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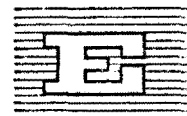
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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Fourth special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 794th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 17 February 1976, at 9.40 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. OJEDA PAULLADA

(Mexico)

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OPERATIONS FINANCED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL AND QUESTION OF POLICY DIRECTION OF THE FUND BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (Agenda item 3 (b)) (E/CN.7/582 and Corr.1 (French only) and Corr.2)

1. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) said that documents MNAR/9/1975 and NAR/THA/Eval.1/Add.1 were available to the Commission.
2. Mr. VAILLE (France) requested that the Commission should consider only those documents which had been issued in all working languages.
3. The CHAIRMAN took note of the French representative's request and invited the Commission to consider document E/CN.7/582.
4. Mr. de BEUS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control) recalled that, before his appointment, the duties of the Executive Director of the Fund had been performed by Mr. Mårtens, who had also been Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs. Those two functions together constituted a very heavy burden, and it had been decided to separate them, as originally intended. In fact, the dual responsibility was too encompassing for one person and, moreover, there was a fundamental difference between the task of the Fund and that of the Division. It would be remembered that the duties of the Executive Director of the Fund were the following: to develop the programme of activities after consultation with the Division and the specialized agencies concerned; to review proposals for projects emanating from Governments, United Nations agencies or other sources, and to decide which projects should be financed by the Fund; to request the United Nations or a specialized agency or agencies to execute the projects selected, the final decision on Fund support being taken by the Executive Director; to raise the resources required; to manage the resources of the Fund; and finally, to follow up and monitor projects throughout their implementation and to evaluate their performance. The executing agencies for their part, assumed responsibility for executing projects and submitting periodic reports on progress. Thus, the Fund evaluated, allocated and financed operations, but was not operative in the field.
5. The two sister organizations, the Fund and the Division, could operate effectively only on the basis of close and harmonious co-operation, and he was confident that there would be genuine co-operation between the Director of the Division and himself; moreover, the Fund must be able to draw on the assistance and expert knowledge of the Division, since the Secretary-General himself had taken the view that the staff of the Fund should not be expanded, but use made of the staff of the Division and vice versa.
6. Introducing the report on the operations financed by the Fund (E/CN.7/582), he said that an attempt had been made in drafting the document to present a summary and an analysis of operations in conformity with the wishes of the Commission; thus, chapter III and annex III, on programmes financed from the regular budgets of other United Nations bodies, had been added at its request. Chapter I was designed to be helpful to the Commission in evaluating the over-all programme; the summary and analysis were supplemented by information document MNAR/9/1975, which provided a progress report and a financial statement on each operation. In keeping with suggestions made at the twenty-sixth session, the reports were presented chronologically under three chapters, namely, completed, current and projected operations. That presentation should make it easier to follow the development of projects over time and to verify the results.

7. Referring, first of all, to the control programme which the Turkish Government was carrying out with the assistance of the Fund, he said that the 1975 crop of unblended capsules had been delivered in its entirety to the Turkish Government and sold by it to industry, and that it was gratifying that opium poppy cultivation had been resumed in Turkey under conditions which ensured that there had not been any leakage into illicit traffic; the entire 1975 crop had been reserved for the production of codeine and nothing had been diverted for clandestine processing into heroin. The Fund and Turkish Government were now considering the possibility of ensuring even stricter control over the 1976 harvest; such control might include, if the funds could be made available, an aerial inspection system which had proved effective elsewhere.

8. A programme of a different nature was being implemented in Thailand, and was aimed mainly at the substitution of opium production by other agricultural products or by cottage industries. The project, which depended on the voluntary co-operation of the farmers, had been very successful, since the production of opium in the pilot villages had been reduced voluntarily by at least 50 per cent. A team of outside experts had recently evaluated the results of that project. The report by the team (MNAR/THA/Eval.1 and Add.1) contained recommendations which were under discussion with the executing agents and the Government of Thailand, with a view to establishing conditions for the completion of pilot projects and the eventual application of their results to wider areas. It should be noted, in that regard, that a pilot project on income substitution could only demonstrate in a limited area the feasibility of replacement of narcotic crops; application of the results was a national responsibility, and international assistance, if needed, should come not only from the Fund, but from bilateral and multilateral sources. The programme for Thailand had been in operation for over three years, and it was estimated that an additional \$1.6 million would be needed to complete it in the next two years; the question which arose in that connexion was how long a pilot project ought to be financed before it was taken over by the Government for the application of its results on a wider scale: the Commission might perhaps offer some guidance in that regard.

