



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 57th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/32/SR.57
29 November 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/32/3, chap. II, III (sect. G and L), IV (sect. A) and VI; A/32/3/Add.1;
A/32/61, 65 and Add.1, 125, 129, 139, 193, 215, 227 and 234; A/C.3/32/1, 2, 6
and Corr.1 and 7)

1. Mr. VOICU (Romania), referring to chapter VI of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/32/3) - on questions considered by the Social Committee - said that many of those questions had been dealt with by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fifth session. As the report of the Commission (E/5915) showed, priority had been given to topics having a bearing on the establishment of a new international order. A detailed analysis had been made of the implementation of the social aspects of the International Development Strategy in the light of the need for a new world order based on justice and equity. Speakers had emphasized that most of the population in most developing countries were becoming poorer, that the quality of life in many States still left much to be desired and that resources continued to be wasted, while major social and political contradictions remained unresolved. It had been stressed that if injustice and inequality were to be ended, structural changes in the existing system of international relations and far-reaching social, economic and institutional reforms were imperative.

2. Of particular importance in that context had been the item on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes. Attention had been drawn to the need to expand, diversify and modernize national economies, with special emphasis on the need for industrialization in the developing countries and for better planning adapted to the conditions prevailing in individual countries. It had also been pointed out that national priorities in social development were the prerogative of each State. The implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and the mobilization of national resources were to be separate items in the agenda for the Commission's following session.

3. The Commission had expressed its concern about the welfare of migrant workers and the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries. Migrant workers should be given better opportunities to live and work in their countries of origin. Furthermore, in order to curb the "brain drain", it was necessary to exploit national resources for purposes of development. His delegation believed that stress would be placed in future debates on the duty of countries of origin to ensure better correlation between education and manpower needs and on the obligation of host countries to respond to the needs of the developing countries. The welfare of migrant workers would continue to be a priority concern of the Commission, which would consider at its following session the proposals of the Ad Hoc Interagency Group established to that end.

(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

4. His delegation emphasized in that connexion that the new international economic order presupposed unimpeded access for all developing countries to advanced technology. That called for technical assistance to developing countries and support for the training of their national personnel. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania had stressed in the general debate in plenary, it was high time to put an end to the practice of recruiting skilled workers and specialists from the developing countries and, in the spirit of the new international economic order, to arrange for them to return home; he had suggested that one means of organizing negotiations on such problems could be the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology to be held in 1979.

5. Among the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development was resolution 2072 (LXII), which highlighted the need to review the implementation of the declarations, recommendations and resolutions of recent world conferences, including the World Population Conference, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to analyse systematically those declarations, recommendations and resolutions by identifying and consolidating their common elements relevant to the formulation of a new international development strategy. Resolution 2074 (LXII), on distribution of national income emphasized the need for equitable distribution of national income for economic and social development and requested the Commission to continue its activities on issues related to the distribution of national income, such as tax reforms, the role of trade unions and the effects of inflation on low-income groups. In resolution 2078 (LXII), concerning youth, the Council underlined the need to intensify the efforts of the United Nations to achieve a co-ordinated and practical approach and outlined ways and means for future action. The resolution also emphasized the need to educate youth in the spirit of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples; the imperative need to direct the energies, enthusiasm and creative abilities of young people to the task of nation building, to the economic, social and cultural advancement of peoples, the preservation of world peace, and the promotion of international co-operation and understanding; and the valuable contribution that youth could make to the evolution of co-operation among States on the basis of equality and justice and to the ushering in of a new international economic order. Council resolution 2079 (LXII), on reinforcing the social development sector within the United Nations, referred to the need to incorporate the social aspects of development in the formulation of a new international development strategy and recommended the appointment of a working group, which would make recommendations for improvement of the social sector of the United Nations. The Commission on Social Development had also recommended in draft resolution XII that it should hold a short special session to consider the report of the expert group, with a view to making a timely and effective contribution to the social dimensions of a new international development strategy.

