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A retourner/Return to Distribution C.111

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/C.3/45/4  
3 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session  
THIRD COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 108

INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND  
ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Letter dated 2 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative  
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a message from H.E. Mr. Mohammad Rafiaa, Vice President of the Republic of Afghanistan and Chairman of the High National Commission on the Fight against Illicit Production, Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs, addressed to Your Excellency.

I have further the honour to request that the message be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(Signed) Noor Ahmad NOOR  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN  
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HIGH NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE FIGHT  
AGAINST ILLICIT PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE OF NARCOTIC  
DRUGS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic and psychotropic drugs is among the most serious problems of the world community, threatening humanity and its modern civilization. The United Nations has always striven to create favourable conditions for international co-operation against this problem. The Republic of Afghanistan deeply appreciates the role played by Your Excellency in the fight against this fatal phenomenon facing humanity.

It is well known that in the years during which the people and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan were shouldering the heavy weight of a destructive war, certain parts of the frontier areas between Afghanistan and Pakistan were turned into one of the largest bases for producing and processing narcotic drugs. Numerous smugglers, whose identities are certainly recognizable, are dealing in a huge way with narcotic drugs, in close co-operation with the international Mafia.

The Republic of Afghanistan has adopted serious measures, within its available means, to fight against the illegal cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs. During the years 1978 to 1990, a total of 228 tons of narcotic drugs valued at 7,200,000,000 afghanis were seized and 1,912 offenders dealing in narcotic drugs arrested. During the first half of the current year alone, 1,947 kilograms of narcotic drugs were seized and narcotic plants cultivated over an area of 60 hectares were destroyed. All narcotic drugs that have no legal and medical use are burned and destroyed. On the basis of a decree issued by H.E. Dr. Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan, the High National Commission on the Fight against Illicit Production, Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs was created, of which I have the honour to be Chairman. The establishment of such a high-level commission, of which the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, Deputy Prime Minister and 12 members of the Cabinet are members, and the allocation of financial resources to the fight against the illicit production, smuggling and abuse of narcotic drugs are unprecedented in our country.

To complete the legal basis for the struggle, a special law on the fight against the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs will soon be submitted to the Parliament for adoption and special courts and attorneys will be created to investigate and try those who deal in narcotic drugs. The creation of the Society of Volunteer Psychiatrists, the holding of seminars in schools and institutions of higher and vocational education and the active participation of the clergy in the fight against drug abuse as behaviour that runs contrary to the sacred principles of Islam, as well as the great efforts of social organizations, the mass media and the State organs, both in the capital and the provinces, reflect the vast scope of the measures adopted by the Republic of Afghanistan to fight this social disease.

The Republic of Afghanistan stands ready to co-operate with all neighbours, countries of the region and the world in the fight against this problem. In our opinion, the question of drug abuse is an international problem that cannot be dealt with effectively by the individual States alone. It was with this understanding that, during the recent official friendly visit of H.E. Dr. Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan, to India, an agreement on mutual co-operation on reducing the demand for narcotic drugs was signed between the two countries. The office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Kabul has been informed of this agreement.

Referring to the messages of the President of the Republic of Afghanistan and that of the Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to Your Excellency, I hope that the United Nations and the International Board on Narcotic Drugs Control will increase its assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan in its fight against narcotic drugs, which is being carried on in the framework of the conventions of 1961 and 1971 as well as the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. We are confident that establishing a representative office of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control at Kabul and visits to our country of its experts as well as those of other concerned United Nations bodies for an exchange of experience on the practical measures that we are implementing, would constitute huge steps in this regard.

Mohammad RAFIAA  
Vice President of the Republic  
of Afghanistan, and  
Chairman of the High National  
Commission on the Fight against  
Illicit Production, Trafficking  
and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs

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