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THIRD COMMITTEE  
42nd meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 15 November 1984  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MADAR (Somalia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 101: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/193, 194, 407, 421, 551 and Corr.1, 577 and 646; A/C.3/39/8; A/C.3/39/L.30 and L.31)

1. Mr. THOMAS (United States of America) said that it was heartening to know that the international community had made significant progress in controlling the production and distribution of the major illicit substances, a problem that no nation could resolve by itself. There had been many encouraging signs in recent years in Latin America, and in South-West and South-East Asia.
2. In Turkey, with support from the international community, illicit cultivation had been completely suppressed.
3. In Mexico, the production of heroin had declined from 6.5 metric tons in 1975 to an estimated 1.4 tons in 1983. The cultivation of marijuana had been dramatically reduced. The Mexican Government had also supported interregional activities designed to provide technical assistance to Belize and Colombia.
4. In Colombia, experimentation with a new herbicide had facilitated the eradication of more than 5,000 acres of marijuana. Production of cannabis should be totally controlled by 1985, and efforts to control cocaine production were continuing. The assassination of the Minister of Justice, probably by narcotics traffickers, had not deterred the Colombian police from successfully staging very many operations against traffickers and clandestine cocaine laboratories. The President of the Republic had declared that traffickers would be extradited.
5. In Bolivia, the police and military had moved into the Chapare region, where coca cultivation and narcotics trafficking had expanded dramatically in recent years. Raids had also been mounted in the Beni, another important narcotics trafficking centre. In Peru, despite violent opposition from terrorists and traffickers, nearly 4,900 acres of coca had been eradicated by mid-1984, compared to 1,700 acres in the whole of 1983. The United States and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control were helping Peru and Bolivia to extend their coca control programmes and rural development assistance.
6. In Panama, a large cocaine complex and large coca plantations had been discovered and destroyed in Darien province, adjacent to the Colombian border. Large quantities of ether, used to refine cocaine, had also been intercepted.
7. In Brazil, the national police had stepped up their activities in the Amazonas region, where traffickers were encouraging tribal groups to expand their traditional plantings of coca and were establishing cocaine laboratories. Similarly, Argentina had been obliged to devote increased resources to dealing with the rising number of cocaine laboratories which had been established within its borders during the past two years.

(Mr. Thomas, United States)

8. Venezuela had adopted stronger anti-narcotics laws and increased its co-operation with the Colombian police. During the previous year, Venezuela had destroyed almost 500 acres of marijuana and a near-record seizure of 667 kilograms of cocaine had been made at Caracas International Airport.
9. A variety of programmes had been launched in the Caribbean and Central America, including efforts to improve radar surveillance and interdiction capabilities. The successes recorded had obliged traffickers to alter their smuggling routes and their tactics.
10. In South-East Asia, the substantial reduction in the cultivation of opium poppies in Pakistan had unfortunately been overshadowed by uncontrolled production in Afghanistan. In Pakistan, narcotics production had dropped from 800 metric tons in 1979 to an estimated 45 tons in 1983. With assistance from the United States and the United Nations, narcotics control programmes were operating in the Malakand, Gadoon-Amazai and Buner areas and, under the auspices of UNFDAC, the Government of Pakistan had begun to ban opium cultivation in the remaining areas of the North-West Frontier Province.
11. During the year, the Thai Government had increased its opium cultivation control activities, and had eradicated 800 acres. The army had mounted military operations against groups of traffickers operating along the border with Burma.
12. At the beginning of 1984, the Burmese Government had conducted effective military operations against narcotics traffickers in the Shan and Kachin states. More than 10,000 acres of opium poppies had been eradicated.
13. The expanding role of UNFDAC was a key element in the world-wide advances in narcotics control. The principal donors, including Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Norway, supported the Fund's policy whereby economic assistance should be linked to commitments by recipient Governments to eliminate illicit narcotics crops by specified dates.
14. Although progress was being made, numerous challenges remained. World-wide production of illicit opium, coca leaf and cannabis was many times the amount currently consumed by drug abusers. Governments of some countries did not have control of narcotics-growing regions, while prospects in other countries were dampened by corruption. Narcotics trafficking was supported by other criminal activities, such as terrorism. More and more Governments were beginning to realize that no country was immune from the political, economic and social problems associated with narcotics trafficking and that they could be countered only through bilateral and regional co-operation. In August, several Latin American leaders had met at Quito to consider the matter. The unprecedented summit meeting attested to the importance of regional co-operation in combating narcotics trafficking not only in Latin America but throughout the world. The United States supported the draft resolution, formulated by the Government of Venezuela, requesting the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to give priority to consideration of a draft convention against drug trafficking (A/C.3/39/L.30).

(Mr. Thomas, United States)

15. As the Joint Inspection Unit indicated in its conclusions and recommendations in its report on drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system (A/39/646), the designation of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs as the co-ordinator of those activities should lead to greater cohesion. The United States agreed with the Inspectors that the specialized agencies should develop specific drug control programmes and activities for consideration by their member Governments, which should use their own resources whenever possible.

16. International narcotics control was a fundamental objective of United States foreign policy. In particular, the United States had for several years supported the initiatives of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and encouraged the work of the European Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group) and that of other multinational associations. His Government would, moreover, strive to reduce the demand for drugs in the United States itself.