9. In the enforcement field, impressive results had been achieved by the Afghan project, largely as a result of the programme which the Fund was carrying out in that country with the help of two highly qualified police officers. The Division's Central Training Unit had, since its inception, trained over 740 enforcement officers; that Unit would soon be the subject of an independent evaluation, and the views of Member Governments which had contributed to or benefited from it would be welcome. Finally, regional co-operation in drug enforcement had been strengthened in the Far East and Middle East through the meetings of the heads of national enforcement agencies.

10. The Fund was devoting increasing resources to projects for the reduction of demand. More than \$1 million had been spent or allotted in that field, where results were slow and less visible, but no less necessary. Mention might be made of the WHO projects in the epidemiology of drug abuse and the UNESCO projects in preventive education. WHO was developing a network of centres which should provide

comparable data of the nature and extent of drug abuse and the effectiveness of various treatment approaches. The Division of Narcotic Drugs was working on a complementary project to help Governments in their assessment and reporting of drug abuse. UNESCO was assisting several Governments to develop educational methods effective for drug abuse prevention. The specialized agencies concerned would be reporting in greater depth on those programmes which were receiving financial backing from the Fund.

11. In research, significant advances had been made in the studies on the chemical composition of khat and in the research projects on the production of codeine for medical purposes. Moreover, since the preparation of document E/CN.7/582, the Fund had begun to extend its operations to the coca-producing regions, as a result of agreements signed in December 1975 with Bolivia and Peru.

12. As for the other programmes, a narcotics liaison officer was now operating in South-east Asia and an enforcement project had been undertaken in the Sudan; consideration was being given to the appointment of a regional narcotics adviser for the African countries south of the Sahara. Finally, multi-disciplinary country programmes had been negotiated with Burma and Pakistan.

13. The financial resources and requirements of the Fund had been the subject of a letter sent to all Governments on 15 January 1976; he would therefore merely summarize the present situation. The funds at present available were adequate to finance the on-going programmes for 1975 and 1976, but not for any new programmes. New funds would therefore be required beyond 1976, largely because of the high cost of control projects in Turkey, the increased cost of programmes in Thailand and the new programmes in Pakistan, Burma, Bolivia and Peru. If resources were not increased, the number of projects would have to be reduced.

14. The staff of the Fund consisted of only six professionals, and it would continue to use the technical advice and administrative assistance available in the Division of Narcotic Drugs and other United Nations agencies. No expansion in staff was envisaged, except in the area of public information, where activities were inadequate. The public was not sufficiently aware of what the United Nations was accomplishing in drug abuse control, whereas it was well aware of the activities of UNICEF and the Red Cross, for instance, and was prepared to make cash available to them; UNFDAC should be in a similar situation. Action had already been taken to increase the flow of information: for instance, an audio-visual programme had been prepared on activities in Thailand, and a similar over-all programme was being prepared on United Nations activities in all sectors of drug abuse control; a symposium on drugs had been held in Brussels in December 1975; three revised or new brochures were being printed; and finally, as a result of donated advertisements in the international press, public interest had been aroused and contributions had begun to come in from the private sector.

15. However, the greater part of the financial resources of the Fund had been and would continue to be made up of voluntary contributions from Governments. Since 1975, 11 additional governments had demonstrated their support by making a first contribution. Moreover, since the Fund's last report, 25 contributors had made new pledges or contributions. Against that background, he wished to thank Governments for their past and future support. He would remain in communication with all Governments and would be visiting them to request their continued support, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3446 (XXX). In that task, the support of the Commission would be crucial.
16. In conclusion, he recalled that the fundamental objective of the United Nations in drug abuse control was to alleviate widespread suffering, and he read out a letter addressed to him by the mother of a young drug addict, who wished to contribute to the Fund insofar as her modest means allowed.
17. Mr. LING (Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs) thanked the Executive Director of the Fund for his co-operation and drew the Commission's attention to the presentation by sectors in document E/CN.7/582, as well as to the specific details furnished in MNAR/9/1975. Since he had only recently taken up his duties at the head of the Division he felt it would be better for Mr. Micuta, the Deputy Director, to make a few comments on behalf of the Division.
18. Mr. MICUTA (Deputy Director of the Division in Charge of Operations) recalled that, in 1971/1972, serious thought had been given to the selection and formulation of projects and programmes which would be the most effective in the struggle against drug abuse and the most appropriate for action by the United Nations. Several such projects had been accepted by the Commission, approved by the Fund, and had become operational; they represented the broad lines of United Nations strategy in the sphere under consideration. They included multi-sectoral country programmes aimed at the elimination of illicit production and consumption of drugs, the strengthening of law enforcement personnel and the conduct of research.
19. In 1975, the Division had continued to apply that strategy, which had been approved by the Commission.
20. The major portion of the projects financed by UNFEDAC were executed by the Division and the joint efforts of those two bodies continued to produce tangible results. Preparatory activities for a new project had been undertaken in Laos, and the Division had held negotiations with the Burmese Government with a view to carrying out a multi-disciplinary programme in that country. In combination with the programme in Thailand and the preparatory activities in Laos, that project would ensure the presence of the United Nations in all three countries of the "Golden Triangle", which was one of the most important sources of illicit opium in the world.
21. The multi-disciplinary programme for drug abuse control in Pakistan had been prepared in co-operation with the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board, and was now awaiting Government approval. In the meantime, preparatory activities had been undertaken by the Pakistan authorities and the United Nations, auguring well for the success of the programme.