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(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

6. Regrettably, none of those resolutions had yet been implemented, for reasons that were well known. The General Assembly should therefore take the opportunity to give their views on the social development activities of the United Nations and thereby enable the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fourth session to take decisions that enjoyed the firm backing of the Organization. One notable feature of the Commission's twenty-fifth session had been the wide consensus and constructive spirit prevailing in the Commission. In view of the importance of its work for the development of future strategies, the international community should not confine itself to taking note of the state of affairs prevailing in the social field. Solutions were not to be found in simplistic formulas; they should be the outcome of profound collective thinking, to which the Third Committee should make a constructive contribution. The work of the Committee could unquestionably contribute effectively to a more precise definition of the social component of the new world order and to translating into action the recommendations adopted by other bodies.

7. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had drawn attention in her statement at the beginning of the session to the advantages of social and human development in the implementation of the new international economic order, and to the need to exclude the possibility of exploiting any group in society. It was in that spirit that his delegation viewed the debate on the item before the Committee, since it was convinced that the complex social problems facing the world could be solved only through the equal participation of all States in the context of new and truly democratic relations. In that connexion, it was necessary to reaffirm the role of international organizations of a universal character and, above all, to consolidate the role and prestige of the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council's role in promoting economic and social progress should be strengthened. The Council should, for instance, extend the practice of convening special sessions to deal with topics of general interest and importance to all Member States. The Council's role vis-à-vis its subsidiary bodies and the General Assembly should be more clearly defined in order to eliminate duplication and to ensure that the mandate of each body was fulfilled efficiently, promptly and at the lowest cost.

8. The Council was increasingly using the consensus procedure for the adoption of decisions. His delegation was confident that in the current discussions on restructuring the economic and social sectors of the Organization, the practice of consensus would serve as a means of democratizing the Council's decision-making machinery. The fact that the Commission for Social Development had adopted all its substantive decisions by consensus was a promising precedent for the Council's other subsidiary bodies and for the Council itself.

9. Mr. BARREIRO (Paraguay) said that the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile (A/32/227) was a tendentious libel, based on biased information from exiles or opponents of the Government of Chile and therefore totally lacking in objectivity and reliability. The Working Group had openly interfered in Chile's internal affairs, in violation of a cardinal principle of international coexistence. It had, in short, exceeded its terms of reference. The much-abused argument of protecting human rights could not be used to justify a well-orchestrated campaign by one super-Power against an individual country without reference to the status of human rights in other parts of the world. The selectivity and double standards displayed when countries whose own records on human rights were highly suspect singled out Chile for attack reflected implicit or explicit political motives. It was ironic, for example, to find Chile being reproached for restricting the freedom of action of political parties by the representative of a country in which only a single political party operated.

10. The extracts reproduced in the report from a Santiago newspaper showed that there was more freedom of expression in Chile than in most of the countries which were acting as its accusers. On the other hand, the report overlooked the results of a recent Gallup poll showing that 65 per cent of those interviewed supported the policy of the Government, whereas only 12 per cent wanted immediate elections.

11. Selectivity in human rights questions was exemplified by the absence of any debate on the plight of the political dissidents in certain countries in Europe, the genocide which had claimed thousands of victims for "the good of the revolution" or the large numbers of summary executions carried out on the pretext of ending "counter-revolution". Such selectivity was depriving the United Nations of its moral stature.

12. What the Committee should be asking itself was exactly what the substantive real content of human rights should be. The Working Group referred to the state of siege, for example, but in such matters every Government, whatever its politics or ideology, was the sole judge. Similarly, the Working Group reported on the sentencing of ex-soldiers by competent military courts as if that were not the usual practice in all countries, and, moreover, overlooked the fact that the persons concerned had been tried under laws which had been in force under the Allende Government. Further evidence of the partial sources of information used for preparing the report were the figures for allegedly missing persons cited by a Working Group which had not visited Chile. The long-term political objective clearly was to replace the existing Government of Chile by one more congenial to a super-Power which had lost the base for its domination of the American continent.

