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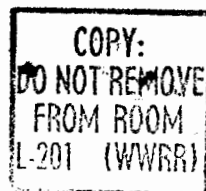
THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

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THIRD COMMITTEE
47th meeting
held on
Friday, 18 November 1983
at 3.p.m.
New York

UN/SA COLLECTION 47TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/38/3 (Part I), A/38/423, A/38/522)

AGENDA ITEM 99: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/325, A/38/478)

1. Mrs. OPPENHEIMER (Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs) said that increased consumption of drugs and trafficking in them, which were symptoms of a widespread malaise afflicting societies, continued to worry those responsible for prevention programmes, the reduction of illicit drug traffic and the rehabilitation of addicts. While some limited successes had been recorded, for example the reduction in seizures of methaqualone, and other successes might be hoped for as a result of the action being taken in co-operation with many Member States to determine the precise medical and scientific needs for the psychotropic substances appearing in schedule II of the 1971 Convention, those successes were counterbalanced by the emergence of new drugs (such as liquid cannabis, which had been unknown until 1971 and more than one ton of which was seized annually) and other sources of supply. In addition, since methaqualone had become difficult to obtain, drug abusers were turning to other substances not yet subject to international control, or simply used glue or volatile solvents which were being brought under national control only with great difficulty.

2. The extent of the problem was demonstrated by the fact that each seizure made by law enforcement services was currently greater in volume than the usual total amount previously seized from world-wide traffic annually. In that connection, she cited the example of the Islamic Republic of Iran: in the first six months of 1983, the law enforcement authorities there had seized a total of 6.5 tons of heroin and morphine, whereas in 1981 the record for the whole year and the whole world had been 7.5 tons. The same was true for cocaine in Colombia, the Bahamas, the United States and Venezuela. Despite increasing demand, the supply of coca leaves was apparently so great that prices were actually falling.

3. Traffickers in cannabis and opiates, especially in the regions of Asia and the Far East, had diversified their routes to avoid the countermeasures taken in ports, in airports and at borders by the law enforcement agencies of numerous Member States; consequently, transit traffic and drug abuse had spread into previously unaffected States. The same held true for traffickers in cocaine, who smuggled that drug out of South America largely towards North America or Western Europe.

4. That state of affairs had led the General Assembly, in resolution 37/198, to call upon Governments to be more vigilant and allocate more resources for that problem and to emphasize the need for co-ordinated countermeasures at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Only if everyone capable of contributing to the reduction of the illicit supply of and demand for drugs shared in such tasks could the problem be solved.

(Mrs. Oppenheimer)

5. A similar co-ordinated approach was required to trace the illegal profits and confiscate the proceeds of drug traffic. The Division of Narcotic Drugs, in accordance with the directives received from the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, placed high priority on measures in that area. The Division had devoted a special edition of the Bulletin on Narcotics to the forfeiture of the proceeds of drug crimes and had conducted a study on that subject. In addition, a group of experts meeting recently at Vienna had made recommendations which would be submitted to the Commission for consideration. It was to be hoped that the application of those measures and the strengthening of mutual judicial assistance would prevent traffickers not only from increasing their smuggling capacity but also from using that capacity to engage in other criminal activity that might even threaten the national security of some Member States. The loopholes currently used by traffickers must be eliminated by strengthening extradition procedures and by gathering and exchanging evidence.

6. Some countries, aware that the problem of drug abuse had attained alarming proportions within their territory, were beginning to adopt countermeasures at the national and local levels. However, those initiatives often led them to increase their demands for technical assistance from the United Nations, thus taxing the financial and other resources allocated for drug abuse control. In view of the deterioration in the situation, it might be advisable for countries which were less seriously affected by drug abuse to take preventive action and work together with other members of the international community to avoid having the problem spread into their own countries.

7. In that respect, she drew attention to the fact that, as of 31 October 1983, 113 States were parties to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 72 States were parties to the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention, 4 States had become parties to the 1961 Single Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and 67 States had become parties to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. She deplored the fact that General Assembly resolution 37/198, in which the General Assembly called on all countries that had not yet done so to ratify those Conventions, and had such limited results.