17. For drug abuse control to be effective, pressure had to be applied at all points of the grower-to-user chain: through crop control; through increased seizures, not only of drugs but also of financial assets; through intensified investigation and prosecution of traffickers; and through effective treatment and prevention of drug abuse. International strategies should offer financial and technical assistance for narcotics control projects. Governments of producing nations should demonstrate the political will to undertake effective crop control and interdiction programmes. Lastly, the international community should unite in an effort at all levels to control international narcotics production and trafficking.

18. Mr. SUCRE FIGARELLA (Venezuela) said that drug trafficking and consumption constituted one of the most alarming problems of the times, and it was incumbent on the United Nations to intensify and expand existing programmes in that field and, at the same time, to make new aspects of the problem better known. As the President of Venezuela had said in his recent address to the General Assembly, drug trafficking represented a threat to the national security and sovereignty of several countries and was turning into an agent of international conflicts. Action taken at the national level should therefore have the support of appropriate international mechanisms to facilitate the co-operation required for effective control of the phenomenon at the world level. In that spirit Venezuela had signed the Quito Declaration against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and the New York Declaration against Drug Trafficking and the Illicit Use of Drugs.

19. His delegation reaffirmed the determination of the Venezuelan Government to fight the evil of drug trafficking by all available means and at all levels. In keeping with that position, it had participated with delegations of other countries signatories of the two Declarations in the elaboration of two of the draft resolutions before the Committee (A/C.3/39/L.30 and L.31).

20. His delegation commended the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board on their work and reaffirmed its support for the provisions of General Assembly resolution 36/132. It also recognized the

(Mr. Sucre Figarella, Venezuela)

importance of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy (General Assembly resolution 36/168). It felt, however, that despite the existence of some very important international instruments on drug trafficking, the phenomenon had assumed such dimensions that more explicit definitions and penalties were now called for. The drug problem was affecting the moral integrity of youth as well as the institutional stability of States, was giving rise to dangerous terrorism, disrupting national economies and increasing crime.

21. In Latin America, narcotic drugs were a source of conflicts and of economic, political, social and other disorders on an incalculable scale.

22. No one could deny that drug trafficking had become a universal tragedy or that it constituted one of the most serious threats to mankind. It was therefore necessary not only to revitalize existing instruments and institutions in the field of drug traffic control, but also to create new ones better suited to present-day realities. The object must be, on the one hand, to combat offences directly by means of effective systems of control and legal penalties commensurate with the damage caused and, on the other hand, to attack the socio-economic roots of the problem. The time had come for the United Nations to consider applying a suitable global policy to fight the scourge, which encompassed every possible form of corruption.

23. His delegation therefore hoped that the problem would be approached responsibly, pragmatically and from an overall perspective which nevertheless took account of the situation in each region. Energetic steps needed to be taken promptly. Draft resolutions A/C.3/39/L.30 and L.31, which were sponsored by countries in the regions particularly concerned, contained specific proposals to that effect.

24. In that connection, he informed the Committee that the Bahamas, Brazil, Cuba, Ivory Coast, Singapore and Suriname had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.31 and that the Bahamas had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.30.

25. Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.31 proposed the formulation of a United Nations declaration on the control of drug trafficking and drug abuse which would, for the first time, recognize drug trafficking for what it was, namely, an international criminal activity. The sponsors of the other draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.3/39/L.30) proposed the initiation of a process of consultations, through the competent United Nations bodies, with a view to the early preparation of an international legal instrument to regulate the problem. Venezuela had prepared a working paper which was annexed to the draft. His delegation realized that the proposed instrument should take due account of the needs and concerns of all the States concerned, and reaffirmed its willingness to co-operate towards that end. The preparation of such an instrument was necessary in order to give universal scope to the initiatives taken by a large number of States with a view to strengthening their co-operation, at both the bilateral and regional levels in combating drug trafficking. Over the past 20 years trafficking had developed at an

(Mr. Sucre Figarella, Venezuela)

alarming rate as a result of enormous economic inputs and the use of the most modern techniques. Given those new features, there was a need for appropriate narcotics control instruments based on up-to-date definitions. The proposed initiatives were founded on the principles of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy and were designed to translate some specific elements of the Strategy into effective international action.

26. His delegation invited the Committee to study the two drafts in the spirit in which initiatives relating to the common good were traditionally received, and trusted that the drafts would be adopted by consensus.

27. Mr. ALBAN HOLGUIN (Colombia) once more expressed deep concern over the effects of drug abuse on the world's youth. The purpose of draft resolutions A/C.3/39/L.30 and L.31, of which his delegation was a sponsor, was to commit the United Nations to the adoption of more effective, more general and more clear-cut measures that would enable the international community to protect itself against that terrible scourge. The sponsors of the drafts thought it essential that the traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances should henceforth be considered a serious international crime against humanity, so as to create a world climate conducive to the adoption of punitive measures making it impossible for offenders to enjoy anywhere in the world the wealth acquired at the cost of the destruction of human beings and the corruption of societies.

