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at 10 a.m.  
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RABORE (Burkina Faso)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 111: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 111: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)  
(A/44/572, A/44/601, A/44/119, A/44/235-S/20600, A/44/321, A/44/380,  
A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2, A/44/415-S/20749, A/44/551, A/44/477, A/44/578,  
A/44/598, A/44/607 and A/C.3/44/6)

1. Mr. SCOTT (Canada) said that the tragic proportions of the drug menace had led Canada to initiate a national drug strategy geared to the reduction of domestic demand while stressing co-operation with countries whose drug wars involved different priorities. Canada co-operated extensively with United Nations bodies active in the anti-drug campaign, not only by contributing funds but also by supporting specific projects, co-operating with the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and providing bilateral assistance, particularly to the Government of Colombia. It acted on the premise that the drug war must be fought internationally and that the United Nations was the ideal body to wage it.
2. The most pragmatic and realistic proposals for achieving that objective should be expanded and consolidated in a global plan of action. The United Nations agencies involved in the drug war needed an infusion of resources and co-ordination between them. The latter could be strengthened by implementing the recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The United Nations should also review its budgetary priorities and persuaded more countries to contribute to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control was a particularly important document in that connection and should be used extensively when considering practical proposals. The medium-term plan of UNFDAC also had considerable practical value.
3. Canada welcomed the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to deal with the drug problem; it could be an important step in the drug war if there was prior agreement on its specific objectives. The session should be action oriented and stress programmes based on pragmatic and realistic proposals.
4. Miss AIOUAZE (Algeria) said that international efforts, however commendable, had not curbed the production and consumption of drugs, and the outlook was not promising. Recent tragic events linked to the drug traffic had made the international community more aware than ever of the danger drugs posed to societies and political and economic structures, and leaders in some countries had taken decisive and welcome action to eliminate the drug menace and contain its effects. The battle must be waged by all countries before its effects became irreversible. She particularly commended countries like Colombia, which had shown great courage in the drug war. As one of its initiators, her delegation welcomed the proposal to hold a special session of the General Assembly to deal with the drug problem and would do its utmost to assure its success.

5. Miss DE SILVA (Sri Lanka) said that drugs were second only to armaments as the largest commodity being traded, and with the dramatic increase in drug abuse, no country had been spared human misery.

6. The Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances not only reflected a global consensus on the need to eradicate the drug problem but also provided a framework for international controls and supplemented previous legal instruments. It deserved maximum support, especially its provisions for the confiscation of drug profits and the negotiation of extradition treaties. Machinery to prohibit the laundering of drug money should also be developed.

7. While the Convention had broadened the mandate of the drug control agencies, they had not been given the financial, human and technical resources they needed to implement it. The programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 had provided only \$750,000 of the \$4 million those bodies had requested, and it had even recommended a reduction in staffing. Much higher priority must be given within the regular United Nations budget to drug control issues. She welcomed the expansion of the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), especially in the developing world, and said that her country would continue to contribute to the Fund. The specialized agencies of the United Nations must also accord even higher priority than they had done thus far to drug abuse.

8. Sri Lanka welcomed the proposed special session of the General Assembly on drug abuse and hoped that it would result in an increase in voluntary contributions. She noted the treacherous link between international terrorism, drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade and strongly commended the Government of Colombia for its efforts to destroy that unholy alliance, which must also be attacked by the international community. For international controls to be effective, national machinery must also be established in such areas as law enforcement, education and rehabilitation through bilateral exchanges in the form of extradition agreements, exchange of experience and expertise in drug abuse control and strict border surveillance. Sri Lanka, for its part, had set up a body to review national policy on drug abuse and co-operated extensively with regional and non-governmental organisations in joint efforts to combat the drug problem.

9. She concluded her remarks by commending the efforts of the Department of Public Information to make the news media more sensitive to the role the United Nations was playing in the war on drugs.