8. In addition to the two reports of the Secretary-General (A/38/522 and A/38/478), the General Assembly had before it the parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council pertaining to international drug control (A/38/3 (Part I)). She drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the Economic and Social Council had transmitted to the General Assembly for consideration its resolution 1983/2, in which it had recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should in future replace the task force established under General Assembly resolution 36/168 to carry out the implementation of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy. The General Assembly also had before it the programme of action recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the biennium 1984-1985, which covered the third and fourth years of the basic five-year programme, contained in annex II of document E/1982/15. Paragraph 23 of document A/38/522 contained a brief summary of the projects undertaken as part of the programme of action for 1983. She also noted that, with the help of extrabudgetary resources provided by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the Division had implemented, in

(Mrs. Oppenheimer)

addition to its ongoing activities (described in paras. 8-20 of document A/38/522), a number of projects suggested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the second year of the basic five-year programme, which were described briefly in paragraph 24 of document A/38/522.

9. At its thirtieth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had also recommended five general areas of activity that might be undertaken within the basic five-year programme: the reduction of excessive stocks of licit opiate raw materials, law enforcement, scientific research, demand reduction and information (see annex II of document E/1983/15). In that connection, she drew attention to the note contained in that document concerning the possibility of recourse to voluntary contributions.

10. The generous help of several Governments had put the Division in a position to carry forward a number of projects, many of which had been undertaken by its Narcotics Laboratory; those projects included the publication of the Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Under International Control, the preparation of drug-identification or quick-testing kits, the awarding of fellowships for training in the analysis and identification of drugs, the preparation of a training manual, the establishment of standardized methods of drug testing, the reorganization of the scientific literature collection, the utilization of word-processing equipment, the revision of the annual questionnaire on information required under the treaties and the entering of responses onto a computerized data base and the publication of the Bulletin on Narcotics and the bi-monthly Information Letter, which summarized the activities of drug control bodies and specialized agencies and was distributed to the interested government agencies of Member States and non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Division of Narcotic Drugs, which was always interested in developing closer ties with non-governmental organizations, was pleased to announce the establishment in May 1983 of the NGO Commission on Narcotic Drugs by 21 non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations Office at Vienna.

12. Mr. di GENNARO (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control) said that collaboration among the three United Nations bodies with mandates relating to drug abuse should be strengthened and extended to the various agencies and programmes mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on international co-operation in drug abuse control (A/38/522).

13. In the struggle against illicit traffic in drugs, particular attention should be paid to transit States. There were among those States some that were untouched by drug abuse and which were thus an ideal target for traffickers, who used them as half-way connections because couriers coming from one of those places aroused less suspicion on their arrival at their final destinations. Corruption and organized crime ruined the economic and social life of those transit States. Interested Governments requested them to cut trafficking routes within their national territories. That task far exceeded the capabilities of the transit countries, which themselves sometimes became victims of the spread of drug abuse.

(Mr. di Gennaro)

The international community should therefore help them in their efforts. Law enforcement activities were a key factor in the effective control of drug abuse. They should, however, be accompanied by measures aimed both at eradicating drug production at its source and at reducing demand.

14. It was also necessary to put an end to sporadic and unco-ordinated interventions and to organize the struggle within the structure of global plans of action. The proper implementation of those plans required the precise identification of needs, of their nature and extent and of the links among them and, in another respect, the design and development of programmes capable of responding to the totality of the needs identified.

15. Combined actions undertaken in the framework of bilateral assistance had not been without effect. They had not, however, been sufficient to solve all the problems posed by the struggle against drug abuse. The United Nations, through its assistance and its active presence, should contribute to the realization of satisfactory levels of co-ordination and integration among different programmes.

16. The results of the most recent Pledging Conference had been very encouraging for UNFDAC. They had demonstrated that the international community was increasingly aware of the threat posed by illicit drugs and that it was determined to make available the tools needed to combat their abuse.

