



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HAMER (Netherlands)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 100: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/41/558, A/41/559, A/41/665 and Corr.1, A/41/713, A/41/677 and Corr.1, A/C.3/41/2, A/C.3/41/5, A/C.3/41/7, A/41/326-S/18049, A/41/354, A/41/408, A/41/473, A/41/494, A/41/527 and A/41/528)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/41/3, chap. V, sect. C)

1. Mr. BUFFUM (Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs) introduced item 100 entitled "International campaign against traffic in drugs". During the period under review, countries in all regions of the world had reported continuing increases in illicit drug traffic, an expansion in drug-abuse-related problems and the appearance of new forms of abuse. There had been a marked increase in the use of "designer drugs" and forms of cocaine paste known as "crack", "bazuco" and "rock". The activities of international drug-trafficking networks had also increased enormously. Seizures reported by national and international authorities could be quoted in terms of billions of dollars and tons of illicit substances.

2. However, he did not come before the Committee as a prophet of gloom. It was encouraging to note that public opinion was more and more aware of the danger represented by the present situation and was demanding that more effective actions should be taken at all levels. The statements by many leaders during the general debate in plenary were evidence of that concern. Furthermore, there had been a marked intensification of efforts within the United Nations system to fight against drug abuse.

3. The Division of Narcotic Drugs had expanded its programme of work. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 39/141, it had prepared a preliminary draft convention against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The procedures for applying the convention had not yet been considered, and the final clauses also remain to be drafted. Governments had been invited to submit their comments on the text and any amendments that they proposed to introduce, so that they could be presented to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-second session in February 1987.

4. The Division of Narcotic Drugs had also organized the first global interregional meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies at Vienna. Its recommendations were contained in document A/41/559. A complete report on the results of that meeting would also be submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its February meeting.

5. The International Narcotic Control Board, in accordance with its mandate, had continued to monitor closely the situation in regard to supply and demand of opiates for legitimate needs. Through its voluntary system of assessments, the Board had been able to assist Governments in preventing the diversion of psychotropic substances. That system now covered about 160 countries. Moreover,

(Mr. Buffum)

the Board had continued to organize training programmes for drug-control administrators from developing countries. A regional training seminar for drug-control administrators in Latin America and the Caribbean had been held in Madrid in March 1986. The Board had also continued to maintain dialogues with Governments and as a result several countries had strengthened their drug-control legislation and adherence to international instruments. By 15 October 1986 118 States had become parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and 84 States had become parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. He urged all States which had not yet done so to accede to those important Conventions.

6. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) had been able to extend its technical assistance programmes considerably in order to help the developing countries in their efforts to tackle drug problems. At present, the Fund's resources were geared to assisting 30 Member States. Of particular note were the multi-sectoral drug-control plans currently under implementation in Asia and Latin America because they covered such different sectors as agricultural diversification, agro-industrial development, enforcement prevention and rehabilitation. The Fund had also begun to help other countries such as Argentina, Brazil, India and Mauritius in the formulation and implementation of nation-wide drug-control plans. Finally, the Fund had agreed to support a \$600,000 regional project for the establishment of a telecommunication system in the Caribbean and Central America for narcotics control, to be executed by Interpol.

7. The regular budget of the Fund had increased considerably from \$18.4 million in 1986 to \$31.5 million in 1987. Nevertheless, its resources were far from adequate when compared to the magnitude of the tasks involved and with the billions of dollars generated by illicit drug traffic. During its last five years of existence contributions to the Fund had reached \$105 million. That represented approximately two thirds of the total resources contributed during its entire 15 years of existence. He took that to be a hopeful sign of marked confidence in the Fund on the part of the international community. However, he would like to make a special appeal to all Member States to ensure that the increasing support of the Fund was expressed in commensurate financial terms.

8. Among the initiatives taken by the United Nations under the current item, mention should also be made of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be held in Vienna in June 1987. The progress report (A/41/565) on the preparations for the Conference gave reason to be sanguine about its outcome. Document A/41/713 provided an overview of the programmes and activities undertaken during the year by the United Nations system in response to the drug-abuse problem. Document A/41/63 was a note by the Secretary-General on strategy and policies for drug control adopted by the General Assembly in 1981.

9. Since they had close contacts with the local communities in the countries in which they carried out their activities, non-governmental organizations played a crucial role in the fight against drug abuse. It should be noted in that respect that the Swedish Government intended to circulate as an official document the report of the Interregional Conference on the Involvement of Non-Governmental

(Mr. Buffum)

Organizations in Prevention and Reduction of the Demand for Drugs which had been held that year at Stockholm and had produced many innovative suggestions.