22. Two other country programmes (for Bolivia and Peru) had been signed in late 1975 and were on the point of becoming operational.
23. These new activities had not prevented the Division from carrying on the programmes previously approved.
24. The Central Training Unit had held seven courses in 1975, involving nearly 300 trainees. Four of those courses had been organized in the field. The work of the Unit was a valuable part of the United Nations strategy and at the same time provided an opportunity for the strengthening of contacts among law enforcement officials throughout the world. The first results of the questionnaire distributed to 400 former trainees indicated that the Training Unit had succeeded in reaching a large number of law enforcement officers through the training of instructors.
25. The UNFDAC-financed research on biological control of narcotic plants was nearing completion and Dr. Pschorn-Walcher, Director of the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control, to which the research had been entrusted, would, he was sure, be willing to answer any questions the Commission might have in that respect.
26. The assistance given to Turkey had resulted in the effective suppression of illicit traffic in opium from that country. The experience gained in Turkey had confirmed that administrative controls of the illicit production of opium could be effective if combined with economic and social measures considered acceptable by the producers.
27. The law enforcement project in Afghanistan had progressed very well during the past year. Seizures of illicit opium and other drugs had increased dramatically since the creation, with United Nations assistance, of the Afghan Narcotics Squad, and the Government had requested the United Nations to extend the project. The time was now ripe to balance the law enforcement project by others in the spheres of crop substitution and treatment and rehabilitation.
28. The crop substitution project implemented by FAO in Lebanon had also given good results and the representative of FAO would address the Commission on that subject. The results demonstrated the great potential of crop substitution projects in the over-all drug abuse control strategy.
29. The concept of United Nations multi-sectoral country programmes for drug abuse control was relatively new and had been introduced for the first time in 1972 in Thailand. Similar programmes were now being prepared in Burma, Laos and Pakistan, and it was therefore very important to analyse the results achieved in Thailand to see what lessons could be drawn from them for future activities. In response to a suggestion by the Commission, an independent Evaluation Mission had been sent to Thailand in October 1975 for that purpose. The Mission, which had been very carefully prepared, had been led by an eminent expert, Mr. Norman Rolph, who had almost thirty years' experience in South-east Asia. He had been assisted by an outstanding Danish agronomist, Mr. Aage Sorensen, who had already worked in Thailand for five years. Their report was

available to the Commission as document NAR/THA/Eval.1. At the same time, Mr. David Archibald, a Canadian expert in public health administration, had examined the treatment and rehabilitation aspects of the programme on behalf of WHO. His report was contained in document NAR/THA/Eval.1/Add.1. Mr. Rolph and Mr. Archibald would be happy to answer any questions the Commission might like to raise.

30. The unanimous conclusion of the Mission had been that the crop substitution element of the programme in Thailand had made remarkable progress considering the enormous difficulties encountered; there was reason to hope that, if the pilot project could be sufficiently propagated at the end of its five-year span, illicit opium cultivation in Thailand would be eradicated in the long term.

31. He quoted passages from the Evaluation Report praising the programme personnel and said that the Division of Narcotic Drugs at Geneva endorsed those comments and wished to congratulate the Royal Thai Government on the success it had achieved in co-operation with the United Nations workers, who had been so ably led by Mr. Williams and Mr. Mann, both of whom were available to answer questions from the Commission.

32. The pilot project, which had been funded for five years, had been functioning extremely satisfactorily for three years. It must be expanded during the remaining two years. The programme had been carried out in particularly difficult circumstances, the task being to introduce new crops in inaccessible areas where climatic and other conditions were unknown and where there had never been any tradition of settled agriculture. Nevertheless, the programme personnel, who had had limited material resources, had been successful in introducing new crops and in eradicating opium poppy cultivation in limited areas. Over the last four years, costs had risen substantially and another \$1.6 million would be required for the remaining two years if success was to be assured. Those funds had been included in the projections for 1976/77 and he hoped that the Fund's resources would permit completion as planned. The Evaluation Report had received the undivided attention of the Thai authorities and had helped them to establish new policy guidelines which had been incorporated in a supplementary memorandum of understanding soon to be signed by the Thai delegation to the Commission and the United Nations.