17. Mr. OLGUIN (Chairman, International Narcotics Control Board) said that the Board, established under the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, was an independent, quasi-legal body which had the functions of endeavouring, in co-operation with Governments, to ensure that the production, manufacture and use of those drugs subject to international control was limited to the quantities necessary for scientific and medical uses. The Board, in its annual reports, analysed the world situation with regard to drug control. It alerted Governments to deficiencies in national control systems and to failures to respect the Convention, and it made recommendations with a view to rectifying them.

18. The cultivation of coca in the Andean region and the traffic in cocaine had taken on alarming proportions and necessitated vigorous and concerted efforts on the part of producer States. In its report for 1983, the Board recommended that those countries should receive the resources necessary to control the clandestine manufacture and export of cocaine.

19. Attempts to divert psychotropic substances from the channels of licit trade were increasing. The Economic and Social Council, at the suggestion of the Board, had recommended that Governments should determine their legitimate needs for psychotropic substances and communicate their estimates to the Board, and 120 countries had so far done so. The data had been reproduced in the four technical documents accompanying the Board's report, and they made it easier for the authorities concerned to detect attempts at diversion. The Board had also proposed that figures on the licit international trade in psychotropic substances should be published quarterly; statistical analysis of those figures would enable Governments to determine whether diversion had taken place. The Board had

(Mr. Olguin)

encouraged Governments to adopt legislative measures as a result of which it had been possible to establish a more effective international control system and reduce the quantity of amphetamines and methaqualone diverted into illicit traffic.

20. The temporary shortage of opiates at the beginning of the 1970s had prompted an exaggerated reaction which had resulted in overproduction and in the accumulation of surpluses of opium and opiate raw materials. In accordance with its mandate, the Board had held bilateral consultations with producing, manufacturing and consuming countries and had, published in 1981, a study on the demand and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs, whose conclusions remained valid.

21. In spite of the progress made, it would be premature to surrender to optimism. In fact, the balance remained precarious, and the events of the last 10 years had created problems which had not yet been solved, such as the surpluses of opiates accumulated by India and Turkey. Competition among manufacturers remained intense, and, in the desire to control their supplies directly, they were seeking new sources for opiates such as Papaver bracteatum, which, unlike Papaver somniferum, was not subject to international control.

22. The Board felt that concerted action must be taken within the framework of the conventions and the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, in order to improve the situation, to alleviate the social difficulties created by the establishment of a control system and to reduce the surpluses of opiate raw materials. The Board was, moreover, disposed to co-operate in efforts aimed at amending the 1961 Convention in such a manner as to control trade in Papaver bracteatum.

23. While a certain amount of success had been achieved with regard to the licit trade in drugs subject to international control, the situation had continued to deteriorate in the world as a whole in so far as illicit drug traffic and drug abuse were concerned, in spite of the efforts made at the national and international levels. The problem affected an ever increasing number of countries and the number, variety and potency of the drugs involved were increasing. That state of affairs demanded innovative and vigorous action at the national, regional, interregional and international levels within the framework of the existing conventions.

24. Mr. DiCARLO (United States of America) said that the international community had addressed the problem of international production, trafficking and abuse of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for a century. The problem was not merely a social and humanitarian but also a political and economic one.

25. In many countries, such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan, illicit drugs constituted a threat to internal security. In South-East Asia, armed bands and insurgent groups lived on the drug traffic. There appeared to be links between drug traffickers and insurgents in South America, where the criminal activities of the traffickers destabilized the social, political and economic structure of many Governments. The legal institutions of some European cities were threatened by organized crime. The countries which served as producers of drugs or through which drugs passed were increasingly contaminated by them.

(Mr. DiCarlo, United States)

26. The points of origin of two key drugs remained the same: South-East and South-West Asia for opium, and South America for coca paste. The most effective way to combat illicit drugs was to establish control at the source by limiting cultivation and eradicating crops by means of herbicides.

27. The international community should dedicate greater financial resources to that struggle. The Italian Government's announcement of a contribution of \$40 million, spread out over five years, to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (which would double the UNFDAC annual budget) was a substantial breakthrough in that connection. Money was not, however, the most important factor; drug-producing countries and other members of the international community should commit themselves to the elimination of the international drug problem.

