



The Casal Lumbroso Police College near Rome where the General Assembly session was held

have been prevented with a more careful allocation of our resources.

And finally, let us remain accountable — to each other, to our Member States, and most of all to the billions of innocent and law-respecting citizens of the world who are our real clientele.

There will be many challenges which will confront my successor and I am sure his successor as well. That is, I regret to say, the nature of law enforcement today — today as

we witness the reality of the global village which brings the problems of Benin to the doorstep of Canada and the problems of Canada to the doorstep of China. And that is why we must be united in our common fight against the scourge of international crime.

Our agenda for this the 63rd General Assembly session is replete with the challenges that face law enforcement bodies everywhere in the world. These items will require

your full attention and your advice through energetic debate as we prepare the workload to confront the General Secretariat for the coming year.

But there are challenges internal to the Organization which require at least an equal measure of your attention and of course your advice.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee which I attended in 1987 we discussed the budget of the Organization, the value of the budget unit and naturally the question of arrears.

We discussed exactly the same problems at my last meeting of the Executive Committee on Monday and I regret to report that we have not made much progress in the intervening 7 years. Let me take a moment if I may to provide a context for the discussion that must occur.

In 1989, under the outstanding leadership of Mr Kendall, the Secretary General, Interpol became the most modern and technically advanced police organization in the world. That is a position that Interpol cannot maintain without recurring update and modernization costs. NCBs now quite comfortable with this new technology are using it more and sending more messages, thus the day-to-day costs of doing business are increasing.

Yet the Organization has been on an essentially fixed budget as the value of the budget unit has remained constant for the past several years. But some of the value of the budget unit has been eaten away by inflation so the actual money available to Interpol's Secretariat has declined while we ask the Secretariat to do more.

At the same time the list of countries in arrears is growing, while we ask those who pay, to pay more budget units of higher value. And they have budget problems too. And the provisions of Article 52 are ineffectual.

The conundrum is an obvious one and it will take some very difficult decisions to find solutions. I wish you well. As this will be my last appearance before this august body I want to remind you, if I may, that you represent the finest