

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE REVIEW



General Assembly

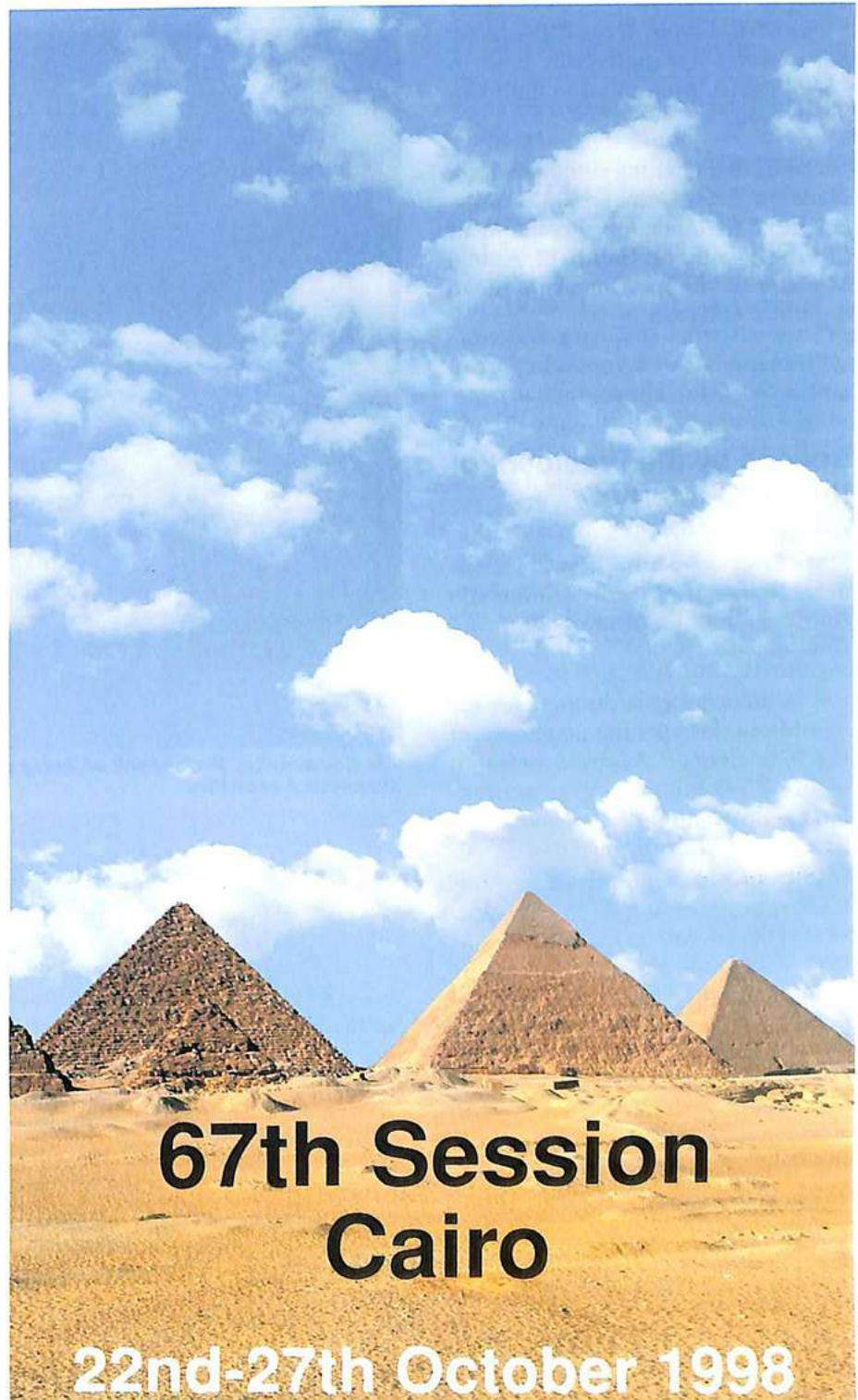
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67th Session Cairo

22nd-27th October 1998

FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY

The 67th session of the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 22nd to 26th October 1998.

The formal opening ceremony took place on 22nd October in the presence of Mr Kanemoto, President of Interpol, and Mr Habib El Adely, Minister of the Interior of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

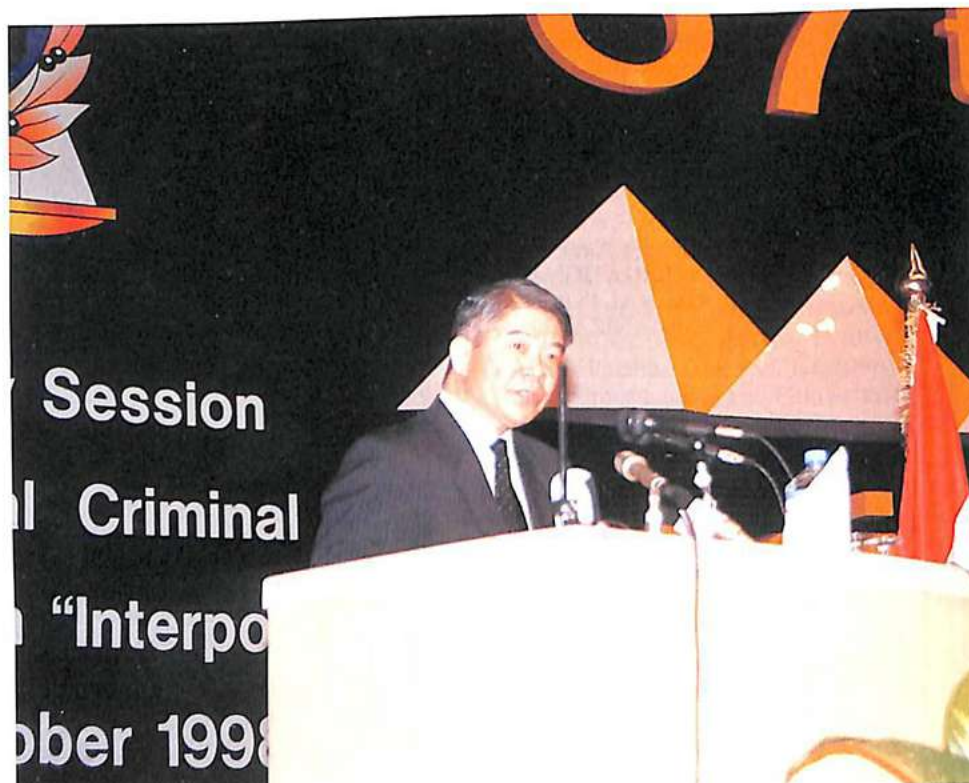
The full texts of the speeches given on this occasion appear below.

