



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/194
24 October 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 101

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 38/122 of 16 December 1983 entitled "International campaign against traffic in drugs", by which it decided, in paragraph 8, to include an item with the same title in the agenda of its thirty-ninth session; and, in paragraph 7, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution for review by the Assembly.

2. The present report has been prepared in response to the specific request in paragraph 6, by which the Secretary-General, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, was requested "to explore all avenues leading to a further improvement of regional and interregional co-ordination of activities against drug trafficking and drug abuse". The following paragraphs address the three elements on which the Assembly placed particular emphasis.

3. In addition, attention is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General for 1984 on international co-operation in drug abuse control (A/39/XXX), which sets forth the action taken by organizations and programmes within the United Nations system to grant technical assistance to countries most affected by the illicit production of and traffic in drugs and drug abuse, in accordance with operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 38/122.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF CO-ORDINATION MECHANISMS FOR DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT IN REGIONS WHERE THESE DO NOT YET EXIST

4. By paragraph 6 (a) of General Assembly resolution 38/122, the Secretary-General was requested through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, "to continue to pursue efforts and initiatives with a view to establishing, on a continuing basis, co-ordination mechanisms for drug law enforcement in regions where these do not yet exist".

5. The two subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs which fulfil the functions of co-ordination mechanisms for drug law enforcement at the regional level are:

(a) The Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Sub-Commission), established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1776 (LIV) of 18 May 1973. Membership includes: Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey, as well as a representative from Sweden;

(b) The Annual Meetings of Heads of National Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies, Far East Region (HONLEA), established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1845 (LIV) of 15 May 1974. The 11th HONLEA Meeting will be held in Thailand in November 1984. Invitations to participate have been issued to the Governments of the following 27 member States and/or territories within the region: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Fiji, France (New Caledonia), Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Democratic Kampuchea, Republic of Korea, Laos,

Democratic People's Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, New Zealand (Cook Islands), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Samoa and Viet Nam. Nine invitations to be represented in an observer capacity have been issued to other Governments, from within or outside the region, which have an operational interest in the illicit traffic emanating from or passing through the region: Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. A total of six international or intergovernmental organizations have been invited to be represented by observers: Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Colombo Plan Bureau, Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC); the Sub-Commission will also be represented by an observer.

6. The practical exchanges of information on the illicit drug traffic which have been made possible by this pattern of annual HONLEA Meetings have also resulted in the development of co-ordinated countermeasures not only at regional but also at interregional level. This has been one result of a first Joint Meeting between the Sub-Commission and HONLEA in November 1983 at New Delhi and of the attendance at HONLEA Meetings of a growing number of observer delegations from other member States within and outside the Asia and Pacific region. A number of intergovernmental organizations, including the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Colombo Plan Bureau and the South Pacific Commission, have continued to be very active in support of drug law enforcement training and other supplementary activities within the region. In addition, a number of intergovernmental organizations in that region continue to be very actively involved in support of work against the illicit traffic and especially of training programmes for drug law enforcement and other professionals.

7. The International Drug Control Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 36/168 of 16 December 1981, identified a number of activities which regional organizations might undertake. One result is that regional co-ordination mechanisms are being established or strengthened in a number of regions and subregions. The organizations concerned with this activity include the following:

(a) The South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ASEP), the potential of which was recognized in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/7 of 9 May 1979. States Parties to ASEP are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela;

(b) The Pan-Arab Bureau for Narcotic Affairs of the League of Arab States. The following States Members of the United Nations participate in the work of the Bureau: Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen;

(c) Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs of the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group). The following States Members of the United Nations participate in the work of the Group: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. In pursuit of the objectives of paragraph 6 (a) of General Assembly resolution 38/122, as well as of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 6 (XXX) entitled: "The need for activities in the African countries", a seminar for drug control, law enforcement and other concerned professionals was organized in Abidjan in April 1984 by the United Nations for participants from French-speaking States in Africa. At this seminar, participants expressed growing concern over the rapid increase in illicit production of, traffic in, and demand for cannabis, some psychotropic substances and other drugs of abuse in many parts of Africa. The final report reflects recommendations to Governments that urgent action be taken to establish or strengthen the special national administrations and the national co-ordinating arrangements against the illicit traffic provided for in the international drug control treaties. In addition, it was emphasized that more training was needed in drug law enforcement and related activities. The recommendations emphasized the need for regular meetings between the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies of States in the African region in order to improve communication and co-operation, especially between the authorities of English-speaking and French-speaking States and to provide a continuing regional mechanism for improved co-ordination of work against the illicit drug traffic and related matters.