33. The Thai Government intended to make extensive use in the hill-tribe area of the experience thus acquired and was willing to incur substantial expenditure to that end.

34. In the remaining two years, the concept of "key villages" would be replaced by that of "pilot zones", delineated on a geophysical basis. The aim would be the total eradication of opium poppy cultivation in those zones through a combination of crop substitution and law enforcement.

35. At the last session, the Division had appealed to members of the Commission to increase their contributions in kind to existing projects. Several Governments had responded to that appeal, including the United Kingdom Government, which had seconded a marketing expert to the programme in Thailand, the United States Government, which had provided the experimental station in northern Thailand with water and air transport facilities, the Australian Government, which had made available the services of an agronomist, and the Governments of New Zealand, Israel and Poland, which had offered various types of equipment. He hoped that that type of assistance would increase.

36. Governments had also been requested to consider better co-ordination of their bilateral assistance with the Division's drug abuse control activities. The Division had had in mind in that respect projects which would complement its own efforts, such as the construction of food processing plants, hydrological works, land improvement, afforestation, and the building of roads, schools and dispensaries. He was happy to report that the construction, with bilateral assistance, of a canning plant at Chiang Mai in northern Thailand, had solved the marketing problems in respect of one substitute crop, namely, kidney beans. The entire harvest for the current year had been purchased at a good price and assurances had been received concerning purchases in future years.

37. It was also gratifying to note that a number of international organizations were willing to support United Nations efforts. In particular, the co-operation of UNDP's resident representatives was of the greatest importance for the work of the Division, which was sincerely grateful for their assistance. In addition, the World Food Programme (WFP) had recently decided to join forces with the United Nations: a WFP appraisal mission was currently in Pakistan to study possible food assistance, road building, land improvement, irrigation and afforestation in the Buner area, where the Pakistan Government intended to carry out its pilot crop replacement project with United Nations assistance. UNICEF was providing aid for schools constructed under the crop replacement project in Thailand and for the pupils attending those schools. The recent World Bank rural development mission to Afghanistan had included the Division's Senior Consultant, Mr. Greenshields, who was responsible for the agricultural part of the Division's work and had previously studied the possibility of a crop substitution project in that country: that was a very promising development.

38. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Executive Director of the Fund had explained the distribution of functions between the Fund and the Division, which was designed to increase the efficiency of those two closely related, yet separate, bodies. It would enable UNFDAC to devote itself more to fund raising and administration, while the United Nations executing agencies and the Division of Narcotic Drugs would concentrate more on project execution.

39. On behalf of the Division, he welcomed the new Executive Director of the Fund and the new Director of the Division, and assured them of the wholehearted support of the Division's Operations unit. The staff, who were highly motivated and imbued with team spirit, were ready to fulfil any new tasks that the Commission and the international community might wish to entrust to them.



40. Mr. VAILLE (France) said that the officers of the Fund had made a brave start along the path the Commission had suggested to them; their efforts deserved every encouragement. Having set itself general targets in respect of the control of illicit supply, abusive demand and illicit traffic, the Fund should now strive to attain more limited goals; as those goals were attained, one by one, it could be hoped that progress would be made towards the general objectives. The reason why the Fund's goals should remain limited and specific was to avoid dissipation of its efforts and meagre financial resources. The goals should be the subject of tests, rationalization surveys, budgetary choices and cost-benefit analysis. With regard to the major projects in progress, attention should be concentrated on those in Thailand, Lebanon and Turkey.

41. Mr. Nepote's article in the latest Bulletin on Narcotics on the difficult problem of finding substitutes for opium poppy cultivation was the best possible comment which could be made on that subject.

42. Suppression of the cultivation of cannabis in Lebanon remained a project of the greatest importance, since abuse of the drug was becoming increasingly common throughout the world.

43. He noted with satisfaction the success of the efforts made by Turkey, with the support of the Fund, to counter illicit traffic in opium obtained from poppy cultivation. While he recognized the importance of the campaign against the opium suppliers, he stressed the need for action in the sphere of demand, in the form of drug abuse prevention, treatment of addicts and scientific research, and in the sphere of illicit traffic, through the training of law enforcement agents and regional co-ordination.

