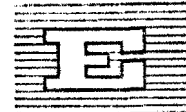


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Fourth special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 803RD MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Monday, 23 February 1976, at 2.50 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. OJEDA PAULLADA

(Mexico)

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## ILLICIT TRAFFIC AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION (Agenda item 6):

## (a) REVIEW OF THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC (E/CN.7/581, Parts One and Two) (continued)

1. Mr. EL HADEKA (Observer for the International Arab Narcotics Bureau of the League of Arab States), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that cannabis (hashish) remained the most widespread narcotic drug in the Arab countries as, indeed, in the world at large. The unfortunate events that had occurred during 1975 in Lebanon, the main source of hashish for the illicit Arab markets, had had a very considerable effect on smuggling activities, with a resultant fall in the price of hashish in Lebanon and rise in transit and consuming countries. Despite the difficult conditions facing the Lebanese enforcement authorities, they had seized 7.5 tons of hashish during the first 8 months of 1975 compared with 1,101 kg in the first nine months of 1974. The quantities seized in Syria during the first nine months of 1975 were very similar to those for the same period of 1974. In Egypt, 7,334 kg had been seized during the same period in 1975, as against 12,774 kg for the corresponding period of 1974. There had also been a decline in the quantity of illicitly planted cannabis discovered in Egypt. Despite the significant amounts seized in Egypt in 1975, including 142 kg of opium, there had been a very definite decline compared with the seizures in 1974, which had amounted to a record 23 tons of hashish and 2 tons of opium.
2. The production of hashish in the southern areas of the Sudan was beginning to increase, and the drug was penetrating into the northern areas of the country and being smuggled across the Sudanese frontier into Egypt. During the first nine months of 1975, the Sudanese authorities had succeeded in intercepting one ton of hashish. In Morocco, hashish production was on the increase. As the Moroccan authorities had reported to the United Nations, 266.724 tons of hashish had been seized in 1974. The quantity involved gave an idea of the scale of infiltration from Morocco into the neighbouring Arab countries on the Mediterranean coast. In 1974, the Algerian authorities had succeeded in intercepting 3 tons of such hashish, which was also smuggled to Europe and America. Hashish of Iranian, Afghan, Pakistani and Indian origin seized in the Gulf States had amounted to 85 kg in 1975 as against 32 kg for the same period in 1974.
3. The appearance of hashish oil on the illicit markets in Arab countries had brought home to the inter-Arab enforcement authorities the need to pay more attention to the substance. The Bureau had thus arranged for the translation into Arabic and circulation of ICPO/Interpol publications on the properties of and methods of manufacturing and smuggling liquid hashish. As had already been reported, some 126.5 kg of that substance had been seized in 1974 in Lebanon, 2.5 kg in Egypt and 57 kg in Syria. In the first nine months of 1975, 35.5 kg had been seized in Lebanon and about 32.5 kg in Syria. At its 54th ordinary session in December 1975, the Bureau had examined the question of liquid hashish and had recommended that its member countries alert their enforcement services to the importance of the problem, give priority in scientific research to determination of the harmful effects of its consumption and launch publicity and educational campaigns against the substance.

4. In the Arab world, the second most important narcotic drug after hashish was opium. The seizures effected in 1975 appeared to indicate a significant decrease in the amount of opium circulating in the illicit markets. That fact had relieved the anxiety felt by the Arab countries at the decision by the Turkish Government to permit the resumption of opium poppy cultivation in 7 provinces. Despite considerable efforts made by enforcement authorities during the first 9 months of 1975, only 12.76 kg of opium had been seized in Lebanon, only 5.676 kg in Syria - the main transit country for Turkish opium to the other Arab countries - and 1.515 kg in Jordan. In Egypt, where there was some local consumption of opium, 114.543 kg had been seized, compared with 1,514 kg seized in the corresponding period of 1974.

5. In the two Yemens, khat still posed a serious problem, as khat-leaf chewing was authorized there, and the habit was beginning to conquer new territories. The neighbouring Arab countries had consequently decided to include khat in the list of forbidden substances with the result that its circulation had fallen. In 1975, Saudi enforcement services had seized 435.739 kg, as against 1,940 kg in 1974.

6. The problem of psychotropic substances had become a live one in 1975. Consumption of those substances was on the increase and the enforcement services of the Arab countries had seized very large quantities. At their last meeting the liaison officers of the International Arab Narcotics Bureau had recommended that those Arab countries that had not yet done so should ratify the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and establish suitable control régimes. Only five Arab countries had, as yet, acceded to or ratified the Convention.

7. Drug traffickers made use of various means of transport for purposes of smuggling, according to circumstances, the nature of the area, the route followed and the ease or difficulty of access. The methods used ranged from pack animals to motor cars, fishing boats, motor boats, sea-going ships and Aircraft. In addition to the traditional smuggling methods, traffickers used modern methods to deceive the enforcement officers, including cases with false bottoms, hiding places in vehicles and trains, diplomats' baggage, domestic equipment such as refrigerators and televisions and the private parts of the human body. Smuggling routes had been affected by the war situation in the area. The narcotic drugs started from the production sources - Turkey and Lebanon - and moved towards the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt and Lebanon. There was currently great activity in Sinai as a result of the resumption of navigation in the Suez Canal, and the enforcement authorities had strengthened their control measures in the area.