Speech by the President of the ICPO-Interpol

Mr Minister of the Interior, Honourable members of the Diplomatic Corps, Fellow Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a great honour for me to address the opening ceremony of the 67th General Assembly session of the ICPO-Interpol. It is particularly significant for the Organization to celebrate its 75th birthday in the capital of one of the most ancient civilizations of the world, Egypt. One of the seventeen founding members of Interpol, Egypt has played a significant role within the Organization by regularly sending the Executive Committee its finest officers including General El-Rooby who is now Vice-President for Africa. Egypt also has made great contributions to the fight against crime by hosting in 1995 the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

I would also like to remind all of you, ladies and gentlemen, that the international community celebrates this year the 50th anniversary of the



Mr Kanemoto, President of Interpol, opening the 67th session of the General Assembly

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in whose spirit the ICPO-Interpol has ensured and continues to ensure the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities.

On behalf of Interpol and all the delegates representing its member countries, I express our deepest appreciation to the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and his government for hosting this General Assembly that marks a historic milestone for Interpol. Our gratitude also goes to General El-Rooby and his colleagues of the Egyptian National Police who have worked so

hard to make this General Assembly a success.

One year has passed since we met in New Delhi. You may well recall that in my opening remarks to the General Assembly session in New Delhi I identified four principles that would direct my actions as President. They are effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and solidarity. This year's agenda includes reports of activity and decisions that demonstrate the Executive Committee's and the Secretary General's adherence to these policy guidelines. For example, the General Assembly is asked to authorize the Secretary General to

sign co-operation agreements with the World Customs Organization and the Arab Interior Ministers' Council. These accords, together with the existing and future ones, will enhance the effectiveness of international law enforcement co-operation.

Second, the Executive Committee proposes that from Cairo onwards the General Assembly will meet, in principle, in plenary sessions and this with a view to achieving maximum efficiency. The introduction of a long-awaited electronic voting system is motivated by the same concern for efficiency.

In its 120th session, the Executive Committee agreed to publish the Annual Report of the Supervisory Board for the Control of Interpol's Archives. It would be communicated to the General Assembly, broadcast on the Internet site and communicated to bodies involved in data protection. This decision reflects our commitment to Interpol's accountability to the public and data protection legislations of the member countries, and its sense of responsibility.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you may also recall that in New Delhi I identified two strategic challenges internal to the Organization which require

your full attention and energetic debate, namely the question of Interpol's financial health and the succession process for the next Secretary General.

With regard to the study on statutory contributions, Interpol's Adviser yesterday made an interim report on progress to the Executive Committee. The study takes full account of the importance of solidarity and equability among the member countries, and you will be informed of the final report of the study next year.

As to the succession of the Secretary General, I am pleased to inform you that the Executive Committee decided, at its July 1998 session, to select a nominee for Secretary General in 1999. The General Assembly of 1999 will be informed of the candidate's name and, consistent with Interpol's Constitution, the General Assembly of 2000 will vote on the nominee upon the expiration of Secretary General Kendall's final five-year term. Immediately after this decision, I issued a circular to all member countries inviting them to submit names for consideration between 1st October and 31st December 1998 at the latest. It is the sincere wish of the Executive Committee to have a large pool of extremely well-qualified candidates. You will be

kept informed of progress in this matter.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Organization celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, with only a few years remaining before the turn of the century. It thus would be helpful to review Interpol's past before attempting to chart its future. Founded by a certain number of Member States in 1923, Interpol has grown into a unique and truly global body comprising 177 Member States. During the development process, Interpol has established a range of systems for mutual police co-operation, such as international notices, its own communications network for rapid and secure information exchange, and a computerized database of crime information. Thanks to our expertise and professional skills, our Organization is now recognized as an indispensable interlocutor by such distinguished organizations as the United Nations, the G8 Summit, the European Union, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), etc.

In fact, Interpol has changed a great deal in the last 75 years. However, the environment, in which it operates has changed in a much more radical way and it is my profound concern that unless Interpol



View of the Conference Hall in the Cairo International Conference Centre where the Delegations from 140 countries and Observers from 11 International Organizations gathered for the 67th session of the General Assembly

re-examines itself promptly and fundamentally, it could lose a large part of its relevance in the 21st century. The challenges Interpol must meet to remain the pre-eminent leader in fighting transnational crime appear to have two dimensions: (1) evolution of international crime (including the all-too-obvious cases of terrorism and violence), and (2) proliferation of different crime-fighting institutions.

Regarding the first, the increasingly global and complex nature of crime makes it more difficult to detect and collect evidence for prosecution and hence requires a different law enforcement response. High-tech crime and money laundering are a clear illustration of these challenges. Unless we keep reviewing our priorities, management systems, finance and organizational structures, Interpol will have difficulty in keeping pace with the rapidly changing environment and the criminal activities within it.

Now the second: in the past, there were only a few fora, like the United Nations, the World Customs Organization and Interpol, where counter-measures to combat international crime were discussed. Recently, however, other organizations have begun to take up the problem of crime as an important political issue. These include the G8, the FATF and the increasingly important regional initiatives. While the proliferation of different institutions helps raise public awareness of the danger of international criminality, it also risks producing duplication of effort and waste of already scarce resources. It is imperative, therefore, to create appropriate mechanisms for co-ordination. To do so, Interpol must be fully committed to following the discussions concerning anti-crime measures being pursued by other fora, and to offering our co-operation, expertise and professional skills in the operational domain. Unless Interpol seeks out such strategic alliances with other institutions, it risks being displaced in the fight against transnational crime.

Against the background of these thoughts and the rapidly changing

environment, it has become obvious to me, to the Secretary General and the Executive Committee that Interpol must have a clear vision of its role and purpose in the 21st century to retain its relevance and effectiveness to its Member States.

To this end, we have initiated the formulation of a Strategic Development Plan for Interpol. Through this Plan, the Executive Committee intends to lay out the direction and road map through which Interpol can continue to develop as a truly viable law enforcement organ for the 21st century. The plan which has been developed with the help of external professional assistance and expertise from the private sector requires your full attention and your debate because, together with two other items, i.e. the question of finance and the succession of the Secretary General, it will form the three most important decisions that you will be required to make before the turn of the century. Interpol, like every organization, needs three essential elements to grow and succeed, namely strategy, money and leadership, on which hinge the future of Interpol, and hence the future of us all.

May I conclude my opening address, Mr Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, by thanking you in advance for making this General Assembly a great success. Thank you very much.

Speech by Mr Habib El Adely, Minister of the Interior of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Mr President of the ICPO-Interpol, Mr Secretary General, Honourable Ministers, Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Cairo for the 67th session of the ICPO-Interpol's General Assembly, the very month in which Egypt and the Arab world are celebrating the anniversary of the glorious victory of October, when we crossed our country in a bid to open up new horizons of peace and progress.

Egypt has always firmly believed that the defence of values such as

law, justice and peace, is the only possible option for mankind, and we reaffirm that belief today. By its victory that October, Egypt regained its position of influence and reasserted its importance in the region and its central role in promoting peace and development.

The issues of peace and development are, in effect, issues of national, regional and international security and stability.