44. He had a number of reservations concerning the means by which the Director of the Fund proposed to give wider publicity to its activities; the recruitment of new information officers might create a dangerous precedent, whereas it would be sufficient to co-ordinate the resources which could be provided in that respect by bodies such as UNESCO and WHO, and the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

45. He reserved his right to speak during the consideration of those chapters of the two reference documents (E/CN.7/582 and MNAR/9/1975) pertaining to agenda item 3 (b).

46. Mr. CHITR POSAYANONDA (Thailand) said that good progress was being made in his country through the United Nations/Thai Programme for Drug Abuse Control. Thailand attached great importance to that Programme on which further details were given in the bi-annual reports devoted to it. The results obtained after three years of work had helped the Thai Government to establish an over-all policy for the whole of the mountainous areas of northern Thailand. The Programme had become a focal point for the concentration of all the knowledge and experience available in Thailand and in the world at large. He then gave some details of the additional financial contributions his Government would make available in the current financial year.

47. An additional direct contribution of 29,140,400 baht would be made to the Department of Public Welfare to enable it to implement immediately the new zonal policy under which action would be taken throughout northern Thailand to eradicate illicit poppy cultivation.
48. An additional direct contribution of 2.8 million baht would be made to implement the on-going crop replacement and community development project. A sum of 5.8 million baht was envisaged for the next financial year.
49. The financial provision made for the reforestation of areas that were being taken out of opium poppy cultivation amounted to 25,789,300 baht.
50. The sum of 9,784,900 baht would be devoted to research on appropriate agricultural development for the northern highlands.
51. An amount of 2,942,200 baht would be allocated to a watershed research project with a view to reducing the area of poppy cultivation through crop replacement.
52. Lastly, a loan of 1,337,200 baht would be made to set up a Hill People Research Centre to gather the necessary information for development and welfare activities.
53. In all, the resources earmarked to cope with the problem during the current year amounted to roughly \$3.5 million.
54. In view of the extremely satisfactory results obtained so far, his Government intended to co-operate more intensively with the United Nations in all sectors of drug abuse control, and hoped that the international community was prepared to do the same.
55. Mr. ARIM (Turkey) said that Turkey attached great importance to the activities of the Fund, which it regarded as a valuable means of strengthening the action taken by international organizations to combat drug abuse. Since 1970, his Government had been stressing the far-reaching financial implications of the measures taken in that respect, the need to adopt new methods and to undertake new lines of research. The data contained in document E/CN.7/582 indicated that UNFDAC was fulfilling the hopes placed in it by the international community. The extension of its operations in 1975 and the 57 per cent increase in allocations to projects were particularly gratifying developments. The report had also revealed the Fund's role as a catalyst in all fields with which the Division of Narcotic Drugs was concerned, and its importance in assisting other United Nations bodies to realize the gravity of the drug problem and to participate, in their own spheres of competence, in programmes for drug abuse control. All countries were required to contribute to the common effort in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the appeals made by the Secretary-General. The Turkish Government, for its part, had again contributed an amount of \$5,000 to the Fund.
56. Referring to the fruitful co-operation that had been established between Turkey and UNFDAC, he recalled that, when the Turkish Government had decided to authorize the cultivation of the unincised opium poppy, a number of United Nations missions had helped to work out the arrangements for enforcing that new method of cultivation, which eliminated all possibilities of diversion into illicit traffic. UNFDAC had assisted the

Turkish Government in exercising effective control over opium poppy cultivation, and it was thanks to the aid it had provided in the form of communications and transport equipment and special training courses that an efficient system of control had been introduced. Another of the Government's objectives was to guarantee growers a reasonable income in order to compensate them for any losses they might suffer from the replacement of the traditional opium poppy by poppy straw. The Government was also endeavouring to increase the morphine yield per unit of cultivated area through the use of better quality seeds. Lastly, it had decided to build an alkaloids factory with the aid of the Fund, which would furnish the necessary technical know-how.

57. Mr. EL HAKIM (Egypt) said that Turkish production was of great importance to a number of regions, and particularly for Egypt, and therefore wholeheartedly supported the efforts made by the Turkish Government to institute a method of cultivation that would stop the diversion of opium for illicit purposes. He commended the United Nations advisory services for drug control, whose activities had been extended for the first time to Lebanon and the Sudan in 1975. However, a more thorough study should be made of requirements in the Middle East which, being both a transit zone and a producing and consuming area, was a source of considerable problems.

58. Much remained to be done to ensure the success of the crop replacement project in Lebanon. Its objectives had not been attained, for in 1975 8.5 tons of opium had been seized in Lebanon and 10 tons in Egypt.