28. All nations should promote narcotics control as a foreign policy priority, particularly in their relations with drug-producing countries. In order to avoid the impression that some Governments were bringing pressure to bear on others, the entire global community must support efforts for the eradication of drugs at the source. In that connection, economic assistance should be given only to producer countries which had undertaken to adopt control measures.

29. United Nations bodies should pay greater attention to combating drug abuse. The report of the Secretary-General on international co-operation in drug abuse control (A/38/522) showed that many organizations of the United Nations system had been active in that area by virtue of the funding received from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The Fund had been created in 1971 in order to provide an additional source of assistance to augment the drug control efforts of United Nations bodies. His delegation noted with concern that it was no longer regarded as supplementary but considered the main source for funding such activities.

30. As stated in the report, the various United Nations agencies conducting activities in that area had held two special meetings to co-ordinate their efforts. It would be helpful to include the results of those meetings in future reports on international drug control. It was regrettable that two United Nations specialized agencies had not participated in those meetings.

31. The two UNIDO projects referred to in paragraphs 65 and 66 of the report of the Secretary-General on the international campaign against traffic in drugs (A/38/478) were proposals which would run counter to efforts to curtail the production of illicit drugs. The promotion of additional licit uses of coca bushes and opium poppies could have the disastrous effect of encouraging nations which were not traditional suppliers to develop cultivation and thus increase the potential of diversion to illicit markets. Moreover, his delegation was not convinced that there was a need to convene an interregional drug-law-enforcement meeting in 1986. There were other priorities. Lastly, experience had shown that the United Nations regional enforcement co-ordination offices were ineffective.

32. Mrs. SIGURDSEN (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that illicit drug supply, trafficking and consumption, whether of cannabis, opiates or

(Mrs. Sigurdson, Sweden)

cocaine, was more widespread than ever. The problem was affecting new sectors of the population and numerous developing countries and encouraged organized crime and corruption. Moreover, psychotropic substances, whose sale was strictly controlled in the industrialized countries, were a profitable venture for unscrupulous manufacturers who traded them in the developing countries, where such controls did not exist. Although it might be difficult to vanquish all those forces, which had gigantic financial resources, the situation should not be accepted; each country affected by the problem must take the necessary measures in the areas of legislation, police enforcement or customs to eliminate both the supply of drugs and the demand for them. It was disquieting in that connection that certain countries were, on the contrary, tending to relax their legislation.

33. In reducing the demand for drugs, it was necessary to inform the public and alter its attitude, to implement programmes for the care and rehabilitation of drug abusers and to take into account the factors, such as loneliness, school problems, unemployment and commercially oriented recreational activities, that encouraged young people to take drugs. A spirit of fellowship, solidarity and respect for human dignity must prevail.

34. The narcotics problem knew no frontiers; all countries should exchange ideas and experience and co-ordinate their efforts in order to combat drug trafficking and abuse, in the framework of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. It was essential that a larger number of countries should ratify the latter, both to show their solidarity with the developing countries and to gain control over the production and sale of psychotropic substances.

35. Unfortunately, the United Nations system had thus far accorded a low priority to the international struggle against drug production, trafficking and abuse. The three specialized United Nations bodies in that area did not have adequate resources to implement all necessary measures and should not be the only ones engaged in that field. In spite of General Assembly resolution 34/177, requesting the various specialized agencies to become involved, as part of their programmes, in the work of combating narcotic drugs, they had not yet increased their activities in that sector. In particular, it was desirable to achieve better co-ordination of the activities of the different agencies responsible for combating drugs, whether United Nations bodies or international and regional organizations, in order to avoid duplication and make maximum use of the limited existing resources. The Nordic countries welcomed the decision taken by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to study, at its twenty-fifth session, drug control activities and hoped that that evaluation would result in better co-ordination and a broader participation of the different United Nations agencies.

36. The Division of Narcotic Drugs, whose main role was to implement the International Strategy defined by the General Assembly in 1981 and to co-ordinate co-operation among different countries and regions, was finding it difficult to draw up appropriate programmes because of insufficient resources. But it was that very inability that made many nations reluctant to increase the Division's

(Mrs. Sigurdson, Sweden)

resources. That vicious circle must be broken. To that end, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should consider the question and recommend changes to be made in the Division's priorities.