This is why, in the area of international co-operation, politicians are placing matters of security above all other considerations. The machinery for such co-operation is becoming more and more effective every day, and reflects an increasingly strong commitment on the part of the international community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

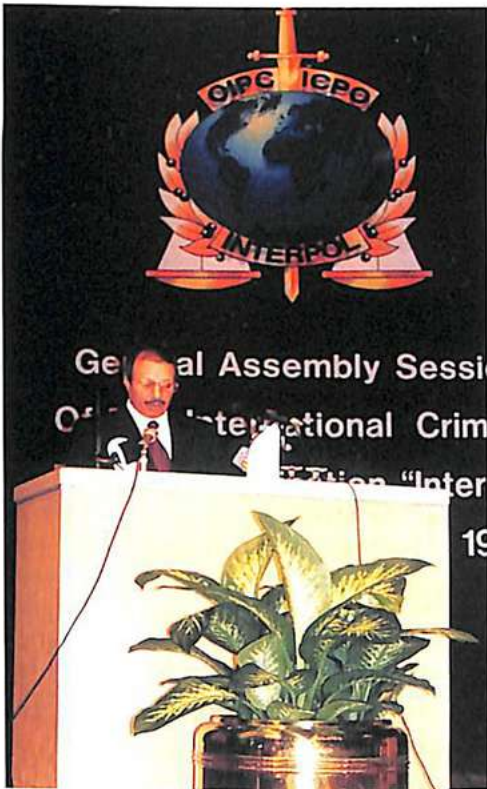
I should like to take this opportunity to assure you that we hold the ICPO-Interpol in great esteem and to let you know the extent to which we appreciate the role played by your Organization, which is a vital instrument of international co-operation in fighting crime and bringing offenders to justice.

The importance of this role continues to grow, particularly at a time when criminal activities such as international terrorism and organized crime seriously threaten to undermine human rights and the interests of peoples the world over, and to jeopardize the values and political systems of democratic societies.

As stability and equality have gained ground, they have become an essential basis for humanity to give a free rein to its creative energy and strive towards the improvement of society as a whole.

The international community has undertaken to act decisively and with foresight in facing up to the future. It stands ready to take up the challenges it faces effectively and confidently, and to achieve its objectives.

It unequivocally accepts its international responsibility, which is to



Mr Habib El Adely, Minister of the Interior of the Arab Republic of Egypt, welcoming the 491 Delegates

fight off the menace which is threatening the advance of civilization and jeopardizing monotheistic religion and moral principles and values.

It goes without saying that your Organization is playing an increasing role in strengthening international co-operation in the area of security. This has become increasingly apparent during the final decade of this century, which is now drawing to a close and is about to make way for a century which will usher in a new age, the beginnings of which are marked by the transformation of our society into a universal world with its changes and its challenges.

It would be no exaggeration to say that, at this historical turning point, the future of our countries depends largely on our ability to co-operate effectively in the fight against terrorism and organized crime. This co-operation will serve to reinforce the legitimate nature of our penal laws at international level, and to channel efforts into safeguarding the stability

of national political systems and, consequently, that of the world order.

In adopting decision No. 46/153 on crime prevention and criminal justice, which sets out a certain number of principles and lays down a specific programme of action, the United Nations has provided a valuable framework in which the different partners can work together towards a common goal.

One of the main tasks facing these different partners will almost certainly be to highlight the growing danger to society from acts of terrorism: such acts have become a serious obstacle to stability and development, a grave threat and a menace to human rights, particularly in view of the close links which have been forged with organized crime both nationally and internationally. The links between these criminal activities were brought to light in the decisions taken at the 9th United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which took place in Cairo back in 1995. The aims of that conference were to boost international co-operation in the areas of law enforcement and criminal justice, and to highlight the dangers of terrorism linked with organized crime.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is widely acknowledged that the International Criminal Police Organization has carried out much important work since its creation in 1923. It persevered, managing to develop practical programmes which have been of undeniable benefit in the fight against crime. Egypt was one of the Organization's seven founding members: she has actively participated in all its activities and firmly intends to carry on doing so.

The Organization's major accomplishments include the creation of a department for monitoring and coordinating the fight against terrorism, the activities of the Regional and National Central Bureaus in the fight against drugs and counterfeiting, and the struggle against new forms of crime such as that involving

intellectual property, the environment, traffic in human beings or nuclear waste, and computer crime.

Do I really need to dwell on how useful co-operation between the Egyptian authorities and *Interpol* has been? This co-operation has always resulted in a fruitful sharing of experience and information, and in Egypt's commitment to extraditing fugitives in application of the relevant rules and procedures.

Egypt's position in this respect demonstrates its conviction that the concept of legitimacy, as it must be perceived by the international community, is indivisible, and that the State, as a legal entity, within that community must strongly support the foundations of the legitimacy of the other States. Support and respect for such legitimacy, in conformity with the rules of international law, are closely linked.

In addition, I also believe that the fact that Egypt's experience in security matters is so diverse, covers such a range of activities and uses modern techniques has contributed to international co-operation as a whole.

The Egyptian security services have succeeded in setting up a system based on efficiency standards and state-of-the-art techniques at the service of the prevention and punishment of general crime, organized crime and more specifically terrorism. The way in which this system was established has allowed law enforcement services to develop their ability to face security threats and to approach them in a logical, organized way which has proved very effective and which has also increased general security and stability within Egyptian society.

During the General Assembly and throughout your stay in Egypt, I would encourage you to observe the consistency and the coherence of the security provided by our various law enforcement agencies, the preventive measures implemented and the new systems and techniques aimed at improving performance standards and response times.

These domestic concerns are accompanied by our increasingly active role in strengthening international co-operation in security matters. For example, during 1998, the Egyptian authorities strengthened their collaboration with various international and regional organizations in the interests of co-operation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

Similarly, Cairo is now the headquarters of the UNDCP's Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa and also hosts the Regional Training Centre of the International Civil Defence Organization.

Furthermore, important progress has been made in the field of handling crises in conjunction with European Mediterranean countries, Russia, Germany and Italy.

It should be pointed out that Egyptian security institutes are among the most important training centres in the Middle East and Africa. This year, about 400 security service officials from several Arab, African and Asian countries attended training courses at these institutes.

Egypt has also intensified its involvement in regional Arab co-operation and is launching an increasing number of initiatives. One result was the Arab Convention on fighting crime which was concluded in Cairo in April 1998, in a remarkable and unprecedented atmosphere of co-operation between the Arab Interior Ministers' Council and the Council of the Ministers of Justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting confirms that there is a deep awareness of the challenges awaiting us, combined with great determination to combat rising transnational crime, which is also demonstrated by the content of the agenda of the General Assembly session.

I would like to state that as part of its direct involvement in regional and international security co-operation, the Egyptian Government is increasingly concerned to support

co-operation machinery. That being said, I would also like to make the following points:

(1) The numerous international conferences on the danger posed by terrorism and organized crime have not been in vain because constantly reviewing the same issues encourages changes of direction and reflects a common determination to take action and increase counter-measures. This is essential in a day and age where modern science and technology and the helplessness of governments in some international situations undoubtedly have a certain degree of freedom.

(2) It is important for Interpol's strategy — which is to be discussed at this session — to confirm its determination to support co-operation initiated by member countries to combat international terrorism.