10. Finally, he would be remiss if he did not mention the very helpful contribution made by the regional commissions and specialized agencies, in particular, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

11. All those efforts bore witness to the growing international co-operation in dealing with the global scourge of drug abuse. However, it should not be forgotten that the role of United Nations bodies, even if they mobilize their full capacities, was in the first instance a catalytic one. Primary responsibility for eliminating illegal drug abuse and trafficking rested with the Governments of Member States.

12. One had only to read the newspapers to realize that the problem of drug abuse added a new element of insecurity in international relations. The pernicious effects of drug abuse were undermining the very fabric of communities, destroying the lives of countless individuals and creating havoc within families. In the face of the common enemy, Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations must intensify their co-operation. The international community had a historic responsibility to fulfil, and the decisions to be taken by the Committee and, subsequently, by the General Assembly, were therefore eagerly awaited. The United Nations system, would continue to give priority to activities in that domain, while making judicious use of its limited financial resources. The Secretary-General wished to assure the members of the Committee of his active interest in the question and of his personal support.

13. Mrs. OPPENHEIMER (Secretary-General of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking) said that the Conference, the preparations for which were progressing in a satisfactory manner, would provide the participants with an excellent opportunity to reassess the efficacy of the programmes undertaken at all levels and to reaffirm their commitment to take action on all aspects of drug abuse, including the reduction of demand, the control of supply, the suppression of illicit trafficking and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons.

14. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, acting as the preparatory body for the Conference, had held a first session at which it had adopted by consensus the provisional agenda and rules of procedure for the Conference as well as further recommendations on organizational matters and the preparation of pre-session documentation. Those recommendations, and the proposal that the Commission should meet again in February for a period of one week, had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session in May 1986.

(Mrs. Oppenheimer)

15. The Conference secretariat had completed the draft of a comprehensive multidisciplinary outline of future activities relevant to the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The text was being translated and would be circulated by 1 December 1986 at the latest. Governments which wished to make comments on the text should submit them to the Conference secretariat, in Vienna, not later than 9 January 1987. The outline was designed as a compendium of practical activities in the various disciplines involved in the campaign against drug abuse. It was designed for use by government agencies, professional associations, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, community and civic groups, parents and individuals, as well as the various bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations. In preparing the draft text, the recommendations of the Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and the results of other preparatory meetings mentioned in paragraph 13 of document A/41/665 had been taken into account.

16. In view of the limited resources available, it had not been possible to organize the regional preparatory meetings which normally preceded that type of conference. Instead, United Nations organs and bodies which were already scheduled to meet during the preparatory period had been requested to focus their attention on the objectives of the International Conference and to make recommendations in their fields of experience.

17. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the International Conference deserved special mention. In September 1986, the Swedish Government had hosted the Interregional Conference on the Involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in Prevention and Reduction of Demand for Drugs, at which attention had been focused on action that could be taken in sectors such as education, community awareness, identification of high-risk groups and the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

18. At the national level, Governments had been invited to establish focal points to co-ordinate preparations for the Conference. To date, 33 Governments had informed the preparatory body that they had established focal points and it was to be hoped that other Governments would follow that example. It was important that all national agencies involved in the different aspects of drug control should work together to prepare for the Conference and plan follow-up action. The public information activities that would be undertaken to heighten public awareness both during the preparatory stage of the Conference and in the follow-up period were also very important.

19. If the General Assembly endorsed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to convene, in February 1987, a second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, acting as the preparatory body for the Conference, the main task of the preparatory body during that session would be to consider the draft outline and formulate recommendations on it which would later be incorporated in the text. The final version would then be circulated to States at least three months before the opening of the Conference, in other words by mid-March 1987.

(Mrs. Oppenheimer)

20. Those many activities must not obscure the fact that the Conference should not be considered as an end in itself but rather as a means of mobilizing society to launch the needed counteroffensive to the drug problem. Follow-up action was built into the multidisciplinary outline and the hope was that the national focal points would begin at once to take steps to carry out more effectively their drug-control programmes at the national level. He was glad to note in that connection that the Interparliamentary Union was planning to organize, after the International Conference, a regional conference to be held in Caracas, in November 1987, to discuss the legislative action that would be needed at the national level to implement the Conference's recommendations.

21. Mr. KORHONEN (Finland), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said that seizures of cannabis, cocaine, heroin and opium had increased considerably over the last few years and that some European countries in particular had experienced a growing traffic in cocaine. That seemed to indicate that the traffickers were seeking to establish new routes. The countries of Europe and of South and North America must therefore co-ordinate their activities so as to bar the way to drug trafficking.