8. At the request of the Bureau, all the Arab countries had now established divisions, departments or bureaux for narcotics control. Some highly qualified officials had been appointed and, within the limits of available resources, equipped with adequate means of communication and arms. The Bureau, which attached great importance to the training of enforcement officials (police and customs), had organized courses at the Cairo Police Officers' Training Institute in co-operation with several Arab Governments and with national centres for social and criminological research. During 1975, 38 officers from six countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization had attended such courses.

A further 24 students from seven Arab countries had attended courses at the National Centre for Social and Criminological Research (Cairo). In that connexion, the Bureau wished to thank the various United Nations bodies and ICPO/Interpol for the fellowships they had made available for that purpose. The Bureau was also grateful to the United States of America for co-operating with some Arab countries in organizing local training courses of the same kind.

9. The narcotics problem was a universal one. Consequently, no country could be successful in its control efforts without international co-operation. All the Arab countries were prepared to play their part in such co-operation and the International Arab Narcotics Bureau was neglecting no possibility of reducing the massive quantity of drugs consumed.

10. Mr. TOMALTY (Canada) said that, although the supplies of illicit heroin formerly arriving from Europe had dried up, his country still had a major problem involving illicit traffic in and abuse of that drug, especially in British Columbia, where, it was estimated, more than 10,000 persons used heroin on a daily basis. The heroin came exclusively from South-East Asia, the principal supply points being Hong Kong and Bangkok. With the excellent assistance Canadian enforcement authorities had received from their counterparts in those cities, they had been able to seize 40 kg of heroin during 1975 and arrest a number of major international traffickers. The individual physical and social harm resulting from heroin abuse was well-known, but its financial cost was also alarming. It was estimated that the 10,000 heroin addicts he had mentioned spent over \$125 million per year to purchase the drug and most of those funds were derived from criminal activities. There was also, of course, the cost of enforcement, medical care and rehabilitation. All in all, the financial drain upon the resources of the community was considerable.

11. There was also widespread traffic in and abuse of cannabis in Canada. In the past, it had been a minor problem involving high-school pupils, university students and "hippies", but it had spread beyond that limited community and was currently found throughout the country. In the circumstances, major, organized criminal groups with extensive international connexions were attempting to control the traffic and, in many instances, were fighting amongst themselves for exclusive control in specific areas. Cannabis had become a major criminal industry producing enormous profits. The amount of illicit cannabis available left no doubt that some producing countries had found it a valuable export product, since cultivation and production in source countries must have increased considerably.

12. Nevertheless, victim countries and recipients of illicit traffic also had the duty of attempting to curb demand and ensuring that information concerning major seizures and the origin of the consignments was notified to such international agencies as the International Narcotics Control Board and ICPO/Interpol.

13. In the last three years, the illicit importation of and traffic in cocaine had spread from the large metropolitan centres to many smaller communities. It was a matter of great concern, not only because of the dangerous personal health problems that could result, but also because of the abnormal behaviour and violence associated with its abuse. It was a fact that more violence was being experienced in those areas where cocaine abuse was prevalent.

14. His country had received excellent co-operation from the South American countries which were the source of cocaine imports and, in particular, his delegation wished to thank Peru and Colombia for their assistance in the past year. There was no single solution to the illicit drug problem, but one of the prime ingredients was co-operation between enforcement agencies and the rapid and free exchange of information.

15. Mr. RICARDO-GARCIA (Colombia) said that, in his country, there was a dual problem, since it was both a producer of cannabis and cocaine and a transit country for cocaine proceeding from the countries to the south and destined for North America and Europe.

16. Most of the narcotic drugs produced in Colombia were intended for the international traffic and his Government, which was well aware of the problem, had adopted both legislative and enforcement measures. It had launched major campaigns at the national level to limit domestic consumption and combat the international traffic and had co-operated closely with the other countries of the region to that end. Nevertheless, traffic and production alike were increasing at an alarming rate, largely, it appeared, in response to the increase in world demand, despite the steps being taken in all recipient countries to limit such demand.

17. The drug traffic in his country was operated by international gangs and the vast majority of the Colombians involved were used only as carriers or simple intermediaries, as had emerged from the interrogation of persons arrested. In 1975, there had been 1,252 arrests, including 51 foreigners. There had been 834 narcotics cases: 69 seizures of cocaine totalling 694 kg (134 kg in 1974); one seizure of 37.5 kg of coca leaves; 3 coca plantations involving 6,325 kg; 679 cannabis seizures involving 47,825 kg; 69 cannabis plantations involving 1,546,913 kg, and one clandestine laboratory.

18. Colombia would welcome assistance of any kind, whether technical or economic, which would improve its effectiveness in dealing with the major problem of narcotic drugs.