I am sure you share my opinion on the importance of the New Terrorism Guide which will be presented during the Assembly and of the implementation of guidelines for this fight as part of the Organization's strategy. This needs to be accompanied by international efforts to encourage a firmer attitude towards combating terrorist offences and vis-à-vis the terrorists themselves.

A lax attitude towards organized crime exposes our societies to significant dangers but excessive tolerance of terrorism is unthinkable.

Hence President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak's appeal at the United Nations international conference to codify the anti-terrorism measures implemented by the international community so that such measures are systematically implemented by everybody.

Egypt drove home this point during the last few UN General Assembly sessions because combating terrorism is the responsibility of the whole international community, and not just of one or several States. The international community has a responsibility to those who have gone before us and to our common human conscience.

This attitude should be adopted by the General Assembly and should encourage Member States to stand firm together against any State which welcomes fugitive terrorists or which supports terrorism.

(3) It is important for Interpol to support steps taken by Member States to conclude bilateral co-operation agreements in security and extradition matters. This in turn will strengthen the effectiveness of red notices, the circulation of which is one of Interpol's main activities.

(4) The strengthening of co-operation between Interpol and the Arab Interior Ministers' Council is most definitely a positive step given the importance of the interaction between measures implemented at regional and international level.

In this regard, I would like to mention the special attention we attach to co-operation between the General Secretariat of the Council and ICPO-Interpol to encourage maintaining Arabic as an official Interpol language and increasing its use.

(5) Respecting the sovereignty of States and the particular characteristics of the civilization, heritage and culture of each people and each society ensures that international co-operation achieves its objectives.

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our only way ahead is to strengthen co-operation — co-operation based on our common outlook and interests. The whole world bases its hopes on the action we take nationally, regionally and internationally to protect its values and beliefs, to impose legitimacy and to ensure the foundations of stability.

There can be no doubt that, with all it has achieved and its long and proud tradition of fighting crime, your Organization is one of the most important mechanisms on which the international community bases its hopes.

Your very presence here today is confirmation of the fact that we are all moving forward with resolution

A view of the official platform during the Opening Ceremony. From left to right: Mr El Rooby, Interpol Vice-President for Africa, Mr Kendall, Secretary General, Mr El Adely, Egyptian Minister of the Interior, Mr Kanemoto, President of Interpol, and Mr Richardot and Mr Kelly, Interpol Vice-Presidents for Europe and the Americas respectively



and determination, to meet the challenges of today and the demands of tomorrow.

Egypt will always show the same determination and, with God's help, be able to make a significant contribution to international co-operation, taking a central role in the forefront of the action, faithful to the place it has always held and reflecting the contribution of a heritage which has developed over thousands of years, since the very early days of human conscience.

Finally, let me express my sincere thanks and gratitude to you for at-

tending this important international meeting.

I hope the reception you receive in Cairo will sincerely reflect our acknowledgement of your leading role in preserving the foundations of a more human world in which justice, freedom and equality may be strengthened.

May God grant you success and may His peace, mercy and grace be with you.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



During the first plenary session on 22nd October 1998, chaired by Mr Kanemoto, the Organization's President, an application for membership from the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros was submitted to the General Assembly and approved. Interpol now has 177 member countries.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Interpol Strategic Development Plan: Report No. 5

The PRESIDENT asked the delegates to refer to the interim report (Report No. 5), which had been prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) at the request of the Executive Committee. He stressed the fact that no organization could survive without a planning process and the means to implement the plans. Until recently, Interpol had been in a monopoly situation, but that that was no longer the case. Transnational crime was becoming increasingly complex in form and directly threatening society — and, through it, democracy itself — and now other organizations were being set up to combat organized crime. Interpol had to take account of such developments and ensure that all its work throughout the world was co-ordinated. The Organization also had to analyse in detail the real needs of its Member States in order to provide the services they were entitled to expect of it.

The Secretary General and the President himself, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, had therefore asked external consultants to conduct an exhaustive study. Then, in July 1998, the Executive Committee had set up a Steering Committee, with members representing all regions of the world, to co-ordinate the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan with the General Secretariat and the representatives of PWC. During its meeting the previous day, the Executive Committee had approved the work done by the Steering Committee.

Although the Strategic Development Plan initiative had been taken by the General Secretariat, the President fervently hoped there would be constructive debate so that at its session in Cairo, the General Assembly could accept and support the process described in the interim report. After the debate, the General Assembly would be asked to vote on a draft resolution authorizing the Executive Committee and the Secretary General to continue with, and implement, the Plan.

Mr Palmer (Australia), a Member of the Executive Committee, stressed the fact that the Strategic Development Plan submitted to the General Assembly was a major step in the ongoing development of the Organization. Nobody would dispute the need for Interpol to meet the expectations of its member countries in an adequate way. It therefore had to honestly assess its strengths and weaknesses and adopt a plan which would allow it to accomplish its tasks. Once the objectives had been clearly stated, the Plan should provide the Organization with the es-

sential tools it required to ensure it performed its tasks in the manner expected of it. That was the aim of the Executive Committee, which considered an outside perspective to be essential. The President and the Executive Committee had been the architects of the Strategic Development Plan, but the company they had consulted had produced a particularly important and valuable document.

Answering questions from delegates after a long, comprehensive debate, Mr Palmer reiterated that the Strategic Development Plan would not need any special funding during 1999.

Of course the Plan would have to be considered in the light of the review of the system of contributions but the Organization could not hope to finance such an ambitious plan without drawing on its reserves and using the resources of the planned foundation. Realistically, the Plan would probably have to be modified according to available resources. In any case, no major budget increases



The Albanian Delegation

were planned before 2002; an increase of about 15% could quite well be considered if it was spread over a period of time.

The Secretary General said that those involved in the discussions within the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee had been fully aware that it was pointless to propose a strategic plan if there was no real possibility of funding it. At the Executive Committee session held in July, the consultants had therefore been instructed to study the costs of the Plan particularly carefully.

As had already been stated, there was no specific provision for the Plan in the 1999 budget. It was clear that all alternatives to traditional financing such as external financing, drawing on reserves, increased productivity and efficiency, etc., all needed to be considered. An increase in contributions could not be relied upon to finance the Plan.

The Plan did not contain anything new at all, as those who had worked on the European Committee knew,

but the consultants had succeeded in presenting a structured and well-organized report.

It had been suggested that the budget could be reduced by 30% if member countries detached officials.

The Secretary General said it would be appropriate for the General Assembly to confirm the Executive Committee's decisions. However, even though the Plan did not affect the 1999 budget, he felt it was essential to press ahead without waiting for the Assembly's next session.

The President submitted Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/14: Interpol Strategic Development Plan.

The Secretary General said he realized the German Delegate's remarks were well-founded: he felt a perfectly adequate response to that concern would be to refer to the role the General Assembly still had to play. Of course, every year the General Assembly would have to determine what effect the Plan would have on the Budget, and thus would exercise active control.

Those ideas could be simply expressed by modifying the final paragraph of the Draft Resolution as follows: "Calls upon the Executive Committee to make a full report to the General Assembly on all aspects of the Plan and its implementation and to prepare ... (unchanged from thereon)".