37. The International Narcotics Control Board was responsible for seeing to it that there was a balance between the production of narcotics used licitly and the demand for them, monitoring the application of the conventions and proposing effective measures against the production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs. Because of the increasing number of countries which had ratified the conventions and were requesting the Board's opinion on their implementation, it could no longer carry out its functions with only the resources currently at its disposal.

38. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control helped producer countries to stop illicit production through pilot projects designed to further integrated rural development. That development, combined with adequate control of the production of illicit drugs, had proved successful, and the experiment should be pursued and expanded after the completion of the pilot project. To that end, countries should allocate more resources to the struggle against narcotic drugs. Agencies such as UNDP, FAO and WHO should carry out projects of that type as part of their regular activities, and international bodies, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks and the International Fund for Agricultural Development should participate more in their financing. The recipient countries should be involved at all stages of project formulation and implementation, and the Fund should monitor the execution of the projects. The Fund's planned action to combat the production of cocaine should not lead to a reduction of its activities in opium-producing countries.

39. The narcotics syndicates were exploiting both the farmer growing narcotic drugs and the drug abuser consuming them. If the problem of drug abuse was to be stopped, both must be helped to lead a decent life.

40. Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas) said that the enormous profits derived from drug trafficking by the criminal organizations encouraged them to foster the illicit demand for and the production of narcotics. Almost all the regions of the world were already caught up in the drug phenomenon, and unless effective countermeasures were taken, the situation would continue to deteriorate. The struggle against drug abuse called for vigorous national action, as well as for regional and international co-operation and co-ordination, both in the area of crop control and law enforcement and in that of research, prevention and rehabilitation.

41. The International Drug Abuse Control Strategy and the policies and basic programme stemming from it provided a framework for a comprehensive approach to the problem. No doubt all States were committed to achieving the goals of the Strategy, but it must be borne in mind that the developing countries would have to divert their limited human, financial and technical resources from their social and educational programmes to combat drug abuse.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

42. He said that with the increase in demand for psychotropic substances during the 1970s, his country had become a conduit for the drug traffic to North America. Being an archipelagic State covering 100,000 square miles and including 700 islands and cays with few or no inhabitants, his country was particularly exposed to transit traffic. Given the volume of that traffic and the impossibility of patrolling the territory effectively, his country's authorities feared that drug abuse would spread, particularly among the young. The forces of law and order were already being called upon more frequently to contain the violence connected with drug abuse. Since the problems affecting the States of a region or subregion were generally similar or connected, his country endorsed a regional approach which would allow States to consider their problems together and take collective counter measures against them. In that context, he pointed out that his Government had hosted the first Seminar on Illicit Drug Traffic for Law Enforcement Officers of the Anglophone Caribbean at Nassau in March 1983. The Seminar had established that the States of the subregion, because of their strategic position between the supply centres in Latin America and the markets of North America and Europe, and because of their configuration, which was for the most part archipelagic like that of his own country, were among those worst affected by transit traffic. Participants in the Seminar had expressed their concern at the tendency for some industrialized countries to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of narcotic drugs, particularly marijuana; those negligible amounts originated from the huge shipments that developing countries were trying to apprehend. The recommendations of the Seminar related essentially to the need to establish adequate, quick and complete communications in the region, and also to create laboratories to test the drugs. For its part, his Government would endeavour to implement the Seminar's recommendations and hoped that other language groups in the Caribbean would hold similar seminars so that co-ordination mechanisms could be worked out for the whole region. He expressed the hope that the relevant recommendations of the Nassau Seminar would lead to specific measures being taken within the United Nations system.