19. Mr. SHEEN (Australia) said that, in his country, cannabis was still the main drug of abuse, with seizures of all the common forms exceeding the 1974 figures. Cannabis tops from Thailand had remained popular with the local illicit market. Most of the cannabis resin seized had originated from the Near and Middle East and had arrived via recognized international routes. Despite abusers' preference for other forms, attempts to cultivate cannabis locally had been widespread and many well-tended plantations had been detected in developed agricultural areas. It was likely that the isolated northern region harboured undetected plantations.

20. Information reports and seizure figures suggested a downturn in the availability of liquid cannabis in the first half of 1975. Thereafter large seizures had been made, including one of 30 kg, the largest so far. Many of the consignments seized had been found as fillings in the moulded cases used to protect cassette recorders, slide projectors, typewriters and the like. The seizures in question had resulted from extensive consultation and co-operation with enforcement agencies in other countries. There were indications that a group of United States nationals had, for a number of years, been operating from Pakistan and Afghanistan and used a network of couriers to transport cannabis products to Australia, Europe and North America.

21. The quantity of psychotropic substances seized in 1975 showed an increase over the previous year, but it was unlikely that the abuse of hallucinogens would return to the 1972-1973 level. Most of the hallucinogens seized had originated in the United Kingdom. There was some evidence that producers were attempting to supply a more acceptable form of LSD.

22. There had been a further increase in opiate activity during the period under review. South-East Asian heroin continued to predominate and heroin abuse was unlikely to diminish while heroin from that source remained available. The increased abuse of other opiates such as morphine might, perhaps, be related. There was certainly an increased demand reflected by diversion from licit sources through forged prescriptions and thefts from surgeries and pharmacies. The most interesting new developments had been the seizure of four small heroin laboratories converting codeine to morphine and heroin base. He thought it was the first reported occurrence of such a laboratory.

23. Computer facilities translating intelligence information were constantly being refined and anti-smuggling patrols of the largely uninhabited northern coastline had been stepped up. The increased law enforcement activities had been reflected in a notable increase in the number of drug prosecutions. Results achieved by random check and by following up local intelligence information had been good, but his country continued to rely to a major extent on advance information and intelligence from other countries.

24. Mr. ARIM (Turkey) said that from the time drug abuse had become a problem of major importance for the world community, his Government had spared no effort to eradicate the evil. Priority had been given to law enforcement measures at home. The police and gendarmerie had been endowed with a special organization to deal with drug problems. Narcotics police bureaux had been formed in 59 provinces and parallel organizations had been established within the gendarmerie in 29 provinces to deal with drug problems. Turkish criminal law imposed severe penalties on drug offenders even prescribing the death penalty for organized traffickers. His Government had always believed that the fight against illicit traffic could be effective only if concerted action was taken to that end. Accordingly, Turkish authorities were always prepared to co-operate with other countries at any level required. The Turkish police were co-operating more closely with ICPO/Interpol and the Turkish authorities had entered into bilateral co-operation arrangements with the drug enforcement agencies of interested countries. Special attention had been given to the problem within the context of the Turkish/Iranian and Turkish/Syrian Mixed Border Commission's activities. The work of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and of the Working Group established on its recommendation, had helped to strengthen co-operation between its members. The meeting of the Working Group had been attended by the Head of the Interpol Division of the Turkish Directorate General of Security, who attached particular importance to the Group's decision that steps should be taken to permit quick exchanges of information through Interpol. Another important result of that meeting had been the agreement in principle that the countries concerned should continue their contact on a more direct basis, reporting as little as possible to central organizations.

25. His Government had strengthened its co-operation with the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs and with UNFEDAC. Several projects designed to increase the effectiveness of Turkish control agencies had been implemented. The projects included advanced training for narcotics law enforcement officers, a study tour to several European countries by senior police and gendarmerie officers, and the establishment of chemical laboratories at Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir. With UNPLAC assistance, a laboratory was being established in the Gendarmerie Training Centre at Ankara. The Fund had also provided operational and training equipment for the Turkish national police. For the gendarmerie, a telecommunications system had been installed in one of the provinces where poppy capsules were produced and the network would shortly be extended to a second province.

26. Seizures made in recent years demonstrated that, despite the fact that Turkey was increasingly becoming a transit country for illicit traffic, the Turkish police and gendarmerie were taking effective action against that traffic. He had no doubt that the representative of the International Arab Narcotics Bureau of the Arab League had taken due account of Turkey's position as a transit country when citing figures relating to opium seizures in Arab countries. The police and gendarmerie had also co-operated in action to prevent illicit cultivation. Special measures had been taken to strengthen the Turkish customs organization and additional training facilities for customs experts had been established. The Turkish Government was determined to continue the stringent control measures that had been applied during the cultivation period in 1975.