22. The Nordic countries had frequently emphasized that the United Nations played a pivotal role in the international campaign against traffic in drugs. They therefore welcomed the fact that at its ninth special session, in February 1986, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had adopted by consensus a resolution calling for the preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The draft convention, which had been prepared by the Secretariat of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, had been circulated to all Governments for consideration. Furthermore, at its first meeting as a preparatory body for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, in February 1986, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had identified the topics that should receive priority consideration in that field and had recommended that a draft multidisciplinary outline of future activities should be prepared for consideration by it in February 1987.

23. As part of the preparations for the International Conference in 1987, an interregional conference on the involvement of non-governmental organizations in prevention and reduction of the demand for drugs had been organized at Stockholm with the participation of non-governmental committees, the Government of Sweden and the United Nations Secretariat. In the view of the Nordic countries, the International Conference should focus on all the key areas of the problem: promotion of education; community participation in the prevention of drug abuse and the reduction of demand for narcotics; crop substitution and other methods of reducing narcotic drugs production; improved methods to limit the use of narcotics to medical and scientific purposes; strengthening of the resources of law enforcement authorities; forfeiture of the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking; extradition of traffickers; and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. The Conference should aim above all at mobilizing the full potential of the United Nations system so as to support governmental and non-governmental initiative at the national, regional and international levels. In that connection, he emphasized

(Mr. Korhonen, Finland)

that national efforts were crucial to the struggle against drug abuse. The increase in the consumption of cocaine and the rapid spread of AIDS among drug addicts called for new measures to curb those negative trends.

24. The Nordic countries appreciated the central part played by the International Narcotics Control Board in ensuring that there was a balance between the production of and the demand for narcotics used licitly, and in actively following, as its annual reports showed, the new trends in production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs, as well as the way in which Member States implemented the relevant conventions. They urged Governments to provide financial support, technical assistance and advisory services to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, whose work had almost reached the point at which it could have a real impact on the struggle against the illicit production of narcotic drugs. The Nordic countries believed that the three United Nations drug-control bodies must be given the necessary financial resources to carry out their work and to safeguard the follow-up to the results of the 1987 International Conference.

25. Mrs. WROBLESKI (United States of America) said that it was gratifying to note that Governments now recognized the extent and the increasing gravity of the drug problem and had decided to intensify bilateral and multilateral co-operation to stop that scourge.

26. Thanks to the commitment of many nations, as well as the regional and international approaches to the problem, considerable success had been achieved - Thailand was seeking, through a programme of incentives and disincentives, to eradicate the cultivation of the opium poppy; Burma had launched a crop-spraying programme to enhance its campaign against opium and heroin; and Pakistan, despite the recent increase in opium production, had pledged to launch a vigorous eradication programme in co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Public and private groups as well as parents' associations had launched information and preventive education campaigns, for example, in the United States. The First Ladies of many nations, in particular Mrs. Reagan, had played a significant role in raising international awareness.

27. The same commitment was to be seen in Latin America, Colombia had eradicated 85 per cent of its marijuana crop and was continuing its effort despite tremendous pressure from traffickers; Bolivia had embarked on an unprecedented effort against cocaine processors established on its territory and had appealed to the United States to organize a campaign which, by bringing down the price of coca leaf, had encouraged farmers to seek alternative crops. In Peru, the Government had launched an aggressive campaign against corruption and was proceeding to the eradication of coca plantations. Laboratories and airstrips used by cocaine traffickers had been destroyed. Mexico, too, continued to combat the cultivation of marijuana and the opium poppy and was working with the United States to stop the flow of drugs across the border.

(Mrs. Wroblewski, United States)

28. In the United States, President Reagan had succeeded in mobilising United States public opinion on the narcotics issue, and had just signed a bill that strengthened the means of combating drug trafficking and drug abuse through closer co-operation between the public and private sectors. The United States was determined to carry out the international component of that bill with fervour and dedication.

29. At the regional level, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador had recently signed the "Rodrigo Lara Bonilla" agreement on co-operation whereby they pledged to co-operate in the prevention of drug abuse and the repression of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In April, the Organization of American States had held its first specialized conference on drug abuse and drug trafficking in Rio de Janeiro and had adopted a plan of action which would shortly be presented to the General Assembly.

30. In Asia, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had resolved, at their annual meeting, to work together against the illicit production and abuse of drugs.

31. In Europe, the question of narcotics had assumed unprecedented importance, particularly in the European Economic Community. The European Parliament, which had just considered the report of a committee of inquiry into the drug problem, had adopted a resolution calling for joint action, increased funding for prevention and rehabilitation programmes, the adoption of measures to deal with the "laundering" of proceeds from illegal drug trade and the holding of a European conference to study the implications of drug use.