59. With regard to UNFEDAC's information activities, he was glad to note that an increasing number of documents were being translated into Arab, but more subjects of concern to the Arab countries should be dealt with in the Information Letter.

60. He awaited with interest the results of the research undertaken by the United Nations Laboratory on Papaver somniferum and Papaver bracteatum. The Laboratory was to be congratulated on the excellent work it had already done on khat, the dangers of which both he and the French representative, had already pointed out at previous sessions.

61. He concluded by saying that efforts should be made to obtain more active support from United Nations agencies directly concerned with the drug problem, particularly UNICEF and the ILO.

62. Egypt was not yet in a position to contribute to the Fund, but it intended to do so as soon as it could. There was a danger that, as a result of events in Lebanon the opium stocks built up there might find their way on to Middle Eastern markets in the next few weeks.

63. Mr. EL HADEKA (International Arab Narcotics Bureau) said that the Bureau took a special interest in the Green Plan launched in 1966 to replace cannabis cultivation in the Lebanon by sunflower crops. Hashish was still the most popular drug among addicts in the Middle East, and Lebanon was one of their principal sources of supply. It was regrettable that recent events should have impeded the smooth implementation of that Plan and that no information was available on its progress. In view of the situation, the Arab countries had been invited by the General Assembly of the Pan Arab Social Defence Organization to help Lebanon tackle the difficulties which were impeding the execution of the Plan. He requested the Chairman to allow Mr. Simpkins, an agronomist, and Mr. Prigent, the Regional Adviser, to take the floor during the present session to report on the results achieved and to describe the present situation. It was necessary to know whether the methods adopted so far had proved adequate. The Arab countries were concerned about the extension of the area under cannabis and, as a result, the possibility that the price of cannabis would become low enough to make it accessible to the majority of drug addicts. Before assistance was provided to the Lebanese Government, it was necessary to be sure that the Green Plan was effective and was making progress. Under the Technical Assistance Agreement which the Lebanese Government had signed with the Special Fund in 1973, measures to stamp out cannabis cultivation should accompany the implementation of the Plan, and each year the Government should specify the cultivable area, gradually increasing the area under replacement crops until the cultivation of Indian hemp had been completely eradicated under an over-all programme of nearly \$20 million for the development of the Bekaa.

64. The Lebanese authorities should ensure that the laws on the reduction of the area under cannabis were strictly complied with, not in a few villages only but throughout the territory of the Bekaa, and take severe measures to put an end to illicit traffic to other countries. That was the only way to get to the root of the problem. Otherwise, there was a danger of increased smuggling of a particularly dangerous kind, inasmuch as the liquid hashish now available was, according to the International Narcotics Control Board, 50 times stronger than the usual type of hashish. In view of the ease with which that new product could be circulated, the number of victims might well rise considerably. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs would render a great service to mankind by contributing to a solution of the problem.

65. Dr. SCHRODER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, although no one doubted the importance of UNFDAC's aims, the Fund was beset by difficulties because its financial resources did not always correspond to the magnitude of the tasks it was expected to undertake. Despite the existence of the Fund, the quantity of drugs seized in the past few years had increased in all parts of the world, the number of drug addicts had not declined, and replacement crops were not as financially rewarding for farmers as opium. Moreover, the economic difficulties experienced by many of the industrialized countries as a result of the recession did not encourage them to increase their contributions to the Fund. He was therefore unable to share the optimism of the authors of the document E/CN.7/562 as regards the operations financed by the Fund. Even if the delivery rate was only 60 per cent, as indicated in paragraph 52 of the report, the Fund would be bound to get into financial difficulties if it budgeted for expenditure of \$10 million. To

remedy that situation, his Government believed that the number of projects should be increased only when absolutely necessary, that large-scale projects should not be started until all the necessary financing had been obtained, and that, in accordance with the recommendation made in paragraph 18 of annex I to document E/CN.7/584, operations should start on a limited level and expand as and when programmes developed. Lastly, the role of the Commission in determining the policy of UNFEDAC should be defined more clearly. In his opinion, the Commission, in its capacity as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, was competent to deal with all questions relating to drug abuse and, therefore, to lay down guidelines for the administration of the Fund. In order to perform that task, the Commission should have a clear picture of the planning and implementation of all projects. It should, for example, have information on the Thai project, the level of payments made to Turkey and the estimated cost of the planned programmes in Burma and Pakistan. Document E/CN.7/582 failed to give sufficiently precise information on any of those points.