27. Mr. LOGARAS (Observer for Greece), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that his country was obliged to spend large sums of money to control the illicit traffic in drugs produced in other countries. In 1975, there had been a dramatic drop in the number of seizures of illegal drugs by Greek frontier authorities. Only 26 kg of cannabis resin had been seized in 1975 compared with 297 kg in 1974. In addition, 10 kg of liquid cannabis, 63 grammes of morphine, 69 grammes of opium and 49 grammes of LSD had been seized. It was impossible to say whether the drop was due to the political situation in the Middle East area and, accordingly, to a change in illicit traffic routes, or whether it was attributable to the efficient control measures taken by the law enforcement services. There had been no increase in offences connected with the smuggling of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and the number of offenders had not risen. No heroin had been seized and no case of heroin dependence had been reported in Greece for the past five years. The representative of Sweden had said that firm conclusions could not be drawn from figures. That might be true in the case of figures relating to different countries. It was probable, however, that figures relating to one and the same country gave a fairly accurate picture of the situation. In Greece, the drug situation was fairly satisfactory and the Government hoped that the intensified control and other measures it had introduced would bring an improvement.

28. Mr. EYRIES VALMASEDA (Observer for Spain), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, drew attention to Spain's position as a transit country in the illicit traffic.

29. The general trend of illicit traffic in cannabis established over the past few years had continued, with most of the traffic being in cannabis resin and cannabis oil. Seizures of cannabis in the form of Griffa, Kiffi and Marijuana remained unchanged at approximately 1,000 kg. The quantity of hashish seized, more than 5,000 kg, was twice as high as in previous years and in some places, such as Malaga, ten times as high. Seizures of cocaine were on the increase, as were those of LSD. The greatest number of seizures were made at ports and in heavily populated centres. The increase in the number of seizures had led to a corresponding increase in the number of cases tried by the courts. On the whole, the offenders were young persons and tourists. As in the past, the drugs were transported in medium-sized vehicles specially adapted for the purpose, and in trunks and other objects. The number of officials assigned to law enforcement work had been increased and co-ordination between the various enforcement agencies strengthened. The results of co-operation between those agencies and agencies in other countries and Interpol were satisfactory. Increased control over the production and marketing of psychotropic substances in general, and amphetamines and barbiturates in particular, had resulted in seizures for illicit traffic. Proceedings had been instituted against persons guilty of irregularities in prescribing such substances or of failing to comply with the provisions of health laws. To combat the illicit traffic a special office had been established for co-ordinating preventive and enforcement measures. The ninth course for law enforcement officials had been held in May 1975. Officials had also been sent to other countries for training. Dogs were being trained for detection work in ports and airports.



30. Mr. de DENEY (United Kingdom) said that he would deal with the question of co-operation in Europe for implementing action against drug abuse and with the situation in the United Kingdom. Another member of his delegation would then describe action taken against the illicit traffic in Hong Kong.

31. In paragraph 95 of INCB's report (E/INCB/29) reference was made to the European group for co-ordination of the campaign against drug abuse which had been initiated by the late President Pompidou. The representatives of France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy had agreed that he should report briefly on that group's work. Initially, that work had taken the form of extensive studies by four technical committees. The studies had resulted in reports analysing the situation and recommending action on matters within the competence of individual countries, improvements in existing bilateral or multilateral arrangements and further studies. The reports of the four committees had been considered by a co-ordinating committee of officials during 1975. That committee had recommended that they should be adopted by ministers and that the four separate committees should, for the future, be replaced by one single group to streamline the future programme.

32. The recommendations had also dealt with the administration of co-ordination, for which a rotating two-year presidency had been proposed, and with the participation of other countries. The countries which had taken part in the original ministerial meeting in Rome in 1972 had been the original six Contracting Parties to the Treaty of Rome and the United Kingdom. With the enlargement of the Common Market in 1973, Denmark and Ireland had joined in the work. At its request, and with the unanimous agreement of the other countries involved, Sweden had also become associated with the work. Those arrangements, the reports of the four technical committees and the recommendations of the co-ordination committee had been approved by ministers at a meeting convened in Paris in September 1975 on the invitation of the French Minister for the Interior, Mr. Poniatowski. At the unanimous request of the other countries taking part, Mr. Poniatowski had accepted the presidency of the new group on behalf of France for the next two years. A meeting to determine priorities was to take place in Paris in March 1976.

33. The work had already permitted action to be initiated at the national level, in such fields as the harmonization of laws, and at the bilateral and multilateral levels in such fields as the improvement of extradition and other mutual enforcement arrangements. The Council of Europe had also recently assumed a role in the drug abuse field and had undertaken a programme of work within the framework of its existing Directorates. The Pompidou project was complementary to the activities of the Council of Europe in that it was specifically directed to the whole range of problems connected with the non-medical use of drugs and, being under the direct supervision of ministers responsible for those problems in the participating countries, permitted action to be initiated at the highest political level as soon as the need for such action appeared. The United Kingdom was grateful to the late Mr. Pompidou for having taken the initiative in that difficult matter.