The President noted that there was a consensus on the draft. Given the importance of the subject, he asked the General Assembly to vote by show of hands on the draft resolution as amended by the Secretary General, and not to use the electronic voting system.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/14: "Interpol Strategic Development Plan", as amended by the Secretary General, was adopted unanimously. It became Resolution AGN/67/RES/1.

LEGAL MATTERS

Annual Report of the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives

The 1997 Annual Report of the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives (Report No. 2) was submitted to the Assembly. The Supervisory Board considered a total of 20 requests in 1997, an average of almost 7 requests per session.

Of these 20 requests, 12 (60%) were requests for access to Interpol's

files, 5 (25%) were requests for information to be deleted, and 3 (15%) were requests of another sort.

Three of the requests (15% of the total) were repetitive* requests emanating from two requesting parties, one of whom had sent about a dozen letters to the Organization and then to the Board.

Consequently, only 18 new requesting parties contacted the Board in 1997, making an average of 6 new requests per session. Two of the parties were administrative departments, not private individuals.

The Supervisory Board emphasized the importance of carrying out spot checks. It provided a highly effective means of finding out what was actually happening in practice and of understanding some of the problems that arose during the examination of requests for verification.

The Board had access to the manual files and to the Criminal Information System from its meeting room. It also visited the departments responsible for processing police information to check that the information in the manual files was the same

* The term "repetitive request" means a request that someone has sent to the Board on several occasions on the same subject.

as that in the Organization's different computer-based files.

The Board carried out random checks to ensure that computerized personal data was properly processed. At its request, the General Secretariat submitted — at short notice — a list of some fifty red notices which had been issued in 1990. The Board also checked 5 red notices and 3 blue notices, some of which related to a case that had been the subject of a request for verification. Others concerned a case that had been studied by the crime analysis unit.

The Board was informed that the new computer system currently being developed by the Organization would make it possible to consult all the databases simultaneously.

The Board expressed the desire to check that the instructions given to the Secretariat departments about their working methods were in conformity with the Organization's rules and regulations and that those texts were adequate. The General Secretariat provided the Board with copies of all the written rules which existed on the subject, and asked representatives from the crime analysis unit and the notices department to give presentations outlining their respective tasks and working methods.

Out of 10 crime analysis files, the Board checked one analysis containing personal data from several sources to see whether the data was the same as that in the Criminal Information System. The Board noted that at least 24 hours elapsed before an item of information was updated in the CIS and expressed the hope that the delay would be reduced with the new ICIS.

After listening to the presentation on notices, the Board concluded that red notices prevailed over broadcast messages but asked that such messages should always be updated or deleted within one year if there was no clear reply from the NCB concerned.

The Board also took note of General Assembly Report No. 8, which summarized many member countries' attitudes to the legal value of red notices. In that connection, the Board requested that the General



Secretariat should only publish a red notice after it had checked that the request for publication met the minimum requirements (for example, the existence of a valid arrest warrant) for the transmission of requests for provisional arrest. The Board also planned to continue to check addenda to red notices, in keeping with the Organization's rules and regulations, and to verify recommendations on extradition sent to NCBs.

Finally, two important decisions were taken: first, the Board's Annual Report would shortly be published on the Internet and, secondly, the Board would henceforth be known as "the Supervisory Board for the Control of Interpol's Archives".

Draft Memoranda of Understanding with the World Customs Organization and with the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (Report No. 6)

This Report was a follow up to Resolution AGN/64/RES/11, adopted by the General Assembly at its session in Beijing in 1995, and which asked the President of the Organization and the Secretary General:

- to enter into negotiations aimed at allowing the closest co-operation and the most fruitful exchanges at the highest level between Interpol and the regional organizations which they feel are useful to international police co-operation; [...]
- to submit to the General Assembly for its approval any draft convention, agreement or protocol which they conclude.

In application of this resolution, the General Secretariat entered into negotiations with several international organizations, including the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC). Discussions with these two organizations led to draft memoranda of understanding being concluded. In conformity with Article 41 of Interpol's Constitution, these drafts were submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

Other international organizations were also approached and the possibility of concluding co-operation agreements with them was discussed in Report No. 7.

The World Customs Organization (WCO)

The WCO (formerly known as the Customs Co-operation Council, or CCD) is an intergovernmental organization with nearly 150 member countries. Its headquarters are in Brussels. It was set up by the 1950 Brussels Convention, and its aims — inter alia — are "to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations in the area of compliance with trade regulations, protection of society and revenue collection, thereby contributing to the economic and social well-being of nations". Within the context of its mission, the WCO is actively involved in the fight against international crime.

The WCO and Interpol have therefore maintained close relations for several years. The WCO is on the list of international organizations which have Observer status at Interpol's General Assembly and sends a representative to the General Assembly session each year.

The types of crime which Interpol and the WCO are both actively in-

volved in combating include drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, money laundering, environmental crime, pornography and traffic in human beings, product counterfeiting and forgery of identity and travel documents.

Joint plans of action are currently being drawn up. For example, there is currently a plan — for which the General Secretariat's Drugs Sub-Directorate is responsible — to establish a common database to be shared by Interpol, WCO and UNDCP (the United Nations International Drug Control Programme), and there is also a project with the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (for which the Regional Co-ordination Bureau is responsible).

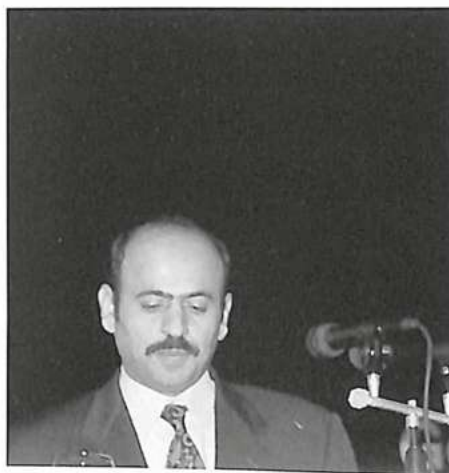
The adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding between the WCO and the ICPO-Interpol will provide a suitable legal foundation for such joint projects and will encourage co-ordinated action in the fight against international crime, thereby avoiding duplication of effort.

The Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC)

The AIMC was established in 1982 by the Arab League Council and has 22 member countries*. Its aims are to develop and strengthen co-operation in the Arab countries in the areas of internal security and the fight against crime. The headquarters of the AIMC are in Tunis.

Because of these aims, the AIMC General Secretariat maintains close relations with Interpol. The AIMC is also on the list of international organizations which have Observer status at Interpol's General Assembly and, each year, sends a representative to the General Assembly session.

As the AIMC is very active in the Arab region in fighting international crime, the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding is fully in keeping with the General Assembly resolution referred to above.



Mr Ahmed Al Salem, Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council

Content of the Draft Memoranda of Understanding

The Draft Memoranda of Understanding with the WCO and the AIMC are based on the co-operation agreements concluded with the United Nations and with the Universal Postal Union. Both contain provisions dealing with mutual consultation, exchange of information, reciprocal representation and technical co-operation.

