

the Interior, Mr. Madieng Khary Dieng, is respected throughout the world for its professionalism and its code of ethics, as well as for its active role as a loyal partner of Interpol. We sincerely appreciate being able to work in such a cordial atmosphere - which is the mark of peoples who consider hospitality is a fundamental value.

The welcome given us by the Senegalese authorities will certainly foster and facilitate the discussions of this General Assembly session which, I am sure, could have an important effect on our future.

I should just like to recall briefly some of the important issues which the Executive Committee and the Secretary General will be submitting to this Assembly for consideration and decision.

Never before has a General Assembly had to decide on so many applications for membership during a session. More than ten countries wish to join us and strengthen our international force. I should particularly like to greet their representatives who have come to Dakar to bear witness to their confidence that Interpol will help them to protect people and property in their countries.

These new members, like the eleven States which have joined since 1989, demonstrate the need to take account of the major geographical changes which have affected crime in recent years, particularly in central and eastern Europe. The African Region will also gain strength within Interpol with the accession of two new members.

It will also be incumbent on the General Assembly to give tangible - i.e. financial - expression to the spirit of international solidarity it showed last year when it adopted the Regional Modernization Plan for telecommunications and computerization.

This five-year plan for technical co-operation, the first of its kind to

be implemented by the Organization, will allow a fundamental improvement to be made, between now and 1997, to the police equipment used for Interpol transmissions in the developing regions. It will also permit more effective co-operation in investigations to the benefit of the police in other countries.

This gives some indication of the importance to be attached to rapidly and harmoniously implementing this programme which will supplement the technical modernization that has been going on at the General Secretariat since 1985 and is now practically complete.

This plan, this collective ambition, naturally has a price, which must be paid today if the Organiz-



*Mr. Ivan Barbot, President of Interpol, thanking the Senegalese authorities for their welcome and outlining the objectives of the 61st General Assembly session.*

ation is to have the modern equipment needed to condition the operational effectiveness of its worldwide network for several decades to come.

It is a reasonable price to pay given the expenses which will be incurred anyway in the coming

years, particularly if, along the way, certain major forms of crime, such as drug trafficking, become more serious where they already exist and infest countries which have so far been spared.

During the same period, we shall see in Africa, as we have already seen in South-East Asia and South America, a tightening of the structures of daily co-operation. This will stem from the installation in 1993 of an Interpol Sub-Regional Bureau in Abidjan, and at this session the General Assembly will be asked to approve the draft Headquarters Agreement negotiated with the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, to whom I again offer our most sincere thanks.

In Africa as elsewhere, therefore, the Organization places a great deal of hope in simultaneously delegating the co-ordination of investigations and implementing an overall plan for technical co-operation.

Consequently, I must again express our gratitude to all those Members which have agreed or are planning to agree to increase their financial support to reflect their economic capabilities, and to those like the United States, France, Japan and the United Kingdom which have provided, or will be providing, specific help to facilitate the implementation of priority sections of this regional modernization in the Caribbean, in Central and South America, in Africa and in Asia. We must also pay tribute to the United Nations which has agreed to provide valuable help in perfecting these operational links.

In return, it is essential that the efforts made in recent months by the countries with contributions in arrears be maintained. As from 1993, many of those countries will benefit from the projects I have just mentioned.

At the same time, the Executive Committee and the Secretary General have decided that a realist-