66. Lastly, the Fund's report should be as concise as possible, with emphasis laid on statistical material and not on general observations. It would be interesting, for example, to know the area of crop replacement, the number of treatment and rehabilitation centres, the quantity of narcotic drugs seized by police and Customs drug units, whether or not they received Fund assistance, and the proceeds from the sale of the seized drugs. In view of his country's current financial difficulties, it required a full analysis of the Fund's activities if it was to make further contributions.

67. In concluding, he said that the Fund's activities would be jeopardized in the long run if it continued to depend on voluntary contributions alone, and that other methods of financing should be sought. Certain projects and programmes might be financed from the United Nations budget, for instance.

68. Mr. CASTRO Y CASTRO (Mexico) welcomed the increase in the number of projects aimed at reducing the demand for drugs.

69. In the classification by sectors of UNFEDAC-funded operations, reduction of demand was analysed from the standpoint of prevention (education and information) (code 50) and treatment and social rehabilitation (code 60). His delegation considered that illicit supply should also be analysed from the standpoint of sociology and etiology, the means of financing illicit demand and the supply created by that demand. The concentration of efforts solely on preventive activities such as education and information, treatment and rehabilitation would not lead to a frontal attack against the problem of demand.

70. While recognizing the need for international co-operation with a view to reducing illicit cultivation, production and traffic, his delegation believed that the resources and efforts directed towards drug abuse control must primarily be the responsibility of national Governments. Such was the case of Mexico, where the assistance provided by UNFEDAC was purely symbolic. It was true that Mexico had received some aid through bilateral sources, but the resources allocated to drug control were largely national resources. His Government's expenditure in that field was only slightly lower than the total outlay envisaged in 1976 for all UNFEDAC-funded operations (\$10 million).

71. Mrs. MAS TORNER (Chile) welcomed the excellent report submitted by the Executive Director of the Fund (E/CN.7/582). She said that Chile intended to make a contribution to UNFDAC in 1976; the actual figure, which would necessarily be modest - since the economic situation in Chile did not allow the Government to be as generous as it would wish - was receiving consideration.
72. Mr. CARCES-GIRALDO (Colombia) expressed satisfaction at the work accomplished by the Executive Director of the Fund and his colleagues, despite the limited budgetary resources available to them. He hoped that his country, which had not yet contributed to the Fund, would in the near future respond to the appeal made by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 3446 (XXX).
73. Colombia attached great importance to the appointment of Regional Drug Control Advisers, and particularly of an Adviser for Central and South America. That innovation would strengthen the efforts being made by Governments to combat illicit traffic and would facilitate international co-operation and co-ordination among the authorities of neighbouring countries. Indeed, the various aspects of drug abuse control must be studied not only at the national level, but also at the regional level, at least in the case of a country like Colombia which, because of its geographical situation, was a crossroads for the international traffic in drugs. It was true that an agreement had already been concluded with neighbouring countries and joint campaigns had been launched in the region, but the appointment of a Regional Adviser could strengthen that co-ordination and extend it considerably. It was to be hoped that the appointment would arouse interest in the countries of the region and encourage them to make contributions to the Fund.
74. Mr. SHEEN (Australia) felt that co-operation between the various United Nations agencies had been the factor most responsible for the unprecedented expansion of UNFDAC activities in 1975.
75. In his preliminary statement, Mr. de Beus had given a timely reminder of the responsibilities of the Executive Director of the Fund as specified by the Director General.
76. He was gratified that the Executive Director of the Fund had emphasized the need for the evaluation of projects, both progressively and on their completion.
77. His delegation was confident that the Commission and the Fund would work in perfect harmony, and that the technical expertise of the Division would be used to advantage in the projects adopted by the Fund.
78. The Executive Director had been right to raise with the Commission the question of when a pilot project should be terminated, in other words, the point at which the national Government should take over responsibility for implementing the project in its entirety. Socio-economic implications made the question a complex one, but the Commission should, nevertheless, endeavour to establish guidelines to assist the Executive Director. It might, perhaps, be necessary for Governments to present their views for consideration at the next session of the Commission.
79. His delegation also felt that greater importance should be paid to the task of reducing demand (rehabilitation, treatment, education and drug abuse prevention generally), mainly by co-ordinated research. The Executive Director's appeal for financial assistance from Governments during the difficult period ahead was receiving consideration from his Government.