13. The report not only totally discounted information supplied to the Working Group by the Government of Chile, but even indulged in such absurdities as claiming that the size of the security forces had increased simply because more persons were seen using "walkie-talkies". It blamed Chile when other countries

(Mr. Barreiro, Paraguay)

denied entry visas to some of its citizens whose sentences had been commuted to the penalty of exile and made spurious allegations regarding its supposed lack of intellectual freedom, its educational system and the level of unemployment. Of course, the report also noted some progress in Chile, while indicating that much still remained to be done - but that could certainly be said of any country. It was a pity that the United Nations had not set up working groups to investigate the human rights situation in many of the countries which had set themselves up as accusers of Chile. The Helsinki Agreement, for example, would be greatly strengthened if human rights and normal freedom of movement were assured to the citizens of all its signatory countries.

14. It was obvious that the Working Group had exceeded its authority and acted as a super-government. The protection of human rights was not the exclusive prerogative of any State or group of States or of any ideology or economic, social or political system, and could not serve as a pretext for United Nations officials to intervene directly in the internal affairs of Member States. He therefore urged all Member States to make a calm and dispassionate analysis of the situation in Chile without unwarranted intrusions into matters which concerned that country alone.

15. Mr. HARRY (Australia) said that the principles laid down by the United Nations with respect to the protection of human rights in Chile were applicable to all instances of gross violations of human rights, including those which were taking place in South Africa or within the context of the struggle for self-determination and against colonialism. Of course, it was the primary responsibility of Governments to halt such violations, but the United Nations had a legitimate and proper concern when gross violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms were involved, wherever they occurred. Overwhelming evidence was available, for example, of a pattern of gross and consistent violations of human rights in Uganda. There were also reports, based largely on the testimony of refugees, of widespread violations of human rights in Democratic Kampuchea, which although difficult to assess, were too persistent to be ignored. Australia condemned such violations, wherever they occurred, in the strongest possible terms.

16. With respect to the situation in Chile, it was a matter of great concern that two and one-half years after the Ad Hoc Working Group had been established, respect for human rights in that country had not yet improved to the point where it could be considered that the Working Group had fulfilled its mandate. It was extremely important that the Working Group should be permitted to enter Chile to assess the situation on the spot. The problem had to be solved by the Government of Chile, which had previously expressed its willingness to receive the Group.

17. His Government recognized there had been some improvement in the human rights

(Mr. Harry, Australia)

situation in Chile in the previous year and believed that that was the result not only of developments within Chile itself, but also of the interest and concern expressed by the international community in general and the United Nations in particular. Further measures were still required, however. The documentation supplied by the Government of Chile to the Secretary-General and to the Working Group demonstrated that a welcome degree of co-operation existed between the Group and representatives of the Government of Chile in Geneva. Equally welcome was the willingness of that Government to take part in a debate with the Group and with the international community on the situation of human rights in Chile. His delegation had, however, expected a more satisfactory explanation of the fate of those persons who had staged the sit-in at the ECLA office in Santiago.

18. The Chilean Government itself had acknowledged the need to restore fully the enjoyment of human rights in Chile, and that appeared to be a good basis for collaboration with the United Nations.

19. Ms. GYLLENBERG (Finland) said that her Government had watched with profound distress the situation of human rights in Chile since the overthrow of the constitutionally-elected Government of Salvador Allende in September 1973. The Finnish people had expressed its solidarity with the Chilean people and the Finnish Government had condemned the unacceptable practices of the Chilean Government and supported measures aimed at correcting them. Finland had also received refugees from political persecution in Chile.

20. The wide acceptance of international instruments in the field of human rights substantiated the view that the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms was a matter of international concern and made it clear that there was no justification for the continuing assaults on the freedom and integrity of the human person in Chile, which was failing to live up to its obligations as a Member State of the United Nations and as a party to those international instruments.

21. The report of the Ad Hoc Working Group (A/32/227) revealed a number of disappointing facts. Since 1973 the Chilean Government had continued the state of siege as a pretext for harassing Chilean nationals and for conferring additional powers on the President. Despite assertions to the contrary, Chilean citizens continued to be detained as political prisoners, often for excessive periods of time and without trial, under the state of siege. Torture in various forms also persisted. Furthermore, the Chilean Government had still not initiated the full investigation of the situation of missing persons requested by the Working Group, and her delegation therefore whole-heartedly endorsed the renewal of that request in the report.