43. In that connection, he urged the competent United Nations bodies to continue to put forward viable programmes for drug abuse control and warned States members against any curtailment of international financial assistance, without which the developing countries could not hope to combat effectively the problems associated with drug production, trafficking and abuse which they were encountering. He paid tribute to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which had given valuable support to the implementation of programmes in developing countries (A/38/522) and, while acknowledging that the Fund had to be sensitive to the wishes of the major contributing countries, expressed the hope that it would give due consideration to all requests for assistance. He thought that the specialized agencies should not be discouraged from contributing to activities to prevent or combat drug abuse on the pretext that illicit drug trafficking was outside their terms of reference. It was generally recognized that drug abuse often led to crime, and so he was pleased to learn from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs that the problem would be addressed extensively during the Seventh Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, due to be held in 1985.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

44. He fully endorsed the idea of convening an interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 37/198, paragraph 5, subparagraph (c) (A/38/478): the territories of States which had formerly been unaffected by the illicit traffic were increasingly reporting transit traffic; since that traffic was an indication of illicit production or purchase of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, it was expedient to review, on a regional and interregional basis, the evolution of the situation of States affected by transit traffic and trafficking in general, so as to determine the success of some countermeasures and to establish further countermeasures as the need arose.

45. He expressed the hope that the special issue of the Bulletin on Narcotic Drugs dedicated to analysing the campaign against the traffic in drugs would be circulated as widely as possible.

46. His delegation considered that Governments would have everything to gain by considering confiscation of the proceeds of drug crimes: such a countermeasure would discourage trafficking and would deprive traffickers of the income they needed to finance their criminal activities. He hoped the question had been closely studied during discussion of the question of financial transactions at the meeting of the Group of Experts organized by the Division of Narcotic Drugs in October 1983.

47. Echoing his country's Minister for Foreign Affairs, he invited the United Nations to consider the possibility of formally declaring illicit drug trafficking an international crime and, in that connection, to consider the implications of such a declaration and its possible contribution to developing effective countermeasures.

48. He considered that acceding to or ratifying the international instruments relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was as important for the struggle against drug abuse and illicit trafficking as international co-operation.

49. Mrs. ZACHAROPOULOS (Greece) expressed her delegation's appreciation for the reports of the Secretary-General on the international campaign against traffic in drugs (A/38/478) and international co-operation in drug abuse control (A/38/522).

50. She thought that in view of the geographic expansion of illicit trafficking, the international community should accord particular importance to the basic five-year programme of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy.

51. She expressed particular concern at the fact that the problem of drug abuse was spreading from the traditional producer and consumer countries to transit States which had not previously experienced the problems caused by illicit drug trafficking. Because of its geographic position, her country had become a major conduit for the illicit drug traffic; her Government, anxious to help in the identification and adoption of effective countermeasures for application at the national, regional and international levels to reduce the threat from the illicit

(Mrs. Zacharopoulos, Greece)

drug traffic, had hosted a joint meeting of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies of European countries in October 1983, which had been organized by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/198, paragraph 5, subparagraph (b). Twenty-two States had been represented at the meeting and the International Criminal Police Organization, the Customs Co-operation Council and the Pan-Arab Narcotics Bureau had attended as observers. Briefly recalling the main aims of the meeting (A/38/478, para. 19), she gave an outline of the recommendations which it had adopted: the participants had recommended the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to draw the attention of Governments to the provisions of article 35 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and to encourage them to establish national agencies to co-ordinate drug abuse control; they had also considered that Governments should set up task forces to study specific problems. The meeting had fully supported the recommendation adopted by the Sub-Commission at its sixteenth session concerning the special problems of transit States. It had recommended States to co-operate in organizing training programmes in order to make the suppression of drug offences more effective; it had also emphasized the importance of gathering, analysing, disseminating and exchanging information on measures and techniques which had shown their effectiveness in the struggle against drug trafficking. Finally, the participants had supported the Sub-Commission's recommendation concerning the holding of annual meetings of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies from States in Europe and the Near and Middle East. For its part, her Government believed that regional and interregional consultation could play a decisive part in the international struggle to eliminate drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

52. She observed that a representative of her country would be a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with effect from January 1984.

53. Mr. BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany) expressed his Government's concern at the growing magnitude of drug abuse in many parts of the world, including the Federal Republic of Germany, notwithstanding the efforts of individual countries and the international community. The situation had induced his country to adopt a new narcotics law which had been in force since 1 January 1982 and which not only incorporated into domestic law all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, but also those of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 to both of which it was a party; in several respects the new law went beyond the provisions of those conventions, since it covered substances not within the scope of the schedule of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Moreover, it had introduced more severe penalties for large-scale illicit drug traffic offences and emphasized the rehabilitation of addicts; for example, convicted drug addicts sentenced to not more than two years' imprisonment might be released if they submitted themselves to long-term therapeutical treatment.