10. Mrs. KABA-CAMARA (Côte d'Ivoire) said that there was broad international consensus on the need for prompt international action to combat a drug problem that threatened the health of populations and the stability of Governments everywhere. It was imperative to reduce both supply and demand through such measures as crop substitution, heavier penalties, education and rehabilitation. Greater control must be exercised over the corridors of the drug traffic and traffickers should be discouraged by punishments ranging from imprisonment to the death penalty, the freezing of their assets and the prohibition of money laundering.

11. Unfortunately, the United Nations drug enforcement agencies had seen their financing reduced even as the demands made on them became heavier. That was

(Mrs. Kaba-Camara, Côte d'Ivoire)

particularly true for the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). The countries that enjoyed economic stability should increase their contributions to UNFDAC. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control required the participation of the specialized agencies and they too must be given the means to expand their activities in the drug war.

12. The African States were at a great disadvantage in waging that war: they were transit States and their limited resources and poverty increased their vulnerability. The African countries should be given greater assistance for the purpose of stopping the drug cartels from transferring their activities from one continent to another. The courage of Latin American Governments in their battle against drugs deserved commendation and effective support.

13. Proposals for the establishment of a multilateral anti-drug force or an international criminal drug tribunal could not be seriously examined until the problem of financing existing bodies was solved. Those bodies had proved effective despite limited means and increased responsibilities and reducing their number in order to increase their effectiveness might create new difficulties at a crucial moment in the struggle.

14. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that as had been stated at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held at Vienna in 1987, neither producer nor consumer countries bore the entire responsibility for the drug problem. Earlier in the current session, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna had stressed the role of demand reduction in the war against illicit drug trafficking. Since preventive education, treatment, and rehabilitation had been only partially successful weapons, the proposal to convene an international conference on demand reduction in London in 1990 was extremely timely and would provide an opportunity for States to reaffirm their political commitment to an exchange of experience on the treatment and prevention of addiction.

15. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had taken a number of measures in support of international action designed to eradicate the drug problem. For example, the Government was co-operating with international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), and with a number of interested countries. In addition, Lao authorities had recently arrested 34 foreign drug traffickers and 14 Lao citizens at two heroin processing sites. He reiterated his delegation's support for the objectives of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

16. Mr. AGUILAR (Venezuela) said that the drug problem in all its aspects had become the shared responsibility of the international community. The United Nations, which had already taken a number of measures to fight drug trafficking, remained the most appropriate forum for devising a global strategy to deal with the

(Mr. Aguilar, Venezuela)

problem. The Organization's achievements in the field included the adoption of General Assembly resolution 39/142, which recognized the drug problem as an international criminal activity; the convening of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which had produced a Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control; and, in 1988, the adoption at Vienna of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

17. The Convention must enter into force at the earliest possible date; in the mean time, provisional measures of implementation should be considered. In Venezuela, priority had been accorded to completing the constitutional formalities for ratification. In addition, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the International Narcotics Control Board and UNFDAC urgently required support. It was paradoxical that at a time when drug trafficking was substantially on the rise and new responsibilities were being assigned to those bodies, their resources were being curtailed.

18. In the elaboration of drug programmes, the conclusions of the regional and interregional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) must be taken into account. The joint initiative by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) to accord priority to the item was highly appropriate and efforts to co-ordinate the drug-related activities of the various United Nations agencies must be continued.

19. As drug trafficking was affecting the economic and social structures of a growing number of countries, illicit trafficking must be rendered less profitable and the laundering of dollars prevented through international agreements on the seizure of illicit proceeds from drug sales. The United Nations must also consider mechanisms for preventing the involvement of the international banking and financial systems in the drug trade.

20. His delegation attached great importance to the holding of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation. The special session had been proposed by the Presidents of the countries represented in the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action at their recent meeting in Ica, Peru. His delegation strongly supported that initiative, for the criminal activity of the drug cartels and their merciless deeds in countries like Colombia, demanded an energetic response by the international community.

21. His delegation also welcomed the proposal made by the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru to hold a meeting with the participation of the United States and the countries of Europe and the proposal by the Government of the United Kingdom to hold an international conference on cocaine demand reduction in London in 1990.