28. No one disputed the fact that it was impossible to control the spread of drug trafficking solely by measures taken at the national level. According to estimates published in the United Nations Bulletin on Narcotics, marijuana production in the United States was valued at \$50 billion, and according to the Colombian Narcotic Drugs Council, the annual market turnover of drugs intended for illicit use amounted in North America to \$100 billion a year. It was easy to see how such large sums, once they had fallen into the hands of criminals, could paralyse - or, conversely, influence - government action, impede or facilitate the work of private organizations, and serve to corrupt administrations. The challenge was a formidable one, and State leaders were in duty bound to do all they could to meet it. Seeking to qualify the drug traffic, the sponsors of the two draft resolutions had at first found only the expression "crime against humanity". That expression, however, was associated, on the one hand, with a basic concept of Anglo-Saxon law and, on the other hand, with the war crimes which had been tried at Nuremberg. It had therefore been necessary to find another formula to avoid becoming bogged down in legal arguments and to ensure the support of major countries that was essential to the success of the proposed measures. Accordingly, the drafts submitted to the Committee used the expression "international crime".

29. On the domestic level, Colombia had adopted sensible measures to prevent drug trafficking from affecting the management of society. For example, the property of persons involved in such criminal activities had been seized; crops and laboratories in various parts of the country had been destroyed; exceptional measures had been applied and military tribunals had been established to try offenders. In fact, a crusade had been launched in which the whole country was

(Mr. Alban Holguin, Colombia)

involved. Colombia, by virtue of its geographical position, had become a revolving door for drug traffic between the producers in the South and the consumers in the North of the hemisphere. Nevertheless, its determination to control that crime was so strong that offenders now seemed to be moving out of Colombian territory.

30. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/39/193), the positive measures taken by the Colombian Government to control drug trafficking and drug abuse had been supported by various United Nations agencies. A meeting to study the adverse and health consequences of cocaine use and develop more effective strategies against it had been organized in September 1984 at Bogota with the help of the World Health Organization. In addition, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was now providing assistance, as a result of a generous grant from the Italian Government, to a campaign to eliminate drugs in Colombia.

31. In conclusion, his delegation hoped that draft resolutions A/C.3/39/L.30 and L.31 would be adopted by consensus, and was confident that no country would tolerate a phenomenon that disrupted the normal functioning of States and introduced elements of irrationality into their internal organizations.

32. Mr. MATHEWSON (United Kingdom) recognized that the extent of the drug abuse problem in his country was growing. The numbers of addicts had risen, while the street prices of illicit drugs had remained stable and comparatively low. There had been an increase particularly in the abuse of synthetic drugs manufactured legally in the country and leaked onto the illicit market. However, heroin smuggled from abroad remained the main drug of abuse.

33. In order to control that situation, the United Kingdom had adopted a single coherent strategy. A co-ordinating group of Ministers had been established in 1984. The British Government was also being advised by a body of experts, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Controls had been tightened on the supply of drugs to addicts by doctors and pharmacists, requirements for the safeguarding of pharmaceutical products had been reviewed and the number of customs officers working on drug-smuggling intelligence and detection had been increased. The Government would also introduce legislation to make it easier to deprive drug smugglers of the profits from their crimes. The United Kingdom was also preparing to ratify the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

34. His Government believed that international co-operation was of paramount importance in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse. Customs authorities and police forces derived great benefit from the co-operation they received from their counterparts in other parts of the world through INTERPOL and the Customs Co-ordination Council. Personal contact played an important role in that regard. The United Kingdom was always pleased to offer assistance directly or through the United Nations to countries with drug problems.

35. The British Government had for many years made a regular contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and would continue to do so. It had made an additional payment of £180,000 sterling to the Fund in 1983 to support the

(Mr. Mathewson, United Kingdom)

drug law enforcement agencies of Pakistan. For 1984, it had pledged an additional contribution of £1,000,000 sterling towards a crop substitution and rural development project in one region of Pakistan. The United Kingdom endorsed the approach adopted by the Fund in drawing up programmes of aid to producer countries and in inviting donor countries to finance elements of those programmes.

Unfortunately, most of the Fund's programmes relating to crop substitution and rural development contained major defects. On the one hand, it was very difficult to replace valuable illicit drug crops in areas where the population found it difficult to make a living from the land and, on the other hand, such schemes were very expensive.

36. One of the strengths of the United Nations system of aid was that it provided a framework within which such aid could properly be co-ordinated both within the United Nations and between the United Nations and donor and receiving countries. At the same time, it was inevitable that Governments should wish to make bilateral arrangements. It was therefore important for them to liaise with their partners to ensure that they were not duplicating measures already planned or undertaken. Equally, there must be close and effective liaison between the various agencies of the United Nations system, ensuring full involvement in the planning and execution of UNFDAC programmes. His delegation welcomed the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs to co-ordinate United Nations organizational entities responsible for drug control. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs must be able to monitor those activities effectively and suggest priorities. The work undertaken in 1983 by the Division of Narcotic Drugs had demonstrated the value of a flexible programme of action.