80. His delegation noted with satisfaction that administrative costs had gradually declined in relation to total expenditure.
81. Finally, his delegation considered the evaluation report (NAR/THA/Eval.1 and Add.1) on part of the programme for Thailand by a group of independent experts to be extremely useful, and felt that the practice should be continued. It would be appropriate for the Commission to re-emphasize the importance it attached to an independent evaluation of Fund-supported Projects, in order to ensure sound programme administration and financial management, and also to support the Executive Director's efforts in that direction.
82. Dr. HUGHES (World Health Organization) said that WHO was pleased to participate, with the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and other United Nations agencies, in the important work taking place in Thailand in association with the Thai Government. Any country that wished to tackle the problem of drug abuse needed to draw up and implement comprehensive policies and programmes which emphasized not only the supply of drugs, but also demand, as well as the interrelationship between those two factors.
83. The demand side called for policies and programmes for treatment, rehabilitation, education and training, and it was extremely important to take measures to evaluate the results of the programmes carried out.
84. The whole programme, once developed, must be anchored firmly to the activities of the appropriate Ministry, by means of arrangements likely to ensure co-ordination of planning and development.
85. In that context, further progress towards a common goal could now be made, and that progress would be important not only for Thailand but also for the Far Eastern region and the international community as a whole.
86. To be sure, progress in the treatment and rehabilitation sector had not been as rapid as one might have wished, but useful experience which opened up new possibilities had nevertheless been gained.
87. There were several encouraging developments in that regard: the representative of Thailand had announced the designation of the Department of Public Welfare as the Ministry primarily responsible for community development in the mountainous regions of northern Thailand where most of the opium poppy crop was grown; a number of treatment and rehabilitation services (both inpatient and outpatient) were now operating both in Bangkok and Chiang Mai; and the Health Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University had designated drug dependence as one of the major national priorities. The Institute comprised a well-trained multi-disciplinary team which had been working for a number of years with WHO in developing practical programmes in other fields of public health.
88. Those and other developments suggested that a revised or reformulated work plan for treatment and rehabilitation for Thailand should be developed as early as possible. The main requirement would be to plan programmes as pilot demonstration projects and to compare the cost/effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation methods with a view to incorporating those that proved effective into the health and social welfare structures of the country.

89. In the Northern Highlands, it seemed evident that the hill tribe people used opium to alleviate their psychic and physical suffering. It was the only method of treatment available in that region. It was therefore important to find alternatives and to conduct a pilot project in order to provide a basic health service by training people from the villages in basic health care; subsequently steps should be taken to determine the impact such a programme would have on the use of opium and to study opium dependence among that population. A pilot programme of that kind could have very important implications not only for Thailand but for neighbouring countries as well.

90. In the plains (Bangkok and the surrounding regions), the problem was completely different and related mainly to the use of heroin. What was needed was a better definition of the nature and extent of the problem as well as an evaluation and assessment of existing treatment and rehabilitation services with the objective of developing effective low-cost systems for wide-scale application both in Thailand and other countries of the Far East.

91. WHO, in association with other United Nations agencies, would be pleased to work closely with the Government of Thailand and the Health Research Institute in planning and developing programmes of that kind.

92. Mr. GREENSHIELDS (Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations) said that the three-year project carried out by FAO in Lebanon was designed as the first stage of a longer range programme aimed at eliminating the cultivation of hashish and in general of improving rural living conditions in the Bekaa Valley. Its purpose was to introduce several substitute crops combined with the judicious use of enforcement. Planning had begun in 1972, but operations had started only in 1974.

93. The true situation as regards cannabis cultivation for hashish production was certainly not what one had been led to believe when the negotiations had begun on the project. That state of affairs had had a bearing on what it had been possible to achieve and might also affect the policy to be pursued in the future.

94. The investigations carried out by FAO showed that 90 per cent of the cannabis crop in Lebanon was produced within 20 kilometres of Baalbek; 75 per cent of the crop was grown on irrigated land. The yields varied considerably.

95. FAO had soon established that there were many crops which could be substituted for hashish and provide the farmers with incomes comparable or even higher than they obtained from hashish; however, the returns from those crops could not, of course, compete with the prices which traffickers obtained from the sale of the processed hashish. The advantage of the Bekaa Valley was that it was possible to obtain two annual substitute crops on irrigated land, instead of one hashish crop.

96. The eradication of hashish production had been planned on a village-by-village basis. Technical assistance was provided in connexion with the new crops and for the improvement of water resources.

97. He believed that the Egyptian representative's criticism concerning the plans for Lebanon related to the "Green Plan" which had been launched by the Lebanese Government in 1967 and attached great importance to the growing of sunflowers.



98. In 1975, 10 per cent of the cannabis crop had been destroyed and replaced by other crops. The total production of hashish had been 150 tons, half the previous crop.

99. The CHAIRMAN asked the FAO representative whether he would be willing, in view of the late hour, to continue his statement at the afternoon meeting.

100. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.