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22. Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana) said that the plea by the President of Colombia for international co-operation against illicit drug trafficking must not go unanswered. Regardless of its position in the drug triangle - whether as producer, consumer or transit point - it was no longer possible for any country to claim immunity from the scourge of drugs or to protect itself single-handedly.

23. The drug problem was essentially an economic problem, although the cultivation of coca benefited the drug cartels far more than it did the growers. Efforts to reduce drug consumption must include crop substitution programmes accompanied by development activities; and curbs on production and demand. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the proposal by the United Kingdom to host an international conference on cocaine demand reduction.

24. The third point of the drug triangle - the transit State - must not be ignored. Countries like Guyana, whose drug production and consumption were minimal, served as convenient routes for trans-shipment of drugs by virtue of their strategic location. Guyana had sought to defend itself by implementing a four-pronged strategy: heavy penalties under the law; stepped-up law enforcement; the education of citizens on the dangers of drug abuse; and the rehabilitation of drug abuse victims.

25. Convinced that the battle against drugs could not be fought in isolation, Guyana had concluded an agreement with Venezuela in 1987 on the Prevention, Control and Suppression of the Unlawful Consumption of, and Traffic in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. In 1988, it had concluded similar agreements with Brazil and Suriname. In the Caribbean, a Regional Programme for Drug Abuse Abatement and Control had been established in order to build a cordon sanitaire against drug trafficking.

26. His delegation welcomed the steps taken to increase UNFDAC's activities in the Caribbean region, where many small and vulnerable transit States were located. At a time of scarce resources, greater co-ordination among the drug-related agencies of the United Nations, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and UNDP, was vital. Guyana would intensify its national activities in accordance with the Comprehensive Outline and the 1988 Convention. As a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Guyana supported the Jamaican proposal for the establishment of a multilateral force under United Nations auspices to assist with intelligence and interdiction activities beyond the capabilities of individual States. The Caribbean Community had also endorsed a proposal by Trinidad and Tobago concerning machinery for the investigation of persons engaged in drug trafficking. The convening of a special session of the General Assembly at the earliest possible date should give fresh impetus to international co-operation against the drug menace.

27. Mr. WONG (Singapore) said that the President of Colombia, in his address before the plenary session of the General Assembly had focused world attention on the international dimensions of the drug problem. Modern communications and transport, capitalist techniques of production, marketing and financing, the corruption of government, connections with organized crime and the destruction of

(Mr. Wong, Singapore)

families had transformed drug abuse into a global threat which was eroding the basic values of civilization.

28. In addition to the epic struggle in Colombia and other Latin American countries, the drug war was being fought in other regions of the world, such as South-East Asia. In the Golden Triangle, the drug problem not only had socio-economic implications but also political overtones. In certain countries, it threatened national security and helped to sustain armed separatist movements. Despite measures taken by the countries of the region, assisted by the United Nations, the opium trade continued unabated. In fact, annual production of opium in the Golden Triangle was expected to double in 1989.

29. In the 1960s, Singapore had had to take firm legal and social measures to reduce opium addiction among its citizens. The problem had not been eliminated until the 1980s, when a new menace, heroin, began to spread in Singapore. In response, the Government had implemented a two-pronged strategy aimed at restricting supply and demand and reintegrating drug addicts into society. As a result, the number of drug abusers had dropped significantly, from 13,000 in 1977 to approximately 5,400 in 1988.

30. As a major communications centre in the region, Singapore was also frequently used as a transit point. Singapore systematically co-operated with the security and police forces of other countries in seizing drug traffickers. The Central Narcotics Bureau worked closely with national drug enforcement agencies in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and with regional and international agencies such as INTERPOL. Singapore had been successful in combating drugs because it had recognized and contained the problem at a very early stage, had persistently controlled the problem for 25 years and, despite criticism, had adopted tough punitive measures against drug traffickers.