37. His delegation believed that the draft international instrument under consideration by the Third Committee required detailed expert study by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. At its next session, the Commission would consider many of the points raised concerning the draft United Nations Declaration on the control of drug trafficking and drug abuse (A/C.3/39/L.31) and the draft Convention against traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities (A/C.3/39/L.30). The General Assembly should avoid prejudging the outcome of the Commission's discussion of that topic. For example, some thought might be given to the question whether it was more appropriate to modify existing instruments than to draft a new convention. His delegation noted that the draft Convention would establish a new fund to support developing countries affected by traffic in narcotic drugs. It believed that UNFDAC already performed that function and that it should not be weakened by the creation of a new fund which would be likely to draw off some of the resources from UNFDAC and possibly duplicate its activities. Moreover, article 2 of the draft Convention defined trafficking in narcotic drugs as "a serious international crime against humanity". For his delegation, the expression "crime against humanity" had specific connotations in international law, and it therefore had serious reservations about that definition. The Third Committee would do better to concentrate on the adoption of other practical measures to control drug trafficking rather than propose a sweeping definition which was unlikely to improve the situation and would give rise to prolonged and unproductive discussion. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the approach taken in operative paragraph 1 of the draft Declaration (A/C.3/39/L.31).



38. Mr. KASEMSRI (Thailand) said that the problem of narcotic drugs, which included abuse, trafficking and production, presented a real challenge to the world community and was a matter of major concern to the United Nations, particularly in view of the adverse affects of such substances on the well-being of peoples and on the social and economic development of all countries. It should be recognized that despite the vigorous efforts of all the Governments and organizations concerned, the demand for and supply of illicit drugs remained high and that international co-operation was of crucial importance. Therefore, his delegation believed that all Member States must apply the guidelines contained in General Assembly resolution 38/93. In that connection, his delegation appreciated the collective effort of a group of Latin American States - Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela - to stem drug trafficking and the illicit use of drugs.

39. In Thailand, drug-related problems had had serious socio-economic repercussions, which was one of the reasons why the Royal Thai Government had taken stringent measures to deter and eradicate drug abuse. Those measures were based on the guidelines and the programme of action for the third and fourth years of the basic five-year programme of action of the United Nations International Drug Control Strategy.

40. To deal with the problem of narcotic drugs, the Royal Thai Government had adopted a two-pronged policy, revolving around the reduction of supply and the constriction of demand. The first facet of that policy aimed at reducing the poppy cultivating areas and at taking strong suppressive measures. Poppy fields had been destroyed and, with the close co-operation of the United Nations, a crop substitution programme had been launched under the Highland Agricultural Marketing and Production Project. In addition, enormous quantities of illicit drugs had been seized, and a large number of offenders were prosecuted each year by the Thai authorities. The Office of the Narcotic Control Board of Thailand co-operated closely with the law enforcement agencies of many friendly countries, particularly the States members of ASEAN.

41. The second facet of the drug abuse control policy aimed at preventing drug abuse and reducing the number of drug dependents. With respect to prevention, two major programmes, one school-based, the other community-based, had been launched to disseminate information and provide advisory services for drug dependents. With respect to treatment, the competent Thai authorities were implementing the fifth plan of work for the treatment of drug dependents in close co-operation with private agencies at the national as well as international level. There were currently 73 State-run and 14 private treatment centres, in which 36,696 persons had been treated in 1983.

42. Recognizing that concerted efforts on the part of the international community were essential, the Royal Thai Government had made international co-operation one of its priorities in the fight to eradicate the drug problem. As an active member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Thailand participated constructively in its activities. In that connection, his delegation reaffirmed its full support for the Secretary-General's proposal that appropriate means should be found to develop regional and international co-operation, particularly through the establishment of

(Mr. Kasemsri, Thailand)

co-ordination mechanisms in various regions. It was also grateful to all the Governments, particularly Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States, for the assistance they had provided to Thailand in its efforts to eliminate the drug problem. In conclusion, his delegation assured all concerned that his country firmly intended to continue its efforts and looked forward with interest to the strengthening of international co-operation in that field.

43. Mr. MORAGA (Chile) said that drug trafficking was one of the major problems of the modern world. In many regions of the world, the drug traffic, fueled by the greed of some, the weakness of others, and the tolerance of many, was responsible not only for the enslavement and irreversible physical decay of those who fell victim to that mirage, but also represented an enormous waste of human resources for society. For its part, Chile was waging a successful campaign against the evil of drug abuse through legislative, penal, educational and medical measures and had acceded to the main international conventions on the subject.

44. Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas) said that drug trafficking threatened the stability and security of States, bred crime and strained the social and moral fibre of all countries. Faced with that critical situation, the international community must apply the type of policies and programmes suggested in General Assembly resolution 36/168 if that dangerous trend was to be reversed. Results could be achieved only through the concerted efforts of consumer, producer and transit countries.

45. The Bahamas, which was an archipelago of scattered islands, many of them uninhabited, and was situated strategically between the producer countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the vast market of North America, had involuntarily become a transit country for the traffic in drugs. Lacking financial resources and adequate means of surveillance, the Bahamas had difficulty in combating a problem of such magnitude, for which it was not, moreover, responsible. Bahamians did not produce narcotic drugs and were only very marginally involved in trafficking, which was controlled by foreign nationals. Local demand, once non-existent, had recently begun to increase, in relation to the volume of traffic and the pressures of traffickers, who sought to diversify their markets along their route. At the same time there was a danger that more and more Bahamians, particularly the young, might be tempted by the prospect of quick money and become involved in that lucrative trade. It should also be said that funds allocated to drug control programmes were funds taken away from economic and social development programmes. Finally, the increase in crime was detrimental to tourism, the main industry of the Bahamas.

