of treatment and rehabilitation services to victims, and the prevention of the illicit use of drugs and illegal

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(Mr. Moreno-Salcedo, Philippines)

drug trafficking through law enforcement. Since the creation of the Dangerous Drugs Board in 1972, government and private sector efforts were being co-ordinated more effectively. Seven Ministries, the Ministries of Health; Justice; Education, Culture and Sports; Social Services; Finance; National Defence; and Local Governments worked together in managing and operating the Board. At the regional and international levels, the Philippines co-operated closely with other countries, especially the ASEAN countries, in efforts to combat the problem of drug abuse and trafficking.

53. It was not his intention, however, to show how much his country had done to combat the problem for, although the report of the Dangerous Drugs Board for 1984 indicated that the overall drug problem had been reduced significantly, it also admitted that there was still unabated marijuana cultivation, continued illicit diversion of dangerous drugs and exempt preparations, and persistent smuggling of opiates and other drugs of foreign origin into the country. There was evidence that foreign criminal groups continued to use the Philippines as a transit area because of its strategic location on international sea and air routes. The detailed description of his country's action was thus designed to show that the war against drug abuse and trafficking could not be waged successfully and won individually or even regionally by States, but only through the concerted action of all members of the international community.

54. Although the gravity of the problem varied from country to country and from region to region, it had now become an international criminal activity that destroyed the fabric of society and threatened the political and economic stability of all nations. Its gravity had been aptly described by the Secretary-General in his statement to the Economic and Social Council on 24 May 1985. Many national economies, especially those of developing countries, were forced to divert to drug control activities meagre resources which might otherwise have been used for sorely needed development programmes.

55. Although it was comforting to know that more countries were recognizing the seriousness of the problem and the urgent need to deal with it in a concerted manner, it could not be denied that the international situation had deteriorated. The profound alarm of the entire world at the seriousness of that problem had been demonstrated at the most recent meeting of ASEAN Ministers for Foreign Affairs held at Kuala Lumpur, at the Bonn Summit Meeting of May 1985, in the communiqué of Commonwealth Heads of Government issued at Nassau in October 1985, at the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-aligned Countries held at Luanda in September 1985, in the Lima Declaration of July 1985, the Quito Declaration against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and the New York Declaration against Drug Trafficking and the Illicit Use of Drugs, and at the special meeting of the First Ladies of 30 countries, including the First Lady of the Philippines, held on 21 October 1985 at the initiative of Mrs. Nancy Reagan.

56. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the proposals on the drafting of a new Convention against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Activities and the convening of a world conference at the ministerial level to consider all aspects of narcotic drug abuse had received the general endorsement of the Committee. If properly planned, those initiatives could mark the beginning

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(Mr. Moreno-Salcedo, Philippines)

of effective concerted international action against that scourge. The conference must be multidisciplinary if it was to be fully successful.

57. Work on the draft Convention, the drafting of which was entrusted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, represented an arduous task in which the Philippines and Latin American countries, among others, had participated. Progress on it should therefore be reported regularly to all States for their comments and recommendations.

58. Through the concerted efforts of States, specialized United Nations bodies and agencies and concerned non-governmental organizations, drug abuse would eventually be eradicated. Everyone must join in that effort, for the sake of young people in particular, to whom the present year was dedicated.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.