(Ms. Gyllenberg, Finland)

22. Finland had sponsored all of the resolutions on the human rights situation in Chile adopted by the General Assembly in recent years in the hope that the Chilean Government would take the opinion of the world community into account and put an end to violations of human rights. Instead, the Chilean Government had refused to allow the Working Group to visit its territory in order to make a formal investigation of the situation and had gone to great lengths to belittle its report. In the circumstances, her delegation favoured extending the mandate of the Working Group.

23. Mr. MESSING-MIERZEJEWSKI (Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination), speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, said that two recent trends had been noted in drug addiction and traffic. One was that drug addiction and traffic were increasing rapidly in Western and Northern Europe and in many developing countries in Asia and Africa. The second trend was the movement of the centre of the illicit traffic to new grounds and new centres. For example, while West Berlin had recently recorded its sixty-seventh death in 1977 from an overdose of drugs, in Amsterdam - until recently a substantial centre of the illicit trade - the number of drug-related deaths had decreased to seven in the same period.

24. The Fund was greatly encouraged by the increasing support which it was receiving from the community of nations. During the previous two years, the number of Governments contributing to the Fund had risen to 72. While many of the new contributions were inevitably small, the growing number of contributors reflected greater concern in many parts of the world over the drug problem. Over the same period, annual Government contributions to the Fund had almost doubled, with \$7.6 million being contributed during the first nine months of 1977.

25. There had also been a change with regard to the source of contributions. Previously Governments had usually financed their contributions to the Fund from the budgets of their Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Public Health or Justice, a justifiable practice in the early phase, when the Fund's projects had been mostly in the fields of public health and law enforcement. In recent years, however, both the Fund and the Division of Narcotic Drugs had started to pay greater attention to reducing the supply of narcotics at the source. Progress towards the eradication of opium, cannabis and cocaine could be achieved through development aid or integrated rural development. Crop replacement or income replacement would permit farmers to grow alternative crops with a comparable guaranteed income. That, in turn, required an infrastructure of roads, water supply, credit facilities, procurement of seeds and fertilizers and, above all, marketing facilities. There was also a need for adequate basic health services, so that the local population would not need to grow, say, the opium poppy as the only available source of medicine. Supplies could be reduced by helping national Governments to establish pilot projects for crop replacement and, when those proved successful, the Fund would try to arrange for the organization and financing necessary to apply the lessons of the pilot projects on a wider scale. Experience had shown that such crop replacement projects had a strong development aspect. With the full support of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Fund was establishing closer co-operation with UNDP and international financial institutions in promoting such projects.

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(Mr. Messing-Mierzejewski)

26. The Executive Director had found that the Governments of the Nordic countries and the Netherlands were prepared to accept the principle that such "dual-purpose projects" deserved financial support from development aid funds. The acceptance of that principle had already led to a special contribution of about \$500,000 from Sweden and a similar contribution from the Netherlands, through UNDP, for a health project in Afghanistan, while the Danish Government was understood to be considering a similar contribution. The Norwegian Government had pledged to undertake the total cost (except for the law enforcement sector) of the programme in Burma, which was the largest to date. In view of the increasing importance of those crop-replacement programmes for reducing the supply of illicit drugs, the Executive Director urged all Governments to support them from their development aid funds.

27. The financial position of the Fund had been considerably strengthened by such special contributions. They had made it possible to start the new programme in Burma, to conclude new agreements with Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Portugal and Egypt, and to extend the law enforcement programme in Afghanistan. Furthermore, negotiations for new agreements with the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Tunisia and Malaysia had begun.

28. Experience had confirmed the wisdom of the decision taken by the General Assembly in 1971 to set up a separate Fund to deal with an emergency situation of drug abuse. That emergency, unfortunately, showed no signs of abating, but was in fact spreading to more countries. The involvement of other United Nations agencies with greater resources was essential. In that connexion, the Fund was engaged in Afghanistan, with the support of the Government, in working out a formula under which other agencies could co-ordinate their efforts for broad-based integrated rural development. That arrangement would result not only in a wide range of benefits to the very poor peoples of the area concerned but would also remove the incentives for continued cultivation of illicit drugs.