34. Turning to the review of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during 1974 (E/CN.7/581, Parts One and Two), he apologised for the fact that the United Kingdom's report had been submitted very late. That meant that some of the figures in the document were not accurate. For instance, the table of cannabis seizures on page 24 of Part Two showed that 7,491 kg of cannabis had been seized in the United Kingdom in 1974. That figure in fact comprised a little under 2,000 kg of cannabis and some 5,700 kg of resin. The United Kingdom, with a total of 4 clandestine laboratories, should be added to the list, in paragraph 23 of Part One of the document, of countries reporting the discovery of clandestine laboratories. Prosecutions for drug offences had fallen by 17 per cent in 1974, the entire fall being in respect of cannabis offences. According to notifications of new addicts, the average age of addicts had shown a tendency to rise in recent years. Notifications in the younger age groups were giving less cause for concern than a few years previously. Provisional figures for 1975 showed a substantial increase in seizures of opium and cocaine, but a drop of nearly 50 per cent in seizures of cannabis. The main problem in 1975 had been the development of multi-drug abuse by young persons. In illicit traffic prevention, 1975 had been an outstanding year for the discovery of clandestine laboratories. In general, evidence seemed to suggest that young people were reverting to alcohol abuse rather than engaging in drug abuse.

35. Mr. LEE (United Kingdom) said that as far as the illicit drug traffic in Hong Kong was concerned, one of the major events of 1975 had been the trial and conviction of two major drug traffickers and financiers, and their sentencing to 30 years and 25 years imprisonment respectively, the longest sentences ever imposed for any offence by Hong Kong courts. In addition, a number of the criminals' henchmen had been sentenced to prison terms of between seven and fifteen years.

36. The successes of the law enforcement authorities in 1974 in seizing large quantities of drugs, and of the Narcotics Bureau in breaking up major trafficking syndicates had given rise to further problems, principally the fragmentation and decentralization of the illicit drug trade to a large number of small operators, who were considerably more security-conscious than their predecessors and who took stringent precautions to guard against arrest and the seizure of their drugs. Drug consignments had been dispersed amongst small storekeepers in order to make discovery more difficult, and heroin refineries were normally operated for short periods only, moving frequently from place to place in order to avoid detection. At the same time, there had been a remarkable decrease in the availability of reliable information. There were two reasons for that: firstly, potential informers were no longer in a position to determine the venue of shipments and movement of drugs; and, secondly, shipments were made in relatively small quantities, the rewards for which were not attractive enough for the informers to take the risks involved in informing the authorities.

37. Although drug seizures had been lower in 1975 than in 1974, the results for the year had been gratifying. Total seizures had amounted to some 422 kg of opium, 143 kg of crude morphine and 185 kg of heroin. In addition, 8 clandestine heroin laboratories had been uncovered. Some 2,000 people had been prosecuted for drug trafficking and manufacturing, and 13,000 for other drug offences, such as simple possession and smoking.

38. As was well known, Hong Kong's large local market for opiates was fed by imports from the "Golden Triangle". Since 1966, the principal method of importing large quantities of drugs into Hong Kong had been by fishing trawlers from the area of the Gulf of Thailand. However, due to the break-up of the major syndicates and to joint aerial observation by the police and the Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force, the trawler traffic had been curtailed. Consequently, the price of opium and morphine on the illicit market had risen and there had been a proliferation in the number of small-time traffickers who imported small quantities of opium and morphine by the more traditional courier methods. At Hong Kong airport, 10 cases of imported narcotic drugs had been detected.

39. In addition to action against illegal imports, pressure had also been maintained by the authorities against opium divans. That had resulted in a dramatic swing to the use of heroin by local addicts in 1975. In 1974, it had been estimated that the usage ratio between opium and heroin had been 50:50; recent intelligence indicated, however, that as many as 90 per cent of the addicts now used heroin. That was due to the relative ease with which morphine base and heroin could be concealed and sold by the traffickers and used by abusers. Most of the equipment required for heroin refineries was easily obtainable in Hong Kong, the chemist's main problem being to obtain morphine and the various chemicals required to convert it into heroin. One such chemical was acetic anhydride, the manufacture, import and possession of which had now been banned except under licence. A notable success during 1975 had been the seizure of three tons of acetic anhydride on board an ocean-going vessel from a Japanese port. Two clandestine laboratories for the manufacture of the chemical had been detected.

40. It was believed that, due to the efforts of its law enforcement agencies, Hong Kong was no longer a major drug exporting centre in the illicit traffic to Europe and North America. The major exporting role appeared to have shifted to other South-East Asian countries where prices were lower. However, as Hong Kong was a free-trade entrepot, some drugs were still being smuggled through it. In that connexion, growing international co-operation had facilitated an increasing exchange of both intelligence and operational information. Information passed from the Narcotics Bureau had led directly to the arrest of some 20 couriers in Europe and Canada and the seizure of over 25 kg of heroin. The appointment of a senior officer of the Narcotics Bureau to the Interpol secretariat in Paris had done much to improve the exchange of information between Europe and Hong Kong, resulting in a clearer picture of the personalities and methods involved in the export of heroin, not only to Europe but also to the United States. Within the Territory covert checks had been introduced on outgoing passenger traffic at the airline check-in points. In the first two months following the introduction of the checks, seven heroin couriers on their way to Europe had been intercepted and arrested.

41. He paid a tribute to the growing spirit of regional co-operation and to its effectiveness. The meetings of operational heads held in the Far East under the Commission's auspices during the previous two years, the appointment of regional liaison officers by the Commission and by Interpol, and the development of bilateral contacts had contributed to that co-operation. There was now a need to develop similar close relations between countries in different regions and between producing and manufacturing centres and consuming countries.