The provisions on the exchange of information stipulate that Interpol shall communicate information to other organizations in strict accordance with its internal regulations (see Article 2 of each draft). Special arrangements may be concluded for specific projects.

The Draft Memoranda of Understanding take full account of the Organization's interests and are likely to enhance its action since they will facilitate better co-ordination between the organizations involved in the fight against international crime.

Procedure to be followed

The Executive Committee approved the two appended Draft Memoranda of Understanding at its 120th session in July 1998, and the texts were therefore submitted to the General Assembly for approval by resolution (a simple majority of those present and voting for or against).

Once approved, the Draft Memoranda of Understanding could be signed by the Secretary General of the ICPO-Interpol and by the Secretaries General of WCO and AIMC.

Following this presentation of Report No. 6, the Belgian Delegate observed that the two Draft Memoranda of Understanding submitted for the General Assembly's approval provided for exchanges of information. But a clear distinction should be made between questions of common interest, which posed no particular problem, and exchanges of police information between Interpol and other international organizations, which the Member States could only permit if their national laws so allowed. There should therefore be an explicit power of veto.

It could also be seen that Article 2.3 of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Interpol and the AIMC General Secretariat was significantly different from Article 2.5 of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Interpol and the WCO, which was much too vague. The Belgian Delegate therefore proposed to include in that Memorandum, the wording which expressly provided that Interpol could not communicate such police information without the formal consent of the NCB from which it had originated.

The Director of Legal Affairs at the General Secretariat, pointed out that the WCO was an international organization, whereas the AIMC was an institution for regional co-operation. The difference in the wording between the two Draft Memoranda of Understanding was due to the difference between the rules in force in the WCO and the AIMC, a difference

* Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.



which did not exist in Interpol's internal regulations.

If adopted, the Belgian Delegation's proposal would make it much more complicated to exchange information with the WCO than with the AIMC, whereas the expressed intention was to simplify such exchanges. Furthermore, there was no obvious justification for amending Article 2(5) of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding because, in application of Article 8(5) of the Rules on International Police Co-operation, NCBs had the power of veto, giving them the freedom to communicate or not to communicate information to the WCO; the General Secretariat was obviously bound by the terms of that article.

The Belgian Delegate maintained his request for the draft resolution to be amended.

The United States Delegate said he shared his colleague's concerns. All exchanges of information, particularly those concerning crime investigations, should be carried out in strict observance of the rules governing mutual assistance in legal matters and not merely in application of Interpol's internal regulations. A specific provision was therefore required. In addition, Article 5(2) provided that the Memorandum of Understanding could be "modified by mutual consent expressed in writing". There was no mention anywhere of who, in Interpol, would have such authority: was it the Secretary General alone, or the Secretary

General acting on the instructions of the Executive Committee?

The Director of Legal Affairs replied that such authority was vested in the General Assembly. In an effort to reply to the concerns expressed by the Belgian and United States Delegates, he proposed to amend the draft resolution by adding a new paragraph — to be inserted just before the existing final paragraph — which would read as follows:

"Instructs the Secretary General to conclude specific agreements to permit the exchange of criminal information in strict conformity with the Organization's internal regulations".

The United States Delegate said that he agreed to the amendment.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/2, concerning the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Customs Organization, thus amended, was adopted and became Resolution AGN/67/RES/2. Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/3, concerning the Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Interior Ministers' Council was adopted and became Resolution AGN/67/RES/3.

Application of Article 41 of the Organization's Constitution

The Director of Legal Affairs submitted Report No. 7 on application

of Article 41 of the Organization's Constitution.

He explained that the proposal set out in the Report was aimed at simplifying the procedure for approving certain co-operation agreements concluded with other international organizations so that Interpol could respond to offers of co-operation or instigate such co-operation; that would obviously be done in strict conformity with the Organization's policy, which was the sole prerogative of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee had decided to accept powers delegated to it by the General Assembly in conformity with Article 22(e) and Article 41 of the Constitution.

The proposed delegation of powers would be subject to strict conditions; the other organizations with which agreements could be concluded would be specified and the Executive Committee would have to report back to the General Assembly.

That approach was compatible with the aim expressed in the Strategic Development Plan: "Interpol (could) improve its service delivery through co-ordinating with other parties".

The term "other parties" covered the international organizations listed in Report No. 7. Europol was not on the list because of the legal obstacles arising from its Convention, particularly the ban on electronic links between its database and Interpol's database. That matter could only be settled if the General Assembly made substantial modifications to the Rules on International Police Co-operation.

The list of organizations with which Interpol could conclude co-operation agreements as given in the Report was as follows:

Specialized agencies of the United Nations

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): traffic in radioactive and nuclear substances
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO): airline security, prevention of illegal acts committed against civil aviation, and appropriate law enforcement measures

- International Maritime Organization (IMO): offences against maritime traffic or committed using shipping (drug trafficking, etc.)
- World Trade Organization (WTO): counterfeiting, in particular of industrial products
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): offences against industrial property, including copyright
- World Health Organization (WHO): drug-related matters
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): protection of national cultural and artistic heritage and prevention of art theft

Other international organizations

- Organization of American States (OAS): drugs, firearms, economic crime
- Organization of African Unity (OAU): fighting crime in the region
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): economic crime, corruption
- Commonwealth Secretariat: police and judicial co-operation between the members of the Commonwealth

This list should be considered as final and any agreements negotiated with other international organizations would have to be submitted to the General Assembly for approval, in conformity with Article 41 of the Constitution.

However, if the need arose, the Secretary General could always ask

the General Assembly to approve a new list of international organizations with which he was considering concluding co-operation agreements, and suggest that it adopt a procedure similar to the one set out in the present document. Co-operation with the European Union, in particular with Europol, should be the subject of a specific agreement to which the normal procedure would apply.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/4 was adopted by the General Assembly, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/4.

Creation of a Special Allocations Fund to receive donations from foundations

Details of this project were contained in Report No. 8, and the aim was to set up a foundation to increase the Organization's financial resources and thereby facilitate action to help it achieve its objectives.

Although Interpol had not received any substantial donations to date, it nonetheless seemed necessary to adopt, as of now, a framework for permanent relations between the foundation and the Organization. The Secretary General and the Executive Committee were therefore of the opinion that the General Assembly should lay down the overall pol-

icy guidelines to be followed for the establishment of such a foundation.

Report No. 8 set out the procedures to be followed to promote plans to establish a foundation to support the Organization's actions in fighting ordinary law crime and bringing offenders to justice. The proposals were submitted to the General Assembly for approval in the form of a draft resolution.

Given the financial nature of the draft resolution, it would be preferable for it to be adopted by a two-thirds majority of members voting for or against, rather than by a simple majority. That would make it possible to consider the resolution both as an interpretation of Article 38 of the Constitution and as a set of principles supplementing those contained in the Financial Regulations.

The draft resolution described the reasons behind the idea, the principle of setting up a foundation, the authorization to be given to the Secretary General for a transitional procedure under the control of the Executive Committee, and the creation of a Special Allocations Fund. The aim of the project was to set up an independent foundation to channel donations from the private sector to the Organization.