31. Since the drug problem was the shared responsibility of producers and consumers, poor third world countries must be assisted in their efforts to shift from coca or opium production to the cultivation of other crops. Support for commodity agreements on legitimate crops such as coffee and maize was equally important. Consumer countries' approach of narrowly focusing on law enforcement, interdiction and crop eradication would be ineffective, because traffickers would find alternative means of production, marketing and transport. Care must be taken to avert the greatest danger of all - cheap and massive production of drugs in the consumer countries themselves.

32. Mr. ITO (Japan) said that Japan had great respect for the determination of the Latin American countries, particularly Colombia, to solve the drug problem, and reaffirmed its commitment to support their efforts to control the production of drugs and illicit drug trafficking. It would continue to offer economic and technical co-operation aimed at eliminating the social and economic conditions that generated drug problems to the drug-producing countries to enable them to develop healthy economies.

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(Mr. Ito, Japan)

33. His delegation looked forward to participating in the special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and stressed the importance of the preparations for the session, which offered a unique opportunity to formulate a plan of action for all countries and the United Nations system. In preparing for the special session, attention should focus on the agenda items to be considered, specific objectives to be pursued and the probable outcome.

34. His delegation fully supported the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The United Nations should give wider publicity to information on its activities in the field of drug abuse control by strengthening co-ordination among the various bodies dealing with narcotic drugs, for example, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. He hoped that the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the joint meetings of CPC and ACC would be given careful consideration at the special session.

35. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control was very important because it included measures to be taken at different levels of Government. Japan had developed an integrated strategy to control drug abuse based on a public information campaign, strict law enforcement, treatment of drug addicts and international co-operation. It would be particularly useful to exchange information on cases where individual countries had succeeded in reducing the demand for drugs.

36. Japan had participated in the various drug control programmes initiated by the United Nations and had contributed to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. It attached great importance to international co-operation in poppy cultivation substitution programmes and narcotics control human resources development programmes and annually hosted seminars on drug abuse control for government officials from countries in the Asia and Pacific region. In that connection, his delegation expressed satisfaction at the results of the Second Interregional Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies. It was essential to develop an international legal and administrative network to control drug-related crimes. Japan looked forward to the full implementation of the recommendations put forward at the Meeting.

37. Mr. ZAPOTOCKY (Czechoslovakia) said that although the drug problem in Czechoslovakia was not as critical as in other countries, his Government was taking steps to counter the growing danger posed by drug addiction. In addition to law enforcement measures, steps were being taken to ensure the security of medical institutions and develop equipment for identifying drugs. A new law had been enacted prohibiting the production, import, transit and use of narcotic drugs and placing greater emphasis on educational measures. The customs authorities had adopted systematic inspection measures to prevent illicit transit.

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(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

38. His delegation commended Colombia for its activities at the national and international level to step up the drug war. It stressed that drug education and prevention must be accompanied by adequate law enforcement.
39. Czechoslovakia was situated on the so-called Balkan route along which illicit drugs were shipped from the producer country through southern and central Europe to Western European countries. They were transported mostly in trucks bearing the licence plates of a specific southern European State. Heroin was the substance seized in those cases and no trafficking in cocaine had been detected.
40. Effective international co-operation at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels was an effective weapon for combating the drug problem. Czechoslovakia was successfully co-operating with the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria in putting an end to drug smuggling and took an active part in multilateral efforts to combat drug abuse. His delegation considered it important to hold periodic meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (HONLEA) in Europe.
41. Illicit drug trafficking was now of such magnitude as to endanger the socio-political and economic structures of States and threaten general international security. Czechoslovakia fully supported the activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other United Nations bodies dealing with drug problems. They should receive support commensurate with the increased demands made upon them. He noted with appreciation the activities of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The holding of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs would help to enhance the effectiveness of that co-operation. The special session should strengthen the co-ordinating role of the United Nations and contribute to the formulation of an international strategy to combat drug problems.
42. Mr. SALAZAR (Colombia) noted with satisfaction the decision to hold a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and stressed the need to draw up a plan of action with specific recommendations and objectives. It was essential to reduce the demand for illegal drugs, halt the supply of such drugs by putting an end to the illegal trade in the chemical products necessary for their production, and take concerted action to halt the flow of arms used by the drug cartels to intimidate and murder citizens and Government officials.
43. International co-operation was essential in order to halt money laundering and prevent the transfer of profits from drug trafficking. All States should ratify the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which was an indispensable instrument for penalizing drug consumption and transport and for permitting confiscation of drug assets, and give priority to strengthening international economic and financial co-operation for the revitalization of drug-ridden economies like that of Colombia.

