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INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

Letter dated 14 June 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a summary of an announcement made by the British Home Secretary at the opening of an extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group held in London on 18 May, outlining new measures by the British Government to support international efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

I have the honour also to request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 112 of the preliminary list.

91

(Signed) John BIRCH
Chargé d'affaires

ANNEX

British Drugs Initiative

At an extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group in London on 18 May 1989, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, announced new measures that are being taken by the British Government to support international efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. (The Pompidou Group is a 19-nation co-operation group whose purpose is to co-ordinate action in Western Europe on all aspects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.)

The measures, which reflect the British Government's conviction that further action is needed to strengthen international action in this field, are as follows:

(a) An extrabudgetary contribution of pounds sterling 500,000, spread over two financial years (1989/90 and 1990/91), will be paid to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking fund. These funds are to finance the work on demand reduction of the United Nations bodies on drug control, to assist in the implementation of the new United Nations convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to boost work on law enforcement training;

(b) The loan by the British Government of one junior professional officer each for the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board Secretariat for one year, in the first instance with the possibility of an extension for a further year;

(c) The proposed establishment of a new facility for training customs officers from producer and transit countries in methods to combat illicit drug trafficking. The first stage will be a series of surveys carried out over the next few months to identify training needs, with a view to the training programme itself beginning in April 1990;

(d) Up to pounds sterling 2 million of overseas drugs-related assistance over the next three years, to be disbursed partly bilaterally and partly through the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, to provide better equipment and training for law enforcement agencies in cocaine producer and transit countries;

(e) A proposal to host a major international conference in 1990 in London to address demand reduction in the context of the threat posed by cocaine, with the aim of maintaining the momentum of international co-operation on drugs and strengthening the commitment to reducing demand.

Mr. Hurd also made the following points:

- United Nations drugs bodies perform an essential function in international anti-drugs co-operation, but are facing considerable resource difficulties. The British Government believes that they should

be allocated additional resources from within the existing United Nations budget and will continue to work to achieve this. We hope others will support this view in the appropriate United Nations bodies.

- The British Government attaches high priority to strengthening law enforcement capabilities in drug producer and transit countries.
- The United Kingdom is already one of the major providers of overseas drugs-related assistance to developing countries, both bilaterally and via the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The intention to step up this programme demonstrates Britain's commitment to assist developing countries in this field.
- It is essential to act equally vigorously to combat demand. The increased funds being devoted to the provision of treatment services, to national prevention publicity campaigns and to drugs education demonstrate the British Government's determination to play its part in these efforts. The proposed 1990 conference on cocaine demand reduction will focus attention on the need for stronger action in this area.
