

majority of the people in the world against the small minority who commit crime. Let us follow this line at this General Assembly session as well and keep it in mind when we deal with issues on the agenda.

### **Crime development**

Sadly, crime figures are rising all over the world. As well as traditional types of crime there are new types such as environmental crime, sex abuse of children and women, and computer crime.

Another trend is that organized crime is becoming more and more intercontinental. Crime syndicates tend to expand their business, cooperating with other crime syndicates in other countries and other continents.

Organized crime has even become a threat to the development of countries, to democracy and to fair competition in business life.

This is of course something we cannot accept as citizens or law enforcement officers.

### **Political development**

The situation which I have described is of course of great concern to the politicians of the world. They are taking this situation seriously and they are also prepared to take steps in order to counter this tragic development.

This could be noticed at the 50th anniversary of the United Nations when the heads of governments from all over the world made it clear that the fight against organized crime should be on top of the agenda for the coming years.

Strong decisions in this direction were also taken by the Heads of State in the G7 group at their last meeting in June this year. It should be noted that in their declaration they congratulated our Organization and the World



**A view of the official platform during the opening ceremony**

Customs Organization on our work and recognized both organizations as partners for cooperation.

Members of the Executive Committee, myself and the Secretary General have also noticed a growing interest in combating international crime from our talks with various ministers in different countries.

I have noticed this during the visits I have made this last year to Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Ukraine, Russia, Jamaica, Haiti, Barbados, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Poland.

I want to emphasize that all the ministers with whom both I and the Secretary General have discussed this, have stated that they consider Interpol to be a very important tool in the combat against criminality.

### **Interpol's development**

In the light of what I have just described, I should like to draw your attention to where our Organization stands today.

We have an advanced, fast and secure communications network, together with a computer system

which stands second to none compared to other systems in the world. At present and in the next few years most member countries will be guaranteed this technology and equipment by means of the Regional Modernization Plan. Interpol has also developed highly effective crime analysis methods. This technology and these methods are not only necessary, I would say that they are a prerequisite if we are to be successful in our efforts. Implementation of the Service Standards also means that Interpol is meeting our users' demands for a fast and efficient service.

Last but not least, we have well-educated and highly motivated officers both at the General Secretariat and at our NCBs.

Ladies and gentlemen, in connection with describing Interpol's enormous achievements in the technology field I ought to take the opportunity on behalf of the ICPO-Interpol to express condolences to Mrs McQuillan and her family because of the tragic loss of Mr Paul McQuillan. Mr Paul McQuillan has done invaluable work for Interpol and I do not hesitate to say that Interpol would not be such a successful organization without