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(Mr. Salazar, Colombia)

44. The calculated strategy followed by the drug traffickers in Colombia was to destabilize the country and its institutions with the object of undermining democracy and the rule of law. But drug trafficking was a transnational enterprise, respecting neither frontiers nor laws. Although the coca leaves were grown in the Andes, the chemical products necessary for refining cocaine were provided by companies based in the industrialized countries. Most of the added value in the illicit drug industry was gained through wholesale and retail distribution in the consumer countries. Very little of the profits from drug trafficking reached the producer countries.

45. For many years, the consumer countries had considered drug control to be a matter that must be solved beyond their own borders. It had frequently been argued that the producer nations bore sole responsibility for the drug problem and the attitude towards domestic drug consumption and distribution was relatively tolerant. Fortunately that view had undergone a fundamental change. A number of countries had begun to cope with the problem at a very high human and financial cost. Because of the resources which Colombia expended in waging the war against drug trafficking, the consumer countries did not have to invest more substantial resources in the drug war. Colombia had had to make great sacrifices and had committed its limited resources to a struggle which was in the interest of all mankind. Nevertheless, his Government was prepared to continue to allocate a large part of its budget to the anti-drug war at the expense of its development priorities. In contrast, the drug lords continued to pile up illegal profits and had become the richest men in the world.

46. Obviously, any economic or financial assistance in frustrating the power and wealth of the international drug lords would further the economic, moral, political and social interests of the producer and the consumer countries and help to safeguard the physical and mental health of present and future generations of young people. The countries of the industrialized world must surely realize that by co-operating with the developing countries that were plagued by drug trafficking they were not making a gift but were acting in their self-interest.

47. With the system of pledging, which was on the increase, various mechanisms were emerging for providing support for united action against drug abuse and drug trafficking. It was essential that assistance should be regional and bilateral as well as multilateral. Offers of help by individual States might well be the first steps towards massive support for an international programme of assistance. For example, bilateral assistance had been forthcoming from the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain, France, the United Kingdom and Italy. He looked forward to regional multilateral co-operation, as was the case for some countries of the European Community, but felt that a great deal of help could still be provided by the consumer countries of the industrialized world.

48. The United Nations should play a fundamental part in channelling the resources of the world community to fight the war on drugs through the Division of Narcotic Drugs (DND), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Funds for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). He noted that in recent meetings

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(Mr. Salazar, Colombia)

emphasis had been placed on the need to restructure those bodies to enable them to deal with the serious problem of drug trafficking. The Government of Colombia hoped that after the restructuring they would be able to continue to channel the necessary financial resources to fight drug trafficking. In the present state of emergency in Colombia, however, with daily attacks on institutions and personnel, repulsed by the dedicated, professional and heroic efforts of the armed forces, the security forces and the intelligence services, at immense cost in lives and resources, his Government suggested that the promised assistance should not be contingent on the gradual restructuring of anti-drug agencies, but that exceptional procedures should be adopted to ensure continuity in the flow of international resources in the medium term. The United Nations had an important role to play, through its specialized agencies, in controlling practices such as the laundering of money, the illicit transfer of funds and trafficking in arms.

49. In his country the entire apparatus of the law had been mobilized to put an end to what was actually a form of organized crime. But drug production and trafficking to meet consumer demand had erupted into criminal violence, undermining public order and disrupting the life of the nation, with particularly serious consequences for the administration of justice. Methods included homicide, accumulation of illicit fortunes, false witness, abduction, extortion and fraud. In the past few years, some 40 officers of the law, including judges of the Supreme Court of Justice, Government Attorneys and judges of regional courts, had been assassinated, many others or their families had been physically attacked and a very large number had been the subject of continued and serious threats.