32. At the international level, the United Nations was sponsoring two initiatives on drug control: the preparation of a new convention against drug trafficking, and the organization of an International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Preparations for the latter were well under way; the preparatory body would hold its second session in February 1987.

33. Co-operation among Governments and United Nations bodies would be indispensable for ensuring the success of the international conference. Her Government accorded high priority to the conference, and would be sending a delegation drawn from the public and private sectors. She hoped that the debates would address only substantive issues and that participants in the conference would not introduce unrelated issues.

34. With regard to the draft convention against drug trafficking prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, her Government would submit its comments on that text as well as suggestions for revisions to some of its articles. That new convention would be a useful complement to the two existing international conventions and would, when finalized, be an effective international tool in the war against drug traffickers and their criminal activities.

(Mrs. Wrobleski, United States)

35. The United States remained a staunch supporter of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control which had increased both its financial resources and the scope and number of its programmes.

36. Mrs. PULIDO SANTANA (Venezuela) said that the drug problem was a complex problem which attacked the social and economic structure of society and threatened national security and defence. Venezuela was an example of how quickly that danger could strike a country. In 1971, the Venezuelan Government, which since the end of the 1960s had been aware of increased drug addiction owing to foreign influences and, at the same time, of the emergence of a world-wide drug-trafficking network, had decided to set up a commission on drug abuse responsible for co-ordinating the work of national agencies in five basic fields: research, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, punishment and evaluation. That commission, whose structure had been commended by the permanent secretariat of the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, had served as a model for 11 countries in the region. The Venezuelan Government had also passed a series of laws providing for control over the distribution of amphetamines and barbiturates, and had set up local commissions under the authority of the national commission. Until recently, Venezuela had been only a transit country, not a producer country. It therefore attached great importance to bilateral and multilateral co-operation in its efforts to prevent the drug problem from gaining wider dimensions.

37. At the bilateral level, Venezuela had concluded agreements with neighbouring countries, such as Brazil and Colombia, providing for the establishment of mixed commissions; those commissions had been strengthened over the years. Similar agreements were being negotiated with other countries of the region and with countries in other parts of the world.

38. At the regional level, Venezuela had signed the Quito Declaration against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, which had been adopted in 1984, and in 1986 had ratified the "Rodrigo Lara Bonilla" Agreement on co-operation, aimed at strengthening co-operation among the countries of the Andean Pact and other States of the region in the campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. It was also endeavouring to work out bilateral agreements which would make drug trafficking an extraditable offence. It welcomed the holding of the Rio de Janeiro Conference on the Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, and the adoption of the programme of the same name, as well as the holding at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, of the Regional Meeting of Ministers of Justice and Attorneys-General, at which the countries of the region had reaffirmed their political will to continue the campaign against drug trafficking and drug addiction. The participants in the Puerto Vallarta meeting had also stressed the importance of exchange of information among countries and had encouraged the allocation of resources obtained from the confiscation of drugs for the financing of campaigns against drug trafficking.

39. At the international level, Venezuela had, at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, submitted a draft resolution on the preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which would complement existing international instruments, without giving

(Mrs. Pulido Santana, Venezuela)

preference to any aspect of the drug problem, since, in the opinion of her delegation, all its aspects were interdependent. At the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Secretary-General had prepared a preliminary draft of an international convention to combat drug trafficking containing 14 elements which the Commission had recommended for inclusion. That preliminary draft had been submitted to Governments for consideration, and their comments would be taken into account in the final version. In that regard, Venezuela welcomed the holding of the first Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, which had made valuable recommendations on the drafting of that new international instrument.

40. Venezuela was also pleased at the progress which had been made in the preparation of the Vienna International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which was to be held in 1987. The draft convention would be considered at that conference and her delegation hoped that it would gain the support of the international community. The comprehensive multidisciplinary outline of future activities relevant to the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, which the Conference had been mandated to adopt, covered all aspects of the campaign against drug abuse from a global standpoint, and should make it possible to mobilize all sectors of society with a view to adopting preventive measures at the national, regional and international levels.

41. Lastly, the representative of Venezuela pointed out that a regional conference for the Americas, organized by the Interparliamentary Union, would be held at Caracas in November 1987 to follow up the International Conference.

42. Mr. BIRCH (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Economic Community, said that the control of drug abuse must begin on a national level. Consumer countries must undertake effective education campaigns aimed at prevention and make adequate provision for the reintegration of former addicts into society. Such action must be combined with stricter law enforcement measures in respect of pushers and traffickers. The producer countries, for their part, needed to eliminate the source of drugs through crop substitution and eradication programmes backed, where necessary, by appropriate law enforcement measures. Those countries which, by force of geography, served as transit countries or repositories of illegal profits or yet refineries also had their part to play.