46. The Bahamas endeavoured to comply with the provisions of the international drug control treaties, had concluded co-ordination agreements at the national level and maintained good working relations with its neighbours. The Bahamas was encouraged by the concerted initiatives of Latin American countries, particularly the Quito Declaration, which had resulted in substantive proposals.

47. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/194), he said that an interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies would facilitate an extremely useful exchange of information on the arrest and

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

extradition of traffickers and other problems which affected all regions and would pave the way for the adoption of effective counter-measures. The Bahamas welcomed the efforts of the Division of Narcotic Drugs to establish regional and subregional co-ordination mechanisms, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean region. United Nations activities to generate greater awareness of the special problems posed by the drug traffic for the transit countries had enabled those countries to adopt practical measures. United Nations assistance was also vital for the developing countries, which lacked the financial resources, expertise and equipment necessary to carry out effective law enforcement, crop substitution and rehabilitation policies. However, since the resources allocated to UNFDAC were not sufficient to combat so widespread a phenomenon, it was necessary to select only those projects which would have the greatest impact. In that connection the master plan approach of UNFDAC appeared particularly promising because it represented a comprehensive approach. The Bahamas would continue to support the Division of Narcotic Drugs, UNFDAC and INCB and urged Member States to do likewise.

48. Mr. GOKTURK (Turkey) said that, since the resumption of poppy cultivation in Turkey in 1974, the introduction of a new system had made it possible to establish a control mechanism which completely eliminated the possibility of obtaining raw opium. Poppies were grown in only seven provinces, under licence, and using the unlanded cultivation method. The harvest was purchased and processed by the State and was used solely for medical and scientific purposes. The control mechanism included three main phases: a thorough scrutiny of all licence applications, continuous inspection of cultivation areas and verification at harvest time that no capsules had been incised.

49. Because of its geographical location, Turkey was, however, confronted with the problem of the transit shipments of narcotics between the production centres and the consumption centres. The Turkish Government had taken wide-ranging measures in that regard: special narcotic control bureaus were set up in the 67 provinces of the country. An effective communication network had been established in various provinces with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Since that time, the trafficking route between the Middle East and Western Europe through Turkey was moving southward towards the eastern Mediterranean area.

50. Turkey participated in the drug control activities conducted by the international organizations, was a party to the main international conventions in that field and had concluded bilateral protocols with a number of countries. In spite of its economic difficulties, the financial resources which Turkey allocated to drug control measures were increasing annually, and for that reason it required appropriate assistance.

51. His delegation expressed the hope that the International Narcotics Control Board, in preparing its next report, would take account of the trends in the production of licit opiate raw materials in each of the countries concerned in order to establish a balance between the demand for and the supply of those materials for medical and scientific purposes. Turkey was a traditional producer which had considerably reduced its cultivation areas in recent years. The areas

(Mr. Gokturk, Turkey)

currently under cultivation represented a minimum beyond which the economic and social consequences would be intolerable for the farmers in that region. Governments must co-operate in order to ensure a lasting balance, instead of asking for unending sacrifices from any single country. New producers must also take account of the impact which their production had on the traditional producer countries when they set production limits.

52. Much remained to be done in order to control psychotropic substances. It was regrettable in that regard that all producer countries had not yet acceded to the 1971 Convention.

53. Another aspect of drug-related criminal activities had recently come to light, namely, the relationship between drug trafficking, arms trafficking and international terrorism. Terrorists increasingly depended on drug trafficking in order to satisfy their financial needs, and drug and arms traffickers used terrorists for marketing purposes. His delegation noted with satisfaction that that relationship was currently being considered in detail in various international bodies and that it had been referred to in particular in the recent Quito Declaration (A/39/407) and New York Declaration (A/C.3/39/8). That question had also been considered during the seventh ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe's Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group) and, recently, by the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. The emphasis placed on that question should not be interpreted as an attempt to politicize the concept of controlling drug abuse and drug trafficking.

54. Mr. KORHONEN (Finland), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that the global situation relating to narcotic drugs was far from encouraging since the production and the supply of illicit narcotic drugs were larger than ever before and since demand was also increasing.

55. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) pointed out that there were disturbing signs which seemed to indicate a certain slackening of the will to combat the problem. The Nordic countries were fully determined to counter any such trend and, moreover, had increased their co-operation to that end. At the meeting which they had held in Oslo, Norway, in February 1984, the ministers concerned from the Nordic countries had decided to carry out a special two-year programme aimed at reducing the supply of and demand for narcotic drugs.

56. It should be recalled that all the parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances were obliged to take effective measures to eliminate the traffic in and the abuse and illicit production of narcotic drugs. It should be recognized in that regard that the international drug control system set up under the 1961 Convention functioned in a generally satisfactory manner. The 1971 Convention had been ratified by only 76 countries, although it should be considered as a supplement to the Single Convention of 1961. For that reason, the Nordic countries urged all countries which had not yet done so to become parties to the 1971 Convention as soon as possible.

(Mr. Korhonen, Finland)

57. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had taken an important decision at its eighth session in February 1984 by placing 33 benzodiazepines under international control. Those synthetic substances were the object of illicit trafficking in the industrialized countries and excessive use in many developing countries. The Nordic countries also noted with satisfaction the decisions taken by the Commission on psychotropic substances.