42. Mr. HASRAT (Observer for Afghanistan), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the problem of the illicit traffic in narcotics and its economic, social and moral consequences for the peoples of the world were becoming more and more evident and it was therefore essential for the international community to make a more concerted effort in the campaign against that traffic and drug abuse. Much constructive action had been taken by the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, UNFDAC and the Governments concerned, but much more needed to be done.

43. The most serious problem in illicit narcotics traffic control was the involvement of modern technology in international drug crime. The most advanced security measures were therefore needed. The developed countries could afford the high cost of controlling drug abuse, while small developing countries with their limited resources were unable to take effective action against the well equipped international traffickers. The responsibility for such resolute action should be shared by the developed industrial countries, which to a large extent determined the licit and illicit demand for drugs.

44. As Afghanistan was a Party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, his Government was collaborating with the United Nations in drug abuse control and had made intensified efforts since 1973, which had led to the conclusion of an agreement with UNFDAC to improve control measures in the country. In 1975, an extended agreement had been signed, under which UNFDAC had undertaken to provide \$680,000 towards the strengthening in Afghanistan of law enforcement activities aimed at combating drug abuse. His Government's counterpart assistance had amounted to 5,806,700 Afghanis. The Narcotics Section in the Criminal Investigation Division of the Afghan police, established under the previous agreement, had been in full operation in 1975 and had seized substantial quantities of illicit drugs; 177 persons had been arrested for illicit trafficking - 142 nationals and 35 foreigners. The Criminal Investigation Division co-operated closely with Interpol, which had on several occasions expressed appreciation for the reliable information furnished by the Afghan police on drug abuse in the region.

45. His delegation fully supported the recommendation by the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to invite the police forces of the countries of the region to become members of Interpol. In that connexion, he reaffirmed the position of his Government, which hoped to be able in the near future to authorize the Afghan police to apply for membership of Interpol.

46. With regard to the strengthening of law enforcement measures against illicit traffic in narcotics, full co-operation existed between the United Nations and Afghanistan. However, owing to financial difficulties and development project priorities, his Government was unable to implement a vast and comprehensive programme of

measures to control drug abuse. It hoped to be able in the future, with the assistance of the United Nations, to continue to take effective measures to that end. In order to expand law enforcement activities, the Afghan Criminal Investigation Division deemed it necessary to establish more and better equipped narcotics control sub-stations in additional provinces located on the routes of the illicit traffickers, and to have more well-trained Afghan police officers for that purpose. The possibility of strengthening border police check points on the western and southern borders was also under consideration. The relevant plans would be discussed with United Nations consultants and the assistance of the competent United Nations bodies sought.

47. Referring to some regions of his country where the poppy was traditionally cultivated and constituted the only means of livelihood, he drew attention to a report prepared by a WHO official who had recently visited the province of Badakhshan on an official UNFPA mission. In his report, the official referred to the impact of law enforcement on the people of Badakhshan and expressed concern at the deterioration in their social and economic life. The report clearly demonstrated the hardships experienced by the people of the region and the urgent need for a comprehensive social and economic development programme. His Government was aware of the Fund's desire to help and of the fact that the Fund could not do so without increased donations. It therefore hoped that such donations would be forthcoming. His Government was already using some resources made available by UNDP. The banning of poppy cultivation and its adverse effects on the economy of the province of Badakhshan were matters of great concern to the people of the region and had been brought to the attention of the competent United Nations bodies on several occasions. In view of the urgency of the matter, his delegation hoped that the United Nations and its specialized agencies would be able to assist Afghanistan in implementing the Badakhshan development project. The people of that part of Afghanistan were extremely poor and had given up their main cash crop to help the rest of the world.

48. Dr. MAS TORNER (Chile) said that cocaine was the main drug involved in the illicit traffic in her country. The traffickers, who used sea, air and land routes, resorted to ingenious methods to hide the drug, including cigarette packages, shoes, women's hair, and plastic cases inside the stomach, which sometimes caused death.

49. Chile had no coca leaf plantations, but it had a long frontier with Bolivia with numerous passes that could not be controlled. On its frontier with Peru the problems were not so great, but illicit traffic in cocaine paste had been detected there as well. The high altitudes and the nature of the terrain made it difficult for the police to control the frontiers.

50. In 1975, Chile had taken concrete steps to combat illicit traffic and drug abuse. It had set up the Department of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in the General Bureau of Investigation under the Ministry of National Defence. The Department had five units in different areas of the country and had undertaken educational activities with respect to drug abuse in various educational institutions, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education. Chile had participated in the 44th Assembly of Interpol in October 1975 at Buenos Aires, where it had reported on the results of the measures taken since 1973 to eradicate illicit traffic in drugs. Chile had demonstrated that it was no longer a major transit territory for cocaine destined for the United States and Europe. That did not mean that cocaine was not processed in Chile or that the traffickers had withdrawn, but the effectiveness of the uniformed and civil police made it very difficult for clandestine laboratories to operate in cities. There might, however, be illicit traffic in isolated areas in the north of the country.