43. It was the first time that the 12 States members of the European Economic Community, confronted with the perennial problem of drug abuse, were making a joint statement on that question before the General Assembly. Their objective was to strengthen existing regional co-operation and to contribute to international efforts in that sphere.

44. The Interior and Justice Ministers of the Twelve had recently met in London to discuss, among other topics, drug abuse and had agreed upon a joint plan of action calling upon the States members of the Community to take action with a view to reducing demand for drugs, especially among young people; improving treatment and

(Mr. Birch, United Kingdom)

rehabilitation services for addicts; revising legislation to provide for the need to maintain effective control over illicit drug trafficking, particularly at the Community's external frontiers; providing for the mutual enforcement of confiscation orders relating to drug traffickers' assets; adopting measures to ensure that bilateral and Community aid went to support countries combating drug abuse; enhancing co-operation between law enforcement agencies; and preparing joint assessments of drug producing and trafficking to ensure a steady flow of recommendations for action by the Community.

45. The United Nations continued to play a leading role in guiding international efforts to control drug abuse. Accordingly, the Twelve welcomed the decision taken, upon a proposal of the Secretary-General, to hold an international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking in 1987. For the first time every country would have an opportunity to play a part in determining the thrust and direction of an internationally co-ordinated campaign against drugs. However, the participating countries would have to refrain from introducing extraneous political issues in the debate and look upon the Conference not as the culmination of their efforts but as the starting-point of a more determined and concerted international drug campaign.

46. The elaboration of a draft convention on illicit drug trafficking was not an easy task, and the Secretariat deserved gratitude for the efforts which it had made to that end. That draft would have to be elaborated not with undue haste but rather with painstaking care in order to ensure that it would be acceptable to as many countries as possible.

47. The European Economic Community attached great importance to the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), especially to the projects financed by the Fund in the main heroin- and coca-producing regions. UNFDAC played a major role in co-ordinating international assistance programmes. The International Narcotics Control Board, whose technical activities were less visible but which played an important role in monitoring the implementation of existing conventions on narcotic drugs, also deserved special mention.

48. The Twelve were gratified by the conclusions of the Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies held recently in Vienna, especially by the meeting's recommendations concerning the exchange of drug liaison officers.

49. Mr. CALERO-RODRIGUES (Brazil) said that the Brazilian Government had taken bold steps to re-assess the drug problem in Brazil and to reorganize its institutional framework in that area with the co-operation of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). Brazil was convinced that efforts in that field must not be restricted to the criminal aspects and that all the sectors of society which could play a positive role in the prevention of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of drug addicts must become involved. The best way of eliminating the drug market consisted in reducing demand for narcotics by informing consumers of the dangers associated with their consumption.

(Mr. Calero-Rodrigues, Brazil)

50. As to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be held in Vienna, Brazil considered that it should focus on three basic issues, namely, the prevention of drug abuse, repression of the traffic in drugs and the rehabilitation and social integration of chronic users. If the measures adopted by the Conference were to combine both universality and effectiveness, they must be guided by the following principles: strict respect for national sovereignty and for the decisions adopted individually by States, because such decisions were best suited to their local needs; the need to harmonize the solutions adopted with national economic and social development objectives; the need to define the shared responsibilities of producer and consumer countries in the combating of demand and illicit trafficking and to accept the fact that the financial burden of measures agreed to should be proportional to the economic and social development level of the countries concerned; and lastly, the need to recognize the fact that international agreements should be without prejudice to other international and regional instruments in force.

51. The resolution adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its ninth special session on the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances contained elements that deserved careful examination and on which no hasty decisions should be taken. The International Conference scheduled for 1987 would have to review the progress made and guide future work on the drafting of the convention, taking into consideration the fact that the drafting of the convention was a sensitive exercise that would take considerable time. The Secretary-General had circulated a draft convention in document E/CN.7/1987/2 covering the 14 points that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had recommended for inclusion. Given the controversial nature of some of the matters dealt with in that new instrument, Brazil highly appreciated the initiative that had been taken by the Secretary-General. He hoped that the replies of Governments would facilitate the consideration of the wording of certain provisions.

52. Some of the ideas contained in the report called for immediate comment by his country. Firstly, the question of "controlled deliveries", which was one of the elements in the draft articles, was still a problem for the Brazilian Government, which considered that the article contravened its domestic legislation. Brazil was, however, prepared to support provisions which would enable resources confiscated from drug traffickers to be used to finance prevention and rehabilitation programmes. The draft convention also raised the delicate question of the extradition of offenders; his delegation considered that the new convention should not take precedence over existing extradition treaties or the accepted principles of international law in that field. The ultimate aim should be to ensure that offenders did not escape prosecution and, if possible, to speed up and facilitate the extradition of drug traffickers, while still respecting the existing legislation and practice in various States.