9. A second seminar, which will be attended by participants from a range of English-speaking States of Africa, is being organized by the United Nations in Egypt in December 1984; the following Governments have been invited to nominate participants: Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan. A third seminar will be arranged in Botswana in April 1985; participation has been invited from the following Governments: Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

10. The reports of the 1984 regional meetings, including the recommendations on regional co-ordination contained therein, will be before the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-first session in February 1985.

III. MEASURES DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF TRANSIT STATES

11. In paragraph 6 (b) of resolution 38/122, the Secretary-General was requested, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to give appropriate priority to measures designed to alleviate the special problems of transit States through co-operative regional and interrregional efforts.

12. In this regard, the Secretary-General was requested to bring paragraph 6 (b) of General Assembly resolution 38/122 to the attention of all regional and interrregional meetings concerned with drug trafficking and drug abuse. This subject has been a special item on the agenda of all interrregional, regional and subregional meetings, workshops and seminars in which the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs has been involved during 1984.

13. In order to assist concerned national authorities, especially in transit States, to identify trends in the illicit traffic and thus determine the manner in which countermeasures may be most effectively applied, the Quarterly Summaries of

Reports on Illicit Transactions and Seizures of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is being published by the Secretariat in a new format. The first such Quarterly Summary was published as E/NS.1984 Summary 2. The presentation of data now reflects the computerization that has recently been undertaken of reports on seizures from the illicit traffic communicated by Governments of States Parties to the Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of article 18.1 (c) of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and article 16.3 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Publication of the material received in tabular and graphic form may be of particular assistance to concerned authorities of transit States which have had little previous experience with drug traffic.

14. Recommendations from regional seminars and workshops concerned with the problems of transit States have continued to concentrate on the need to increase the availability of rapid, secure and accurate means of communication. The improvement of communications for law enforcement in the area of drug control has high priority within the United Nations system. Particular attention has been given, during 1984, to measures which could improve communications between parts of the areas of the Near and Middle East and Asia and the Pacific. Negotiations pursued by the Secretariat with concerned Governments and other parts of the United Nations system throughout the year will culminate in a subregional meeting on the subject to which the Government of Sri Lanka will act as host in November 1984.

15. The Secretariat has also, during 1984, continued to pursue negotiations arising from recommendations relating to increasing the availability of rapid, secure and accurate means of communication throughout that area which were contained in the report of the First Seminar on Illicit Drug Traffic for Law Enforcement Officers of the Anglophone Caribbean, held in the Bahamas in March 1983 (DND/WP.1983/6 of 14 April 1983). These recommendations were initially reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (A/38/478, para. 18). A request has now been received from the authorities of the Turks and Caicos Islands which would enable the initiation of similar action in the Caribbean to that now being taken in parts of the areas of the Near and Middle East and Asia and the Pacific.

IV. EFFORTS TO CONVENE THE INTERREGIONAL MEETING OF HEADS OF NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN 1986

16. By paragraph 6 (c) of General Assembly resolution 38/122, the Secretary-General was requested, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to make every effort to convene in 1986, within the resources that may be made available to him, the interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies proposed in paragraph 5 (c) of Assembly resolution 37/198. In pursuance of that resolution, consultations began in 1983 and were reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (A/38/478, para. 23); these consultations have continued during 1984. The work already undertaken in co-operation with regional and other intergovernmental organizations and the Governments of Member States would make it possible, provided financial resources were available in the forthcoming biennium, to convene an interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in 1986, in accordance with the wishes of the General Assembly.
