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INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

Letter dated 23 June 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a statement by His Excellency Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, to be issued in commemoration of the first annual observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under item 103 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Dato RAZALI Ismail
Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the Prime Minister of Malaysia in commemoration
of 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and
Illicit Trafficking

It has been exactly a year since 138 States together with nearly 200 non-governmental organizations and other regional and intergovernmental bodies gathered to address the growing universal problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The convening of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking from 17 to 26 June 1987, at Vienna, was indeed an expression of the political will of nations to fight the drug problem in all its manifestations. The Conference made a major breakthrough in generating an international plan of action to fight this plague that threatens to destroy us.

The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, that was unanimously adopted by the Conference is a compendium of practical measures for Governments, intergovernmental and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations, academic institutions and individuals to adopt in efforts to fight the drug problem.

I am proud to note that over the last year a great deal has been done by participating nations to ensure the implementation of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. An item on drug abuse and illicit trafficking has been on the agenda of almost every international, regional and bilateral meeting. The non-aligned movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Commonwealth Heads of Government and regional forums such as the Organization of African Unity, the European Economic Community and ASEAN, have all addressed the problem. The work of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, United Nations bodies, in particular the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Division of Narcotic Drugs, in pursuit of the relevant targets in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control within their respective mandates, has not gone unnoticed.

Equally important are the ongoing efforts to finalize the new convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. This new convention covers areas that are not dealt with in the existing 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The adoption of this new convention by all nations will be pivotal in our efforts to address the problem of illicit trafficking and drug abuse.

Much progress has been made in our efforts to overcome the drug problem. This progress could not have been possible without the commitment and contribution of all concerned. Vast potential, however, remain for further efforts and co-operation among us. It is crucial that we sustain the momentum of our "march" in this "war". We must move forward towards our goal of an international society free of drug abuse. It is vital that we further consolidate our efforts to translate the commitment we made a year ago into concrete action. Let us not delude ourselves into thinking that we have done all we can in containing the problem. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking continues to exist!

Although much has been done, much hard work remains. We have, however, made a courageous beginning. Dedication and commitment are vital in our unyielding resolve to fight the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Let us go forth with greater conviction in the years ahead in our battle against the drug problem.