54. His country considered that drug production, trafficking and abuse could only be effectively curbed through a combination of national and international measures and for that reason it participated actively in the efforts of the international

(Mr. Braun, Federal Republic
of Germany)

community. His country was one of the main contributors to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and had contributed \$700,000 to the 1983 regular budget. It had also provided \$1.17 million for specific projects organized by the Fund, including a substitution programme in Pakistan and specific projects in Egypt and Malaysia. His country appealed to other countries to increase their contributions so that the Fund might become more viable, as currently 84 per cent of the contributions to the Fund came from only four Member States. His country was also a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and had always supported the Commission's resolutions and decisions; it had also played an active role in the elaboration of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy and its programme of action. It had provided and would continue to provide substantial funds for training and equipment in support of police, customs and other narcotics control authorities in the principal producer and transit countries.

55. Mrs. ASHTON (Bolivia) said that her Government was deeply concerned about the pernicious effects of the production of trafficking in and use of narcotics on thousands of people, particularly young people in both developing and industrialized countries. The scourge was poisoning the moral foundations of society and might even come to threaten the security of States.

56. The coca leaf, from which coca paste was made, had always been grown in Bolivia. In spite of every effort on the part of the Bolivian authorities, the traffic had increased alarmingly and exports of coca paste currently amounted to 480,000 kilos annually. Sixty per cent of production left the country in private aircraft belonging to groups of international professional traffickers who used clandestine runways dispersed throughout the country, each capable of receiving six aircraft per day. The very high price of cocaine on world markets encouraged the production of the coca leaf, leading to a consequential decrease in foodstuff production. The Government was therefore obliged to import basic foodstuffs. Moreover, as exports and prices of traditional commodities had fallen as a result of the world economic crisis, the country's commercial balance was in substantial deficit.

57. It was clear that the Bolivian State did not benefit from the illicit drug traffic and that those responsible were not the Bolivian or any other people, but rather international trafficking groups which supported the illicit trade with enormous capital resources. Moreover, if demand and drug abuse did not exist among the idle classes in urban centres, there would be no reason for illicit production in countries like Bolivia. In fact, the dimensions of the problem, including the volume of production, the scale of the distribution networks and the tremendous economic power which the illicit traffic gave to those who organized it, represented obstacles in the way of the national authorities of every country. Without concerted action by all producing and consuming countries, translated into resolute and effective measures, it would be impossible to put an end to the situation. The countries of Latin America were in agreement on that point. She invited attention to the recent statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bolivia to the General Assembly and to the eleventh paragraph of the Final

(Mrs. Ashton, Bolivia)

Declaration of the Manifesto to the Peoples of Latin America (A/38/325) issued by the Bolivarian Republics.

58. The United Nations must have the necessary financial resources and technical means to implement the basic programme of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy. She commended the programme to the conscience and generosity of States.

59. Mrs. YAMAZAKI (Japan) said that the abuse of narcotic drugs had become a world-wide problem which threatened the economic and social development of entire nations and was a menace to youth in particular. There was a close relationship between drugs, social problems and crime.

60. An increasing number of countries were affected by the international drug traffic. It was essential that the international community should assist those countries which were working actively to bring illegal production to a halt. Japan had adopted strict measures to prevent drug abuse and would continue to take a strong stand against illegal narcotics.

61. Japan recognized the important role of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in the war against drug abuse and the traffic in drugs. Since 1979 her Government had contributed approximately \$300,000 annually to the Fund.

62. Her delegation had noted with satisfaction the various activities undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system to improve regional and interregional co-operation and co-ordination to eradicate the illicit traffic in drugs (A/38/478).

63. Research and the training of professionals in that area would facilitate effective action against drug abuse. Her delegation welcomed the work being done by the Laboratory Section of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and noted with special satisfaction the Section's training programme for professionals from developing countries, its utilization of improved methods of analysis and its biochemical research project.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.