29. Those activities were consistent with the guidelines laid down by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which had advised the Fund to concentrate its resources on forms of assistance which offered the most direct benefit in terms of effectiveness in reducing the potential for drug abuse. The Commission had also urged that the Fund should continue to serve as a catalyst in the sense that, in addition to financing projects from its own funds, it might try to facilitate the financing of deserving projects by others. A further policy guideline, issued in February 1977, instructed the Fund to concentrate on consolidating existing projects rather than scatter its funds, and to reserve consideration of new commitments until additional resources were available.

30. During 1976 and 1977 the Government of Turkey, supported by the Fund and by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, had successfully ensured that no opium was produced. An aerial multispectral opium poppy detection system had been made available to the Turkish Government, together with photographic equipment and a mobile field laboratory. A feasibility study to determine the requirements of the customs authorities had been carried out with Fund support, in order to see how these authorities could best combat the growing transit traffic in illicit drugs through Turkey. The Executive Director believed the world community owed the Government of Turkey a considerable debt for its continuing determination to help to meet world requirements of alkaloids for legal medical and scientific purposes without allowing any illicit opium to be produced.

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(Mr. Messing-Mierzejewski)

31. In Afghanistan, law enforcement against the illicit traffic in opium continued to be highly successful. Seizures of illicit opium had risen from 14 tons in 1976 to an estimated annual rate for 1977 of between 20 and 24 tons assuming that only about 10 per cent of all illicit traffic was seized, total production in Afghanistan might well be in excess of 200 tons. Consequently, the Fund, the Government of Afghanistan and associated agencies of the United Nations system were concentrating on reducing areas of opium poppy cultivation. That task was obviously beyond the resources of the Fund, and accordingly Afghanistan was a test case to determine how best the whole international community might become involved in assisting a Member State to meet its international treaty obligations in respect of illicit narcotics. The Fund, in consultation with the Government, had obtained financial support for the prevention of further addiction and for the treatment and rehabilitation of approximately 40,000 opium addicts in the remote region of Badakshan. In that connexion, he paid a tribute to the authorities of the Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark and the United States for their help and encouragement.

32. The multisectoral programme which had started in Pakistan in 1976, with Fund support, had moved ahead as planned. The primary effort had been concentrated on opium eradication through income substitution. WHO, with Fund support, had helped the Government to determine the most effective means of prevention and treatment of addiction to opium and to psychotropic substances. ILO was working on rehabilitation in urban and affected rural areas. The Fund had also co-operated very closely with the Government of the United States, which had been assisting Pakistan to improve its law enforcement capacity against illicit traffic and against the manufacture of morphine sulphate in Pakistan.

33. An agreement with the Government of Burma had entered into force on 1 July 1976, whereby the Government, with the support of the Fund and the Division, was implementing a multisectoral programme in some of the most difficult parts of the country. The programme involved income substitution, including development of livestock, treatment and rehabilitation, social welfare and education. The Government of Norway had committed a contribution of \$5.4 million over five years; the Australian Government had also made a special contribution.

34. In Thailand the initial five-year programme of the pilot project for Fund support was nearing completion, and it was hoped shortly to move on to the second major stage, which would extend the original pilot project for crop replacement, covering 25 villages, to a further 800 villages where the poppy was still illicitly grown. In December 1976 the Executive Director had reached an understanding with the Thai Government, under which the Fund would continue to finance the pilot project for a further year; meanwhile the Thai Government would draw up a master plan for the expansion of the project's results to all opium-growing areas in northern Thailand; since that would be a long and expensive process, the Fund would work to raise outside support.

35. The Division of Narcotic Drugs, with Fund support, had maintained a presence in the Lao People's Democratic Republic since February 1975. Preparatory activities, mainly directed towards rehabilitation of former addicts, had continued

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(Mr. Messing-Mierzejewski)

at a cost of about \$50,000 a year. Thanks to a special contribution by the Swedish International Development Authority, the Fund had proposed, and the Government had accepted, an expanded programme to embrace not only those rehabilitation activities but also integrated rural development work concentrating on income substitution in remote mountainous areas.