58. Particular attention should be focused on the basic five-year programme of the International Drug Control Strategy proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1981, which the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat had been mandated to carry out. The Division, however, was having difficulty in performing its task because of insufficient resources. Steps should be taken, therefore, to provide it with the necessary funds.

59. The Nordic countries supported the work of the International Narcotics Control Board whose task was to ensure a balance between the production of and demand for narcotic drugs used licitly, monitor the implementation of the conventions and propose measures to combat in a more effective manner the production of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs; in order to carry out that task, it must be provided with greater financial resources. INCB had endeavoured in recent years to strengthen international control over the substances listed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

60. The Nordic countries were concerned at the increased production of heroin in South-East and South-West Asia, because the quantities of heroin seized in Europe alone according to INTERPOL had doubled between 1981 and 1983. Those countries were also alarmed at the signs of increasing cocaine cultivation in some countries of South America. The quantities of cocaine seized in Europe, in the Nordic countries, inter alia, and coming from the sub-Andean region had quadrupled during the same period.

61. For more than 10 years the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) had developed projects in various developing producer countries with a view to stopping or at least reducing the illicit production of narcotic drugs. The Nordic countries welcomed the development of the Fund's activities and invited States to support it with their contributions. In particular, they supported the Fund's planned action to combat the production of cocaine in some Latin American countries. That action, to which they accorded a high priority, should not, however, be waged at the expense of the Fund's activities in the opium-producing countries. Specialized agencies and programmes such as UNDP, FAO and WHO should participate in all major development projects of that kind.

62. The Nordic countries also stressed the growing role of INTERPOL and the Customs Co-operation Council and noted that many countries had strengthened their co-operation on a bilateral level and that customs agencies in countries all over the world were co-operating closely with each other and through the Council.

(Mr. Korhonen, Finland)

63. The Nordic countries hoped that the in-depth evaluation study of the international drug control programme requested by the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination would lead to better co-ordination of the activities of the various competent organs, which enjoyed the Nordic countries' full support and which should be given greater financial resources in order to carry out their work.

64. The Nordic countries welcomed the decision by the Secretary-General to establish at Headquarters a new co-ordinating function for United Nations work on drug control questions.

65. Some successes had been achieved in combating illicit drug cultivation and traffic. The Nordic countries welcomed the initiatives taken in 1984 by some Latin American countries in order to strengthen their joint work against illicit drug cultivation, production and trafficking and felt that the proposals submitted to the Committee by those countries should be carefully considered.

66. Mr. GUMUCIO GRANIER (Bolivia) said that it was the duty of all Governments to show solidarity in combating a scourge which threatened public order in the producer countries and the social fabric of the consumer countries. However, since demand originated mainly in the rich countries and since the vast profits derived from drug traffic were invested or "laundered" in the economic or financial institutions of the consumer countries, it was up to those countries to reduce consumption by all sectors of the population, including especially the social élite, which should set an example in the matter, and to supply the financial and technical resources necessary for international drug traffic control. Drug consumption entailed a multitude of social problems such as delinquency, economic waste and individual suffering. Drug production, processing and traffic, through corruption and terrorism, threatened State security, institutional stability and democracy in the countries concerned. All the links in the chain, therefore, had to be smashed simultaneously.

67. Bolivia was aware of its responsibilities and was prepared to take the necessary steps in order to eliminate illicit drug cultivation. Efforts to introduce substitute crops and to reduce surplus stocks were doomed to failure, however, unless they were accompanied by economic and social development programmes to enable the poor peasant families concerned to maintain or improve their standard of living and unless policies aimed at reducing demand in consumer countries were introduced at the same time. Accordingly, Bolivia, which was determined as it was to end drug production and trafficking, therefore hoped that it could count on the financial support of consumer countries. It was demand, after all, that gave rise to illicit production.

68. The objective was to reduce production to the level strictly necessary to meet traditional domestic consumption and the demand for narcotic drugs for medical purposes. But illicit production should not be eliminated by chemical means and herbicides, whose ability to destroy coca plants was doubtful but whose harmfulness to the environment was well established. His Government had ordered the armed forces to occupy areas where the coca plant was currently grown, and the police had

(Mr. Gumucio Granier, Bolivia)

recently seized enormous quantities of cocaine and of equipment used for processing and transporting it. Those operations, financed by Bolivia, would, however, prove inadequate if the anticipated external aid did not materialize.

69. In order to deal with the transnational character of the traffic, it was necessary to establish vigorous international co-operation at the level of each region, as Latin America (with the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances), Africa and Asia had already done and as the international meeting of heads of national narcotics law enforcement agencies to be held in 1986 within the framework of the United Nations was to do.

70. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control had, for more than 12 years, carried out rural development projects which, combined with measures to control illicit production had yielded good results. Bolivia had recently signed a memorandum of agreement with UNFDAC providing for activities to promote the cultivation of citrus and other fruit, tea and vegetables which would supplement the Bolivian Government's efforts and would enjoy the support of State technical organizations and farmers' co-operatives and organizations. His country invited Member States to increase their contributions to UNFDAC.