53. His delegation had noted from the report of the first Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (E/CN.7/1987/3) that the meeting had given particular attention to the control of chemicals, solvents and precursors which might be connected with the illicit production of narcotics and psychotropic

(Mr. Calero-Rodrigues, Brazil)

substances. Brazil was convinced that the control of precursors was of the highest importance, particularly in countries where the manufacture of chemicals was not subject to special monitoring and was highly profitable. The Vienna Meeting had also considered strategies to identify the links between illicit trafficking in drugs and other types of organized crime. Brazil believed that drug traffickers were associated with criminal organizations whose sole aim was the pursuit of enormous profit. Any occasional association between such organizations and other criminal or terrorist activities could only be based on practical short-term interests with the exclusive aim of increasing that profit. Brazil also welcomed the Meeting's work on co-ordination and co-operation machinery and the question of training.

54. The Organization of American States and the entire international community had heeded the Secretary-General's appeal and increased their co-ordination efforts. The Puerto Vallarta Declaration (A/C.3/41/5), summarized the views of the States of the region on drug issues.

55. Mrs. NIKOLIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that her country was particularly anxious to see an intensification of the struggle against drug abuse and illicit trafficking because it lay on the transit route between Asia and Europe, the major producer and the major consumer of narcotics. Its climate was favourable for the cultivation of the opium poppy, and many tourists and long-distance carriers crossed its frontiers.

56. Yugoslav legislation complied with the spirit of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The criminal law laid down two offences connected with narcotics: illicit production and trafficking; and incitement to narcotics abuse. In February 1985, the Yugoslav Government had adopted a programme of action against drug abuse, to be implemented by all the social institutions concerned.

57. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, to be held in Vienna in 1987 on the initiative of the Secretary-General, should encourage all social institutions to address the drug problem more aggressively. Yugoslavia favoured the elaboration of a new international convention to supplement the existing international instruments in that field. The ninth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the first Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies had made it possible to agree on position regarding the main provisions of the new convention. The provisions must be drawn up in such a way as to enable a consensus to be reached and to allow as many countries as possible to ratify the convention. The many issues involved in the drug problem - financial and other profit gained from illicit trafficking in narcotics, confiscation procedures, control of the chemicals used for narcotics production, increasing international co-operation in the detection of drug smuggling and legal proceedings - should be subject to legal regulation.

58. Yugoslavia was particularly interested in the assistance which the international community could provide to developing transit countries, particularly in respect of staff training and the provision of special equipment. Her

(Mrs. Nikolić, Yugoslavia)

delegation considered that it was essential to keep track of deliveries ("controlled deliveries") until they reached their final destination. The use of resources from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to finance projects in developing countries was also particularly important.

59. Mr. PORTE PETIT (Mexico) said that, although the problem of drug abuse and trafficking required international action, there should be absolute respect of the sovereignty of individual countries. As President Miguel de la Madrid had stated at the Puerto Vallarta regional meeting, held from 8 to 10 October 1986, Mexico respected the domestic solutions adopted by each country in exercise of its sovereignty. Mexico called for honest and effective solidarity and mutual understanding and respect, and hoped that the issue would not become a cause of conflict and disunity. It was on that basis alone that the international community conduct a more efficient campaign against drug abuse and trafficking, which threatened to destroy the values, the economy and the political institutions of nations.

60. Mexico was aware of the efforts needed to combat drug trafficking, particularly for countries in economic difficulties. For that reason, his country did not set itself up as a judge over other nations, but confined itself to criticism of its own situation. No one people could be judged "guilty" in such an area; all peoples were the victims of illicit trafficking. Mexico preferred to pay a respectful tribute to the men of good will who had sacrificed their health or their lives in the fight against drug trafficking in South America. His country also appreciated the sacrifices caused by the campaign to the north of its territory.

61. Although it was essential to take forceful action against the offences of drug trafficking and abuse, the factors behind that evil phenomenon could not be ignored, if it was to be overcome. A viable alternative must be offered both to the peasants who were tempted to produce drugs and to the young people who were attracted to drug use. In order to understand the drug problem fully, it was essential to see it not only from the point of view of production and trafficking, but also from that of drug use and to take into account the banking and financial implications of a crime whose main beneficiaries were usually not the producer countries. The evolution of the "geography of narcotics" showed the transformation of centres of drug use into centres of production, particularly the production of the synthetic drugs, which were among the most dangerous to the health of nations and the increase in drug use in traditional producer or transit countries.

