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ILLICIT TRAFFIC: SITUATION IN GERMANY

Statement made on behalf of the International Criminal Police
Commission by Mr. P. Marabuto, representative of the Commission.

1. With a view to securing co-ordination between police authorities and ensuring the more effective suppression of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs in the inter-allied zones of Western Germany, the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Commission invited the representatives of these zones and the countries bordering them to meet in Paris at the offices of the International Bureau of the ICPC, on 22 and 23 February 1949.
2. The following countries and territories were represented: Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Saar, Switzerland, and the British, French and United States zones of occupation. The object of the meeting, which was presided over by Mr. Louis Ducloux, the Secretary-General of the ICPC, was to promote international collaboration in police operations, particularly in connexion with the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and with counterfeiting.
3. The information received by the International Bureau justified the belief that there had been a recrudescence of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, particularly in Western Germany. Furthermore, the political disunity of this part of Germany rendered difficult any exchange of data on international crime, and led to administrative difficulties.
4. In the course of the Paris meeting, therefore, the delegates of the above-mentioned countries and territories endeavoured to find a solution which would promote greater international co-operation, firstly, by centralizing all

crime records, and secondly by providing for more direct contact with the International Bureau in Paris. They accordingly agreed on the establishment of central bureaux in each zone responsible for maintaining direct contact with the International Bureau. These three bureaux are at Hamburg, Baden-Baden and Stuttgart and operate in the British, French and United States zones respectively.

5. Relations between these three bureaux and the International Bureau have greatly improved, and it is to be hoped that this situation will lead, once Germany is no longer in its present exceptional situation, to more effective co-operation between the German criminal police authorities and the International Bureau and the other national central bureaux.

6. The various participating countries were subsequently invited by the International Bureau, by circular of 16 August 1950, to submit statistical data on the work of the national central bureaux in connexion with narcotic drugs during the year 1949 and the first six months of 1950. By November 1950, twenty-one countries had complied with this request, including representatives of the German criminal police in the three occupation zones mentioned above.

7. Since the meeting of February 1949, the International Bureau has prepared special forms relating to cases of traffic in and theft of narcotic drugs. The forms, applicable to the two different types of offence, are centralized at the International Bureau, which circulates them and takes such action as may be necessary, independently of the individual criminal records of each person engaging in the illicit traffic. In addition, the International Bureau distributes to the various national central bureaux lists of cases of illicit traffic, thus supplementing their records and enabling them, where necessary, to follow up the various cases. All these documents are drafted in conformity with the various items of the annual reports on illicit traffic adopted by the United Nations, in order to ensure the uniformity and co-operation necessary for the suppression of illicit traffic.