71. Some countries had shown willingness to finance assistance programmes designed to produce far-reaching social and economic changes, but such programmes had often been delayed or jeopardized by red tape and unrealistic demands.

72. Bolivia was holding consultations with countries of the region with a view to co-ordinating their activities and working out the details of the proposals set forth in the Quito and New York Declarations contained in documents A/39/407 and A/C.3/39/8, respectively. Those initiatives deserved the international community's support. The five countries of the Andean region, as well as Argentina, Brazil, the Bahamas and other countries, were in favour of strengthening international action against the drug traffic and advocated the adoption of draft resolutions A/C.3/39/L.30 and L.31.

73. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean wanted to contribute towards drug traffic control, but they could not accept responsibility for a crime of which they were in fact the victims. They did not ask for charity, but merely wanted the consumer countries to take a fair share of the burden of drug traffic control.

74. Mr. ZÁDOR (Hungary) said that the world drug problem had recently been compounded by new developments. Drug abuse had spread to countries previously unaffected, States that had never been affected by the problem now served as transit routes for smugglers, and more and more often attempts were being made to divert psychotropic substances from the channels of licit trade. The situation therefore required decisive countermeasures at the national level, through national legislation and other complementary mechanisms to outlaw the traffic in licit psychotropic substances, as well as through international co-operation at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

(Mr. Zádor, Hungary)

75. Although it had no serious problems in the field, his country considered it its duty as a traditional producer and exporter of drugs to assist countries with serious drug problems.

76. His country scrupulously implemented the provisions of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, to which it had acceded.

77. Hungary was glad that, after several years of sterile debate, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had been able, in 1984, to extend international control to a substantial number of psychotropic substances. That could be considered a major step in the fight against illicit traffic and drug abuse. It should, however, be added that most of the substances involved were medicaments and not illicitly produced drugs, and that all the national preventive measures provided for in the 1971 Convention would continue to exist only on paper unless appropriate pharmaceutical control services were devised in the countries concerned. His country called upon the organs of the United Nations and of WHO to give priority to helping the developing countries develop such services, which could have a beneficial effect not only in preventing drug abuse but also in improving the national drug supply systems of those countries.

78. His country noted with concern that, for budgetary reasons, the frequency of the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had been reduced to eight working days every other year. Its agenda was consequently greatly overloaded, it did not have the time to undertake a serious analysis of the problems before it and it increasingly ran the risk of having to make decisions based on superficial impressions. The cut in the duration of the Commission's sessions had taken place simultaneously with the proliferation of auxiliary bodies which, unlike the Commission, were not competent to make the necessary decisions. The result could only be an overlapping of functions and a waste of money and effort. It was regrettable that resources should be devoted to bodies that had no decision-making power, and that were often inaccessible to all interested Governments, when such resources could better be used to strengthen the Commission, the only genuinely representative United Nations body in that field.

79. His country wished to stress the importance of improving co-operation and co-ordination among the competent international organizations, primarily between the United Nations and WHO.

AGENDA ITEM 92: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/39/L.25)

AGENDA ITEM 93: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued) (A/C.3/39/L.19/Rev.1, L.20, L.27 and L.28)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/39/L.29)



- (b) PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/39/L.21)
- (c) VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/39/L.24)

AGENDA ITEM 94: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN  
(continued) (A/C.3/39/L.18 and L.26)

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.25

80. Mr. VILLAGRA DELGADO (Argentina), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.25, said that its main objectives were to give INSTRAW the appropriate legal framework by having the General Assembly endorse its Statute, to call attention to its programme of activities and, since the Institute had no other means of funding, to encourage voluntary contributions. The sponsors had simply sought to strengthen the activities of the Institute and hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote, as had the previous resolutions on the agenda item.

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.19/Rev.1

81. Mrs. KOLAROVA (Bulgaria), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.19/Rev.1, said that the prime objective of the United Nations Decade for Women was to achieve the emancipation of women and their full and equal integration in society, particularly in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. That could, however, only be brought about if the different functions of women, and particularly their role as mothers, were all recognized on an equal footing.

82. The draft resolution, by clearly reaffirming the different aspects of the role of women in society, should contribute, within the framework of international and national policies, to promoting recognition of the genuine equality of women. The sponsors of the draft, who had been receptive to all the views proposed to them, hoped that it would meet with general agreement.

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.20

83. Mrs. SAELZLER (German Democratic Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.20, announced that Mozambique and the Ukrainian SSR had joined the sponsors. In recent years, women had been increasingly engaged in the struggle for peace and against the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field. They knew from their own experience the evils brought about by war and aggression and they were becoming increasingly aware that only peace could be the basis for the development and happiness of mankind. Nevertheless, even after the adoption of the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation it was still not always safe for women to commit themselves openly to that cause. It had been such women that the sponsors had had in mind in their wording of paragraph 6. The sponsors hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.21

84. Miss EMARA (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.21 on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, said that, in the preamble to the draft resolution, the sponsors had recalled those resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council which had been adopted by consensus. She called attention to paragraph 6, the wording of which was new and which stressed the high quality of the documents and the need for them to be distributed at least six weeks before the opening of the Conference. The time fixed for the holding of the Conference was July 1985, and not August 1985 as indicated in paragraph 1. The Secretariat was requested to take note of that fact. The States members of the Group of 77 hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, as had the other resolutions relating to the Nairobi World Conference.