62. In that struggle, Mexico had highly positive achievements to its credit but not everyone knew about them, with the result that distrust and suspicions had arisen from which only the drug traffickers had profited. That was why his country considered it necessary to strengthen available mechanisms and to create new ones if need be, so that the reality of the fight against drug trafficking and dependency could be made known to those who should have an objective view of it. The United Nations was a useful forum for that purpose. The best possible use should be made of the mechanisms for international co-operation of the United

(Mr. Porte Petit, Mexico)

Nations. In that connection, Mexico had followed with interest the preparations for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and looked forward to the draft of the comprehensive multidisciplinary outline of future activities relevant to the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking which was in course of preparation and which would determine future international action in that field. Mexico was aware that the struggle against drug trafficking called for modernization of the legal instruments on the issue and it was for that reason that it supported the preparation of a new convention against the illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances; the draft would be submitted to the forthcoming International Conference.

63. At the national level, Mexico had introduced amendments which imposed more severe sanctions on those who made use of minors in drug trafficking, who operated in international drug partnerships or who aided the escape of individuals arraigned or sentenced for such crimes, and allowed the effective appropriation of resources produced by those illicit activities. Such resources could well be used to finance the fight against drug trafficking and for the prevention of drug dependency, thus lessening the burden of that fight for both developed and developing countries. In that connection, it would be advisable to examine the suggestion that the efforts of developing countries that lacked sufficient means should be supported with the resources confiscated in developed countries from criminals whose illicit activities had originated in those developing countries. Mexico had substantially increased its contribution of human, financial and material resources to the fight against drug trafficking and was therefore involved in a costly battle whose benefits reached far beyond its own territory. That effort was being made at a time when the country was experiencing the greatest economic crisis in its recent history and when it needed to allocate resources to other high priority social needs. Over half the budget of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic was directly destined to the campaign against drug trafficking. Almost one third of all civil servants in that Office dedicated themselves exclusively to the campaign. The Mexican army and navy also played a decisive role with 25,000 soldiers working full-time in the campaign in operations carried out in inhospitable and isolated places. That effort had led to the destruction of more poppy and marijuana fields, as had been made clear in available statistics. During the current year the Mexican Government had also begun to distribute to the Mexican Congress and other institutions a detailed report on the actions carried out daily to eradicate illicit crops so that the public would be able to form knowledgeable opinions about the results of the campaign against drug trafficking. In reply to those who alleged that the campaign had produced no results, it should be enough to cite some figures: in 1985, seizures of cocaine had exceeded the amount seized during the previous 10 years, from 1975 to 1984 (2,562 kilos compared with 2,303 kilos); between January and September 1986, seizures had risen to 4,679 kilos. In 1985, 9,595 persons had been arrested for crimes linked to drugs and from January through September 1986, 6,131 had been arrested.

64. The problem of drug dependency was a matter of equal concern and purely administrative mechanisms were not enough. A great community effort was needed. Mexico had therefore welcomed the new public awareness in the large consumption

(Mr. Porte Petit, Mexico)

centres and looked forward to positive results. In Mexico, programmes to combat drug dependency were co-ordinated by the health services under the so-called ADEFAR (Drug dependency programme), and with the participation of the entire community. The whole of society must be mobilized if drug dependency was to be defeated.

65. In conclusion, he referred to the Puerta Vallarta Declaration, adopted by consensus by the Ministers of Justice and the Attorneys-General of the countries of Central America, North America and South America; the Declaration had attached importance to the good will that had prevailed among the participants, to respect for the solutions adopted by each country in a sovereign manner and to the need for co-operation under applicable international and national norms.

66. Mr. ZAWACKI (Poland) said that the international community had formerly concerned itself mainly with the prevention of the illicit traffic in narcotic and psychotropic substances but had recently become aware that, while it was important to curb the supply, it was of equal importance to curb demand.

67. The medical use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs in Poland had a long history. Drug abuse had been scarce and had usually been related to the long-term application of certain medicaments. In recent years, however, the use of poppy straw had extended rather rapidly, primarily among young people. According to the registers of the health institutions, several thousand persons at least could be qualified as addicts. To that figure must be added approximately 30,000 adolescents who had acquired the habit of volatile solvent sniffing. The habit was transitory but the effects could be really dangerous at the age of development and school authorities were making strong efforts to curb it. The supply of organic solvents was strictly controlled. The principal product of real abuse in Poland was a crude, sometimes summarily purified extract from poppy plant or poppy straw used mainly by injection. Morphine in that mixture was accompanied by a number of other alkaloids and by-products with toxic side effects so that the death toll among users of that product was very high.