51. In June 1975, Chile had participated in the third Conference of Ministers of Justice of Hispano-Luso-American Countries and the Philippines at Buenos Aires, to facilitate multinational co-ordination of legislation designed to combat illicit traffic and drug abuse. In July 1975, a regional conference held by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru at Cochabamba, Bolivia, to study problems connected with the production, illicit traffic and consumption of narcotic drugs, had made recommendations, which were published in United Nations Information Letter No. 12 of 1975. Chile was now considering an amendment to the penal code increasing the penalties for pushers and traffickers, and the establishment of control over Indian hemp plantations for industrial use, with a view to avoiding illicit diversion.

52. Seizures of cannabis had increased during recent years as a result of the greater effectiveness of the country's uniformed and civil police. Seizures of cocaine during 1975 had decreased substantially, since Chile was no longer an attractive country for traffic in that drug as a result of the unremitting campaign by the law enforcement agencies against traffickers and smugglers. Almost all seizures of cocaine and LSD had been in Santiago Province, whereas two-thirds of the seizures of marijuana had occurred in the areas of San Felipe and Los Andes. All coca-leaf seizures had been in the north of the country.

53. The information she had given the Commission demonstrated her Government's concern to take prompt and effective action against traffickers, in spite of the considerable financial difficulties it faced, for the benefit of the countries of destination, since cocaine did not constitute a problem in her own country.

54. Mr. FOURATI (Observer for Tunisia), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that in Tunisia there had been an increase in seizures in 1975 due to an increase in illicit traffic. That showed that no State could consider itself safe from an increase in illicit traffic and demonstrated the need for greater international co-operation. During the past few years the quantities of narcotics seized, in particular cannabis leaf, had amounted to only a few dozen kilogrammes and the persons arrested could not be regarded as professional traffickers in the international sense of the term. They were either farmers operating on a small scale or cannabis cigarette smokers, of whom about 70 had been arrested annually. At the beginning of 1975, however, illicit traffic on the international level had begun to appear for the first time and the law enforcement services had seized within the period of a few days 633 kg of cannabis resin hidden in two foreign cars. That form of cannabis was hardly used in Tunisia. The investigation had revealed that the owners of the vehicles, who were foreigners, had been

passing through Tunisia and that the drug was destined for the international market. The law enforcement officers no longer had to deal with small farmers but with organizations specializing in the international traffic in drugs. The situation had not changed since early 1975, but the law enforcement officials remained vigilant; 78 persons had been arrested, only 13 of whom were nationals older than 45 years of age. For a number of years, Tunisian legislation had prohibited the use of cannabis and heroin and the cultivation of cannabis and poppy plants, fortunately without causing economic problems.

55. His Government was aware of the importance of the problem and was sparing no effort to increase the effectiveness of its services. A special national narcotics brigade had been established two years previously and, in that regard, he wished to thank the various international organizations and agencies, as well as France and the United States, for all their assistance with equipment and staff training. He welcomed the move to establish the regional adviser on narcotics control for the Middle East at Tunis and assured the Commission of the Tunisian Government's full co-operation.

56. Mr. APARICIO (Observer for Bolivia) said that the documents before the Commission failed to reveal the full extent of the threat which cocaine posed to public health, especially in the United States and Europe. For criminal elements, cocaine offered a source of huge and easy profits; thus, one kilo of cocaine hydrochloride could be bought in Bolivia for between \$3,500 and \$5,000, while one kilo of the same substance, diluted and purified, fetched up to \$200,000 on the illicit retail market. For the addict, cocaine offered a series of sensations, including hallucinations, sexual excitement and euphoria, which made it highly attractive to the modern generation. However, the use of cocaine could also lead to the effacement of the superego, causing an individual to commit crimes, assaults, rape, etc.

57. Owing to the laxity of control measures prior to the Banzer Government's promulgation of Narcotics Law No. 11245 of December 1973, Bolivia was the major producer of cocaine in the Andean region. In 1975, following the establishment of the National Agency for the Control of Dangerous Substances, 43 cocaine manufacturing centres had been discovered, 122.734 kg of cocaine had been seized, and 234 cocaine manufacturers and traffickers had been arrested. Some 80 per cent of the 132 persons arrested for manufacturing cocaine were illiterate peasants, and a substantial proportion of those arrested for trafficking were foreigners of various origins.

58. The lack of adequate staff and means of communication and the difficulties posed by Bolivia's geography and terrain meant that seizures accounted for only a tiny proportion of the cocaine actually produced in the country. However, the Bolivian Government, with the assistance of the United States Government, was doing its best to combat that phenomenon. Under a recently concluded agreement, the United States Government had contributed \$650,000 to drug control activities, while the Bolivian Government itself, despite the country's economic difficulties, had trebled the budget of the National Agency for the Control of Dangerous Substances, enabling educational, rehabilitation and crop diversification programmes to be carried out in the areas of coca leaf production.