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.24

85. The CHAIRMAN said that consultations were still under way on the draft resolution in question and it would be introduced at a later stage.

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.27

86. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.27, said that the delegations of Burkina Faso, Cameroon and the Ivory Coast had joined its sponsors. The draft was in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 37/59, which requested the Secretary-General to hold an interregional seminar on national experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas. The seminar, which had in fact been held in Vienna, Austria, in September 1984 and had been attended by 15 experts and the representatives of 45 international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, had led to a useful exchange of national experience. The report containing the seminar's recommendations would be a background document at the Nairobi World Conference.

87. The comprehensive report on the question that the Secretary-General had been requested to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session had not been prepared, since the matter would be taken up as part of the comprehensive review and appraisal that was to be carried out by the Secretary-General for the 1985 World Conference.

88. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.27 hoped that it would be adopted without a vote, as the previous draft resolutions had been.

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.28

89. Mrs. MIGNOTT (Jamaica) said that she wished to announce that the delegations of Australia and the Phillipines had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.28.

90. She wished to remind the members of the Committee that in its previous resolutions the General Assembly had called for the establishment of senior women's programme officers posts at the regional commissions with a view to strengthening

(Mrs. Mignott, Jamaica)

activities and programmes for women in the regions. Furthermore, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women had been supporting the establishment of the posts in question since 1978, on the understanding that its support would serve to strengthen regional activities benefiting women. At its thirteenth session held in March 1983, the Consultative Committee on the Fund had expressed the view that Voluntary Fund support for the regional commissions should not continue beyond the period 1982-1983, and it had reiterated the position it had adopted at its eleventh session that posts and activities benefiting women should be part of the regional commissions' regular budget activities and programmes. At its fourteenth session in August 1984, the Consultative Committee had expressed the view that the matter should be referred to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. The Assembly had adopted resolution 38/106, in which it expressed its concern that the question of the senior officers posts was still unresolved and that lack of progress in that regard was seriously impeding work on the women's programmes in several regions.

91. At its most recent session (August 1984), the Consultative Committee on the Fund had heard reports from representatives of ECA, ECLAC and ESCAP on progress made in that regard. The intergovernmental governing bodies of those commissions had adopted a number of resolutions assigning high priority to the matter. However, it was difficult for the commissions to redeploy already scarce human and financial resources. The Consultative Committee had therefore urged the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps in the context of resolution 38/106 in order to achieve a lasting solution to the problem before the end of the United Nations Decade for Women.

92. In that connection, she wished to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the Secretary-General's report in document A/39/569/Add.1, particularly paragraph 4 on ESCAP, paragraph 6 on ECLAC, paragraph 10 dealing with ECA and paragraph 12 concerning ECWA.

93. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.28 had been of the view that it was incumbent on the Assembly to suggest other measures to solve the problem promptly so as not to interrupt women's programmes in the regions and in order to ensure stability for the activities in question after 1985. They believed that senior officers posts and women's activities should not be governed by temporary arrangements made by the Secretariat.

94. In view of the extensive support given to the issue at all levels, particularly support from the General Assembly in the past, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.28 hoped that it would be adopted by an extremely wide majority.

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.29

95. Ms. STEER (Australia) said that she wished to announce that the delegations of the Bahamas, Denmark, France, the Gambia, Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Portugal had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.29. The draft was motivated by several concerns, the first of which was that all United Nations organizations

(Ms. Steer, Australia)

should take prompt action to ensure that their programmes were responsive to women's needs. So far, too little had been done. Another purpose of the draft was to encourage the Commission on the Status of Women to consider ways in which account could be taken of women's needs in all the planning and programme activities of the organizations of the United Nations system. Since the Commission was the organ responsible for all women's issues, its mandate must be fully utilized in order to maintain and build upon the momentum of the Decade for Women and the 1985 World Conference. That was the purpose of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the draft.

96. One of the sponsors' principal concerns was that all relevant United Nations bodies, not only the Third Committee, should deal with issues relating to women; in particular, any complementary proposals that might be submitted in that connection to the Second Committee were of great importance. Paragraph 5 of the proposed text dealt with that concern.

97. Although the sponsors also wished to see more attention paid to categories that were too often overlooked, such as rural women in developing countries, they had not considered it appropriate to deal with particular aspects of development in the text they were putting forward. Since draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.29 could be of considerable benefit to women, they asked that it should be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.18

98. The CHAIRMAN said that he wished to draw attention to the fact that the statement of the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.18 was set forth in document A/C.3/39/L.26.

99. Mr. SALAND (Sweden) said that he wished to announce that the delegations of France, Hungary, Liberia, Nigeria and Viet Nam had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.18. He then elaborated on the contents of the individual operative paragraphs. With regard to paragraph 9, he wished to recall that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had so far been provided with summary records only on a provisional basis and that a decision by the General Assembly was required in order for it to have them on a permanent basis in all the official languages. The wording of paragraph 9 showed how much importance the sponsors attached to the provision of summary records, which would place the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on an equal footing with such bodies as the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The sponsors hoped that draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.18 would be adopted by consensus or at least that it would receive extremely wide support.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.