50. The Government had substantially increased the financial resources for the administration of justice, but without effect. It was now planning action on the following lines: concentration of effort in fighting drug crimes on support for the administration of justice; greater protection for judges and courts; and strengthening the instruments of investigation of the judicial authorities and adapting the prison system to the demands of the situation.

51. Medium term and long term measures would be needed to restore the economy through reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers to Colombian products; secure technical and financial co-operation to increase exportable goods and maintain remunerative prices - for example, the International Coffee Agreement; support the development of agro-industry, replace illicit crops, implement the national rehabilitation plan to guarantee a sound and profitable economy; and promote rural development.

52. Colombia had made appreciable progress at the local level in the seizure of drugs, laboratories and weapons and the confiscation of goods and property acquired by the drug lords. Extradition laws were being strengthened so that any person committing a drug-related crime in a foreign country would have to be tried in that country.

53. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the draft resolution submitted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/C.6/44/L.4) on

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(Mr. Salazar, Colombia)

measures to prevent international terrorism, paragraph 8 of which referred specifically to the growing links between terrorism and drug trafficking. Colombia would give all possible assistance in preparing for the special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs.

54. Mr. ORAMAS OLIVA (Cuba) said that it was encouraging to see the universal interest of the international community in the drug problem, as witness the call for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs. The fight against drug abuse and trafficking was one of the most important tasks facing mankind - and in particular the United Nations - because it was a battle to eradicate an evil that threatened to destroy the individual, morally and physically, as well as the economic, social, political and cultural structure of nations, and to jeopardize their sovereignty and security.

55. It was no use denouncing developing countries involved in drug production and trafficking without a realistic policy to solve the social and economic problems of those countries. It must be recognized that thus far they had been waging a war in the worst possible conditions, without any acknowledgement or appreciation of how much they were doing for the international community.

56. It was essential for Governments to support United Nations and other international action and to develop national measures to tackle the problem at its roots. As long as there was a market and a demand, drug trafficking would persist. One of the most urgent problems was to prevent consumption and to provide treatment and rehabilitation. He agreed with those representatives who had stressed the vital importance of more effective legal measures against individuals and organizations linked with production, trafficking and illicit consumption of drugs.

57. He also stressed that genuine and effective co-operation must be based on respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, and strict application of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. In that connection he referred to the concern expressed by the Heads of State or Government at the Summit Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in Belgrade, at the use of the problem of drug trafficking for political ends.

58. Cuba was a signatory of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and supported the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities on Drug Abuse. It had signed the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and was considering ratification. It was also in the process of ratifying the 1972 Protocol to the Single Convention.

59. Drug addiction was not a social problem in Cuba. Cuba's problem was the use of its airspace and coastal waters for drug trafficking based on the United States

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(Mr. Oramas Oliva, Cuba)

of America. Between January 1985 and June 1989 Cuban authorities had seized 25 shipments, arrested and sent to trial 92 international drug traffickers and destroyed a total of 127,748.36 kilograms of drugs.

60. Cuba's determination to eradicate drug trafficking was shown by its firm handling of the recent unfortunate case in which members of the revolutionary armed forces and the Ministry of the Interior had been found to be engaged in covert drug trafficking for personal gain. They had immediately been investigated and sent to trial.

61. Cuba had adopted a number of unilateral measures and was co-operating with international efforts, particularly by the developing world. It was ready for bilateral co-operation with any serious, honest and responsible neighbouring country in conditions of equality and mutual respect. It would reject any kind of external interference, whether military or legal, believing that it was for the Governments of the countries concerned to determine what measures should be taken internally.

62. The Government of Cuba would continue to fight against drug trafficking in the region and to take measures against those who violated its territorial waters or airspace. Cuba was in the forefront of the drug battle.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.