After comprehensive discussion, Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/5, "Establishment of a Special Allocations Fund to receive donations from foundations", was adopted by the General Assembly, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/5.

Plan to amend the Rules on Co-operation

The Director of Legal Affairs explained that Germany had requested minor amendments to be made concerning the role of the Supervisory Board and the ASF Rules on storing information on stolen cars in the ASF database. The problem with the German authorities had been resolved but there remained the question of how the General Secretariat



The Australian Delegation

could make the long-standing Interpol regulations fulfil "customer" requirements more effectively.

The first step would be to merge the Rules on International Police Co-operation with the ASF Rules. The fact that ICIS formed a single system meant that having two separate sets of rules was pointless. Merging them would not affect the basic principles of the Rules on International Police Co-operation, particularly the distinction between the processing of nominal and non-nominal data, direct access to databases of selected information for NCBs and services with a police mission, and rules on crime analysis.

Those principles were to be retained and even extended by new technical and legal solutions to make data protection just one of the many aspects of the practical implementation of co-operation with Europol and to make sure that European police co-operation did not become isolated in a rigid framework which was incompatible with the requirements of modern international police co-operation.

The second step would be to introduce certain initiatives devised by the Legal Affairs Directorate and the Strategic Development Plan consultants with regard to the exchange of information with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to an open-source policy.

According to the Strategic Development Plan, "If more 'operationally relevant' value added services are to be provided, there is a need to use non-Interpol data sources and a requirement for greater data security".

In order to achieve that, Articles 5 to 8 of the Rules on International Police Co-operation would have to be amended because the fact that the General Secretariat was not authorized to request police information from the private sector or NGOs was no longer compatible with the current requirements for combating international crime, especially given that certain private concerns had very important information on some forms of crime.

Amending Interpol's regulations would therefore remove some obsta-

cles to collecting information, lay down principles for exchanging information with the private sector and make processing information secure by applying different rules depending on whether the information was nominal or non-nominal.

The third step would be to persuade NCBs to agree to be bound by certain obligations with regard to information exchange, with a view to reducing the obstacles to police co-operation created by national restrictions on information held by Interpol. This objective was the most difficult to achieve and should be discussed at the 1999 General Assembly session.

Accepting those three steps would avoid the amendment of Interpol's regulations being merely superficial and was part of the attempt to remove the obstacles currently preventing the strengthening of police co-operation and the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan.

The legal value of red notices and the new system

This subject was dealt with in Report No. 15.

The Director of Legal Affairs submitted the Report, which had been updated to include replies from a total of 110 member countries. Approximately 71% of countries now considered red notices as requests for provisional arrest. The Director said that an initial report had been submitted to the 2nd International Conference on Fugitives.

At its previous session, the General Assembly had asked for a study to be made of the possibility of concluding a universal convention on extradition. The Secretary General had contacted the United Nations about the subject, but the latter did not seem to be particularly in favour of the idea, which would be very difficult to implement. The United Nations Secretary-General had put forward the model extradition treaty, which specified Interpol's role in the extradition process.

Increased co-operation between Interpol and the United Nations Of-

fice in Vienna would no doubt make those negotiations more productive. In the meantime, Interpol's representatives had emphasized the Organization's role at the diplomatic conference in Rome on establishing an international criminal court, and they would endeavour to ensure that Interpol was referred to in the texts of European conventions currently being prepared (on corruption and on organized crime).

The Director drew attention to the Commonwealth Secretariat's response, which had led to the adoption of a recommendation calling on the 50 countries concerned to recognize red notices as requests for provisional arrest, or at least as preliminary documents in the procedure.

He pointed out in particular the very interesting reactions of France, South Africa and Malta, which had either gone back on their initial refusal, or had become much more favourable towards using red notices as a basis for provisional arrest. Much remained to be done, however, and the Director asked the NCBs of all member countries to make the present report known to their countries' appropriate authorities. He said he was prepared to organize regional meetings — for example, in South America, Arabic-speaking countries, and in Eastern Europe — for countries which had not yet replied.

The Chairman congratulated the General Secretariat on the high standard of its work and supported the Director's recommendation.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Approval of the balance sheet and accounts for 1997: Allocation of the net accounting result.

Financial Report for 1997

The Financial Report for 1997 was given in Report No. 3, which contained Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/1 — "Approval of the balance sheet and accounts for 1997: Allocation of the net accounting result".

The balance sheet at 31st December 1997 showed that fixed assets had not varied very much in 1997: they amounted to just over FRF 18 million, approximately FRF 10 million of which had been spent on the acquisition of equipment for Headquarters and just over FRF 7 million for regional modernization projects. Stock accounts had also changed very little.

Accounts receivable were mainly made up of contributions in arrears, the amount of which had fallen substantially compared with 1996. In 1997, eight countries had negotiated debt-rescheduling agreements and two others had made considerable efforts to pay off their debts.

On the liabilities side, the movements in the various funds reflected the changing levels of the Organization's liquid assets. Short-term debts amounted to nearly FRF 21 million, which might appear excessive but resulted from the non-payment at 31st December 1997 of various invoices submitted by one of the Organization's suppliers which showed certain discrepancies.

The accounting result was FRF 6,441,944: the Income and Expense Statement showed that total income amounted to FRF 171,345,816 and total expenses to FRF 164,903,872. Operating income had increased



very slightly, whereas financial income had remained stable.

Exceptional income (which was, by its very nature, uncertain) included FRF 1 million paid by the French Ministry of Co-operation in final settlement of the agreement concluded in 1993 in connection with the regional modernization project for West Africa, and FRF 60,000 in sponsorship for the ICPR.

Statutory contributions had increased by 3.34% as a result of a total of an extra 18 budget units being paid by 11 member countries.

Personnel expenses for the General Secretariat had only risen by 2.8%. Other operating expenses had increased by 14.55% in all, with ordinary expenses rising by 9.29% and expenses relating to regional modernization projects rising spectacularly by 83%.

Report by the External Auditors on the administrative and financial management of the Organization in 1997

Mr Reuter, the External Auditor, introduced his report on the administrative and financial management of the Organization for 1997: it was the sixth report it had been his priv-

ilege to present and would be his last, since the Luxembourg *Chambre des Comptes* had reached the end of its term of office.

He thanked the General Secretariat for the active and efficient collaboration he had always enjoyed. The External Auditors had carried out their work on the basis of accounting documents and several interviews, both in Lyons and Luxembourg.

The Auditor pointed out that, unlike the United States and Canada, Europe did not have an audit manual setting out applicable standards. Public auditing bodies in Europe had been concerned about that point for about a decade and efforts to harmonize the auditing process had been proving more successful over the previous three years.

The financial data had been presented in French francs, but from 1999 onwards it would be presented in euros. The External Auditors recommended taking certain measures and reviewing certain planned resolutions to take account of what would become an obligation from 1999 onwards.

Referring to his written report, Mr Reuter pointed out that the budget implementation rate for 1997 (97.7%) was satisfactory and that the

implementation rate for programmes at Headquarters was corresponding more and more closely to the forecasts.