68. In 1985, the Polish Parliament had adopted, on the initiative of the Government, a special law on the production of poppy and cannabis plants. A special permit was required to cultivate those plants and the cultivators were obliged to prohibit access to the plantations. The whole crop must be sold to the pharmaceutical industry and any remainder must be destroyed. In addition, the law had created a special committee on drug-abuse prevention at the ministerial level. In 1986, the Polish Government had appropriated 2 billion zlotys, representing a sevenfold increase compared with expenditure in 1985, to the special fund for financing the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers as well as the cost of destroying surplus poppy straw.

69. In addition to those administrative measures against drug abuse, there was the action of Polish social institutions and the mass media, which had intensified preventive education campaigns. Mention should be made of the MONAR society of therapeutic communities, which administered a number of counseling services and some 20 therapeutic communities in rural areas. Admission to MONAR therapeutic communities was purely voluntary.

(Mr. Zawacki, Poland)

70. Poland was a party to various international legal instruments relating to the prevention of drug abuse. It had been co-operating for many years with the United Nations bodies competent in that sphere and participated in various international meetings devoted to the drug problem. It had also participated in the Conference of Ministers of Health hosted in London by the United Kingdom Government which had stressed the need for a co-ordinated approach not only to drug trafficking but also to the prevention and treatment of drug abuse. Poland was convinced that close international co-operation, such as that which had characterized the interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, and the drafting of a new convention, would help to diminish gradually the extent of drug abuse. It looked forward to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be held at Vienna in 1987 and believed that the exchange of experience which it would permit concerning preventive programmes, the treatment, rehabilitation and re-integration of drug-dependent persons, and training programmes for personnel dealing with drug users, would be of great value to the international community.

71. Mrs. ITO (Japan) said that few countries remained unaffected by drug abuse, which mainly concerned young people. Furthermore, the enormous profits to be made from drug trafficking encouraged criminality and fomented organized crime on an international scale. The problem was now of such magnitude that it imperilled not only the economic and social development of the individuals and societies concerned but also the security of the international community. Given the urgency of the problem, Japan attached great importance to the development of a consensus against those activities within each Member State and welcomed the growing determination and political will throughout the world to fight the drug problem, as evidenced by the Tokyo Summit among other meetings.

72. In Japan, the Headquarters for Narcotic Drug Control had, since its establishment in 1962, formulated an annual comprehensive strategy co-ordinating various activities ranging from law enforcement and public information and education programmes to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users. Japan paid tribute to those countries which had likewise launched strong domestic drug-control programmes and recognized fully the key role of international co-operation in that field. Since 1962, Japan had held annual seminars on the control of narcotics offences, in which government officials from countries in South-East Asia and Central and South America had participated. Those seminars had provided an opportunity for sharing information on investigative techniques and for establishing co-operative relationships among participating Governments. Another seminar, held under the auspices of the United Nations Asia and the Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, with funding from Japan, had brought together officials from drug-control agencies in the countries of South-East Asia and the Pacific, who had been able to tour drug-control-related facilities in those countries. Japan had been contributing to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control since 1973; in 1986, its contribution had been \$US 950,000.

(Mrs. Ito, Japan)

73. Her delegation was of the view that the scope of the new convention on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances should be clearly defined and should avoid duplicating or contradicting the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Attention should also be paid to avoiding possible adverse influences on the chemical industry. Japan hoped that the convention would be accepted and enforced by as many Member States as possible.

74. Japan affirmed its support for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which would provide an opportunity to raise consciousness in the international community, reconfirm the political will of Member States to promote national policies and programmes in an internationally co-ordinated manner, and adopt a comprehensive multidisciplinary outline of future activities in that field. The draft outline identifying targets attainable over the medium term to the year 2000 had been circulated for comments to various international organizations and Member States. The Japanese Government had made known on that occasion the importance it attached to making it a crime for an individual to use either narcotic drugs or stimulants.

75. Her delegation commended the Secretariat's efforts in preparation for the Conference and called on all participants to make sure that politicization of the problem was avoided. In view of the United Nations financial crisis, efforts should be made to economize, for example, by keeping down documentation costs. Japan hoped that the International Conference would contribute to the struggle to eradicate drug abuse in order to ensure a healthy and secure world for present and future generations.

76. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had agreed to shorten its session by one week and, to that end, to limit the length of statements to five or six double-spaced pages. He thanked the many delegations that had abided by that rule and urged the others to follow suit, otherwise it would be impossible for the Committee to complete its work on time.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.