36. In South America, the first phase of a programme to support the Government of Peru had been completed during 1976. That first phase had dealt with law enforcement and had been expanded in August 1976, under a new agreement, to provide assistance in developing facilities for rehabilitation; that was to be followed in 1978 by a Fund-supported epidemiological study. The Fund-supported programme in Bolivia had also entered its second phase, and a United Nations narcotics adviser was based in La Paz to assist the Government on matters relating to cocaine, including improved legislation, the training of law enforcement officials, the strengthening of the administrative structure and narcotics laboratory techniques. In Argentina, under an agreement signed in November 1976, UNESCO had become the executing agency for a Fund-financed project in preventive education.

37. The Fund had also responded to assistance requests in Europe. At the request of the Government of Portugal, the Fund had supported Government initiatives to reduce illicit demand.

38. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had urged the Fund to devote special attention to assisting African countries to prevent and combat drug abuse. An agreement with Egypt in August 1977 had provided for assistance to the Government for the establishment of more modern laboratory services and more advanced training for personnel. That project was being executed by WHO. The Fund was awaiting a response from the Government of Sierra Leone concerning a draft agreement for assistance. A detailed survey of the requirements of the African continent, and particularly of Africa south of the Sahara, was under way, particularly in the field of prevention. The first need had been to determine the nature and extent of the problem and of the threat.

39. The Fund had continued to support two important units of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, namely the Central Training Unit and the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory. The Central Training Unit had trained more than 1,000 persons. An outside evaluation had suggested new initiatives for that Unit which would further enhance its impact not only on improving the capacity of national enforcement agencies but also on other disciplines. The United Nations Narcotics Laboratory had already done valuable work on cannabis, increased production of codeine for legal purposes from reduced areas of cultivation, the chemistry of khat, the possible utilization of papaver bracteatum for codeine production and, more recently, the "finger-printing" of heroin to determine its geographic origin when it appeared in the illicit traffic.

40. In compliance with a request from the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Fund had reduced the number of staff posts financed by it in both the United Nations and the specialized agencies. As a counterpart, the Commission had recommended that the responsible bodies in the United Nations system should give more consideration and greater priority to the needs of the narcotics-related agencies.

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(Mr. Messing-Mierzejewski)

The Executive Director believed that it was mistaken policy to rely exclusively on a voluntary fund to support work against drug abuse; more attention and priority should be given to it within the regular budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

41. Speaking on behalf of the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, he said that there had been a considerable increase in the work of the Division in the field of international drug control. Although some progress had been made in effective control, the world situation with regard to illicit cultivation of raw materials, the upward trend in the illicit use of both narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the intensified traffic in such substances were causing grave concern. Progress had also been achieved in the matter of acceptance of the international treaties in that field. One hundred and nine States had become parties to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and 59 States to the Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The international drug control system had been complemented, and an entirely new field added, by the entry into force on 16 August 1976 of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, to which 49 States were parties.

42. The work of the Division had been facilitated by the active co-operation of Governments, although improvements were desirable both in the submission and in the completeness of information received in annual reports. Co-ordination of exchanges of information between Governments, international control organs and the Division had continued to improve. Measures to reduce the illicit demand for drugs had been given increasing attention by both the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council. The first draft of a drug abuse manual had been worked out by the Division, which had also begun a comprehensive resource book listing possible measures to reduce illicit demand for drugs with a view to helping Governments to design and implement programmes of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

43. Drug-related scientific research had been continued and expanded by the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory in collaboration with institutions and scientists throughout the world. The question of world requirements of opiates for medical and scientific purposes had continued to be examined both by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the Economic and Social Council.

44. The work of the Division had increased sharply because of the implementation of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the numerous resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council. The Division had welcomed Economic and Social Council resolution 2081 (LXII), in which the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the General Assembly had been requested to ensure that the necessary resources were allocated to international drug control, under the regular United Nations budget; it was fortunate that consideration of those urgently needed resources had been postponed until 1978. The Division was also executing and co-ordinating most of the 88 programmes and projects financed by the Fund and was responsible for providing the Fund with professional and technical advice on the planning and formulation of such programmes. The Division had also organized, through its Central Training Unit and the Laboratory, a continuing series of training programmes and fellowships.