59. He then recalled briefly the historical background to cocaine consumption and production in Bolivia, including the pre-Colombian peoples' use of coca leaf in their rites and ceremonies and the decision of the Spanish conquerors to employ it as an instrument of domination. In many areas, the coca bush occupied a sizeable proportion of the land under cultivation - some 45 per cent, for instance, in the case of the Province of El Chapare. Coca leaf offered up to four harvests a year, was easy to grow



and was infinitely more profitable than alternative crops. In El Chapare, for instance, 100 oranges sold for some \$1.15, whereas 46 kilos of coca leaf fetched over \$30. Even at a conservative estimate, some 93 per cent of the coca leaf produced in Bolivia - over 8 million kilos per annum - entered the illicit traffic, and the quantities involved could be worth up to \$3,500 million at the retail prices prevailing on illicit foreign markets.

60. Conscious of its responsibilities towards the countries suffering from cocaine abuse, Bolivia had launched an ambitious plan through its National Agency for the Control of Dangerous Substances. In that effort, however, it needed the support of the international community, particularly in effecting social, economic and cultural changes in the areas producing coca leaf and in executing programmes of education, prevention and rehabilitation in urban areas. Although Bolivia's lack of resources had prevented it from engaging the experts needed to prepare feasibility studies, there were a number of possible areas of co-operation for which detailed projects could be drawn up at a subsequent stage.

61. First, the Bolivian Government wished to instal a powerful radio transmitter in the areas producing coca leaf to broadcast to peasant farmers educational material in support of the crop diversification plan; the programmes emitted by the radio station ("Radio Escuela") would also benefit Peru. Secondly, the Government wished to set up sports and entertainment centres for young people of secondary school age. Thirdly, assistance was needed in setting up centres for research into and prevention of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of abusers. Research was required into the statistical, epidemiological and pharmacological aspects of the substances most heavily consumed in Bolivia, and human and financial resources were needed to provide the necessary care for recidivists and to carry out programmes of prevention aimed at educational institutions, parents and communities. Fourthly, international co-operation was required to assist the farmers of Los Yungas in their efforts to replace coca leaf production by coffee cultivation; the farmers needed advice and economic assistance, in the form of subsidies or soft loans, in forming a coffee association and in replanting their land. Fifthly, the Bolivian Government needed substantial investments to help it to carry out its plan to introduce high-protein crops like soya in areas such as Los Yungas and El Chapare, where malnutrition posed a serious problem. In short, Bolivia needed the effective co-operation of the United Nations to curb cocaine production and trafficking through the implementation of projects effecting qualitative changes in the cocaine-producing areas, and, in particular, immediate assistance, through the services of domestic and foreign experts, with the preparation of the feasibility studies which were the essential prerequisite for United Nations financing.

62. Mr. CHAVALIT YODMANI (Thailand) said that the Thai authorities were very conscious of the fact that narcotics law enforcement activities were essential to the success of the drug abuse control programme being carried out in northern Thailand. In support of that programme, the Thai Government had continued to expand, not only its forces, but also its expertise, with the object of preventing the flow of traffic into the country, eliminating the traffic inside the country and preventing drugs from being smuggled out of the country. There was excellent co-operation between the Thai narcotics enforcement authorities and their counterparts both inside and outside the region, particularly in the United States, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan. Such co-operation had also been promoted by the regional meetings of operational heads of national narcotics law enforcement agencies, the Colombo Plan Bureau and ICPO/Interpol. Thailand would continue to do all it could to



further collaboration at both the regional and international levels. The recent visit to Thailand of senior police officials from the Netherlands was a most welcome development. Thailand appreciated the difficulties posed by the illicit traffic between Asia and Europe and wished to co-operate fully with those countries whose drug problems stemmed from the Far East.

63. While Thailand was striving to increase its enforcement capacity, it realized that enforcement alone would not solve the problem, and it was also active in the fields of drug information, education, treatment, rehabilitation and research.

64. Several trends could be discerned in the illicit traffic in Thailand. First, the opium smuggled into Thailand no longer appeared to enter in large but in small quantities; in the view of the Thai authorities, that development was due to the high risk of detection and apprehension. Secondly, heroin and morphine laboratories had been set up in the hills on either side of Thailand's northern frontier, and their products were smuggled into the country in small amounts. Thirdly, fewer drugs were now being sent out of the country by fishing trawlers and more by air and by letter and parcel post. The detection of such smuggling, much of which was conducted by foreigners, posed a difficult problem, which had been discussed at length at the second meeting of operational heads of national narcotics law enforcement agencies in Jakarta.

65. During 1975, 1,742 kg of opium, 43 kg of morphine, 116 kg of heroin, 2.6 tons of cannabis and 5 kg of amphetamines had been seized in Thailand. There had been 8,879 cases and 9,809 offenders. While those figures were not as high as in previous years, the Thai authorities believed that their enforcement efforts, together with the close co-ordination which existed between Thailand and other countries, were having an effect on the illicit traffic in the region and on the activities of the traffickers. Thailand would welcome any opportunity for contact with European enforcement authorities of the kind recently provided by the visit of senior police officials from the Netherlands.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.