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INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

International campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 42/113 of 7 December 1997 on the "International campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking", the General Assembly expressed its deep concern about the global situation with respect to drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Recognising the collective responsibility of States for providing adequate resources for the elimination of illicit production and trafficking and of the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Assembly once again unequivocally condemned drug trafficking in all its forms as a criminal activity and urged States to acknowledge that they share responsibility for combating the problem of illicit consumption, production, transit and trafficking. In that resolution the Assembly identified a series of measures to be taken.
2. The present document has been prepared in response to the General Assembly's request for a report on the implementation of the resolution.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

3. At its tenth special session, held from 8 to 19 February 1998, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in addition to adopting four resolutions and nine decisions, approved a series of draft resolutions for submission to the Economic and Social Council. The Council subsequently adopted these on 25 May 1998, 8 resolutions 1998/8 to 1998/16. 2/
4. The first two resolutions dealt respectively with "Preparation of an international convention against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" and with the "International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". 3/
5. The next four resolutions dealt with "Demand and supply of opiates for medical and scientific purposes", "Co-ordination of drug control activities in the African region", "Reduction of the illicit supply of drugs" and "Strengthening of co-operation and co-ordination in international drug control", which consolidated recommendations from the three regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA).
6. By resolution 1998/14, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East should continue to meet annually at a capital in the region, whenever possible, and at the United Nations Office at Vienna prior to sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It also authorized the Sub-Commission, endorsing the membership of Egypt, India and Jordan,
7. by resolution 1998/15, entitled "Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean", the Economic and Social Council, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to convene these three regional meetings annually, beginning in 1998, except in years when an interregional meeting is held.

8. by resolution 1988/16 on "Improved measures for reduction of illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances", the Economic and Social Council urged all Governments to foster the best possible conditions for the healthy development of all young people and for a purposeful life for them by facilitating their integration into the community. It called upon the Governments of countries facing problems of drug abuse to take, when appropriate, the necessary measures to reduce significantly the illicit demand.

9. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its tenth special session, devoted special attention to the level of the resources available to the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board. The Commission heard a statement in which the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Co-ordinator of all United Nations drug-related activities ● expressed his deep concern about the budgetary and staffing situation of these bodies. After thorough discussion, the Commission concluded "that any reduction below the approved total appropriation for section 20 of the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 relating to the International Narcotics Control Board and the Division of Narcotic Drugs would be irreconcilable with the efforts of Governments and the United Nations to intensify the global struggle ● against drug abuse". In an unprecedented decision, the Commission requested its Chairman and the President of the International Narcotics Control Board to bring these conclusions in person to the attention of the Secretary-General. The Commission's delegation was received by the Secretary-General on 25 February 1988. The Commission also recommended "to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that in examining the international drug control programmes it should give due regard to the present resolution with a view to maintaining and possibly strengthening the level of resources available to the drug control units".

III. ACTION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10. In response to the General Assembly's request, the United Nations Development Programme, in co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, organized the first seminar on replacement of opium poppy cultivation in December 1987, with the participation of experts from Burma, Pakistan and Thailand. Observers from Australia, the United States of America, the Commission of the European Communities and The Colombo Plan Bureau also attended. Other seminars are in the planning stage.

11. The Division of Narcotic Drugs, in co-operation with interested intergovernmental bodies and national agencies, is in the process of identifying sources of expertise for intensified drug law enforcement training. To co-ordinate such training activities, the Division is collecting national and international data and has already published the first issue of a biannual "International Calendar of Drug Law Enforcement Training Events", covering the period from July to December 1988. With the co-operation of a broad cross-section of national drug law enforcement agencies, as well as Interpol and the Customs Co-operation Council, the Division has also initiated a revision of two training manuals originally issued in the early 1970s.

12. On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Division convened three regional meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) in 1988: the second meeting of HONLEA, Africa, at Dakar from 16 to 22 April 1988; the second meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, at Lima from 12 to 16 September 1988; and the fourteenth meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, at Bangkok from 3 to 7 October 1988.

13. Further progress of action taken, in connection with ongoing efforts to address drug demand, include the preparation of a project on the establishment of an international drug abuse assessment system, to improve the quality of information available to intergovernmental bodies. Preparatory work has also begun on several regional workshops, programmed for 1989, on the use of community resources for preventing and reducing drug abuse. In addition to ongoing programmes of assistance through specialised training, reference samples, manuals and equipment, special efforts are being made, with the support of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, to help develop a network of national and regional laboratories for drug analysis and identification on the African continent.

14. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat was requested by the General Assembly to publish information designed to prevent the abuse of drugs, especially by young people. In this connection, the Department issued and distributed a backgrounder urging the observance of the first annual International Dry against Drug Abuse to schools, youth groups and other organisations. It sponsored, with the New York NCO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse, two programmes to mark the Day, including a public awareness campaign against drug abuse, featuring the participation of young people. A number of United Nations information centres carried out publicity on the observance in their areas. In addition, several public service announcements for television urging support of United Nations drug abuse activities were produced, as were two radio programmes on drug abuse prevention. An exhibit of award-winning cartoons against drug abuse was mounted in the Headquarters public lobby. The Department ensured the availability of information on United Nations activities in the field of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including reprints of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline and the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The Department's regular television, radio and print activities included coverage of United Nations activities in this field. Information on the prevention of drug abuse will continue to be included in future activities.

15. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to take steps to provide, within existing resources, support for strengthening the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board, including through redeployment", and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that the level of resources available to the drug control units be maintained and possibly strengthened. Compliance with these requests will have to be considered in the context of the implementation of recommendation 16 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18) and the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budgetary implications thereof.

Notes

1/ E/1986/13.

2/ E/1988/88.

3/ For more detailed reports on these two resolutions, see documents A/43/678 and A/43/679.