Implementation of the budget in 1997 reflected continued cost cutting, particularly with regard to operating expenses at Headquarters. It had to be pointed out that the Organization's budget was still very low in both absolute and relative terms compared with other international organizations.

The General Assembly would probably have occasion to reflect on that situation at its 1999 session.

Quickly reviewing the sections of his report dealing with information about the financial situation at 31st December 1997, the Auditor considered that:

The accounts reflected the Organization's financial situation at 31st December 1997 and the result of its operations during the financial year ending on that date:

The accounts had been drawn up in conformity with the accounting and budget policy currently in force;

The operations carried out were in conformity with the Financial Regulations.

In the light of the above, the External Auditor considered that the annual accounts submitted, and the various reports on Interpol's financial situation, faithfully reflected the Organization's financial situation at 31st December 1997 and the results of its operations. The accounts could therefore be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

The Director of Administration and Finance said that he had no comment to make on the report and simply submitted for approval the draft resolution on the approval of the balance sheet and accounts for 1997.

The Chairman thanked Mr Reuter and the Luxembourg *Chambre des Comptes* for the excellent work they had done for the Organization over the past six years.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/1, entitled "Approval of the balance

sheet and accounts for 1997: Allocation of the net accounting result", was adopted and became Resolution AGN/67/RES/13.

Appointment of the External Auditors for 1998-2001

The Director of Administration and Finance explained that the term of office of the Luxembourg *Chambre des Comptes* as the Organization's external auditors was coming to an end. Having examined applications submitted by various candidates, the Executive Committee proposed that the General Assembly appoint the Belgian *Cour des Comptes* as the Organization's external auditors for the period 1998-2001.

The Chairman pointed out that the Executive Committee had endorsed that recommendation, taking into account the *Cour des Comptes'* credentials and the fact that it already worked for organizations such as UNESCO and OECD.

By 106 votes in favour, 4 abstentions and none against, the General Assembly decided to appoint the Belgian *Cour des Comptes* as the Organization's auditors.

The Estonian Delegate



Approval of the Draft Budget for 1999 and information about the period 2000-2003

This Agenda item was dealt with in Report No. 19, which contained Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/12.

The Draft Budget had been drawn up on the basis of assumptions and decisions adopted by the Executive Committee. In accordance with the strategy of zero-growth in the value of the called-up budget unit, approved by the General Assembly in Rome, the value could only increase by a maximum of 2% (the rate of inflation that was forecast for the Headquarters country). The proposed value for the budget unit was therefore FRF 77,200. In view of the estimated number of budget units to be called up (1,780) and the forecasts for other income, income and expenditure balanced out at FRF 180,336,000 in the 1999 Draft Budget.

What was the general policy pursued by the Organization? Having completed the implementation of the Regional Modernization Plan in the context of the ATSFDC Programme, the Organization was pursuing its objectives of developing and strengthening international police co-operation and stepping up training, always with the aim of improving the efficiency of the services provided by the General Secretariat, while keeping expenditure down, and making the best possible use of resources.

Interpol was seeking new sources of external funding in the form of sponsorship or donations, and also received financial contributions from the private sector — in the context of the Counterfeit Payment Card Project — and from UNDCP — in the context of the "Phare" programme for combating drug trafficking in South-East Europe.

The development of those activities meant that the Organization currently needed to recruit more staff. The gains made in productivity and limited acquisition of new equipment made it possible to consider a properly justified recruitment programme, without having to increase the value of the budget unit and

without having to withdraw large amounts from the reserves.

That was why a recruitment programme had been prepared (Appendix 1 to Report No. 19). It would be implemented over the financial years 1999-2001.

The total cost of the "Year 2000" Project was estimated at 3.5 million French francs, broken down into equipment for the Headquarters (FRF 1,250,000) and equipment outside the Headquarters (FRF 2,250,000).

In common with all the budgets since 1995, the draft budget had been drawn up in French francs. However it was proposed that the draft resolution approving the 1999 Budget should be amended in the light of the forthcoming switch to the euro: the General Secretariat suggested adding the term "or the equivalent in euros" to paragraph 5 of the text. Finally, the inflation rate for the period 1999-2001 had been estimated at 2% per year, and the exchange rate at FRF 6 = USD 1.

The total amount of statutory contributions stood at FRF 137,416,000, an increase — as had already been said — of 2% over the 1998 financial year, which was in keeping with the zero-growth strategy. Total income forecast stood at FRF 180,336,000.

Since the 1999 budget balanced, total expenditure forecast also stood at FRF 180,336,000. That figure was broken down between personnel costs (FRF 90,874,000), transport/ meetings/ missions (FRF 11,744,000), other expenditure (FRF 51,871,000) and equipment (FRF 25,847,000). The final figure took into account the cost of the computer program to allow the transition through the year 2000 date-change.

Finally, the Director of Administration and Finance said that at 30th September 1998, the recovery rate of contributions called up was 86%, compared with 76% in August 1997, and was therefore relatively satisfactory.

Furthermore, several countries — including Korea and Kuwait — had settled their debts since the beginning of the present session, provid-



UKRAINE

ing confirmation of the satisfactory trend which had developed over recent years. The recovery rate for contributions called up was continuing to increase, and that could be taken as a demonstration of the member countries' desire to meet their financial obligations towards the Organization.

Similar progress had been made with arrears in contributions, which had been reduced by 12.3% in 1997, taking into account the debts (totalling FRF 3,900,000) written off when debt-rescheduling agreements were signed with eight Member States. Total arrears currently amounted to FRF 57 million, compared with FRF 64 million at the same time the previous year.

It had also been noted that the number of countries concerned had been falling for a number of years. However, the General Secretariat was not in a position to predict the situation at 31st December 1998, because certain countries had not paid the amounts due by the deadline of 30th June 1998.

The Chairman reported that both the Finance Sub-Committee and the Executive Committee itself recommended adoption of the Draft Budget for 1999.

He noted the fact that the report did not give rise to any observations,

and asked the General Assembly to vote on the draft resolution approving the Draft Budget for 1999 contained in Report No. 19 as amended by a proposal from the General Secretariat.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/12, as amended, was adopted and became Resolution AGN/67/RES/14.

Amendments to the Financial Regulations

The proposed amendments were contained in Report No. 20, which contained Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/13. The amendments could be classified under two main headings: one concerning the reference currency (the euro), the other the harmonization of the provisions of the Financial Regulations and the introduction of Implementing Rules for those Regulations.

The Chairman asked Mr Nebout (Côte d'Ivoire), a Member of the Executive Committee who had chaired the *ad hoc* Committee set up in application of Article 56 of the General Regulations, to give the Committee's opinion.

Mr Nebout reported that the *ad hoc* Committee had examined the draft amendments to Interpol's Financial Regulations and had found them to be compatible with the Organization's Constitution. Only one modification had been made, at the Indian Delegate's request: In Article 23(2), the second sentence should begin "In this respect, the Executive Committee may delegate..." (the rest unchanged).

The *ad hoc* Committee had not modified the draft resolution relating to amendment of the Financial Regulations.

The Chairman asked the Assembly to vote on the draft resolution appended to Report No. 20 concerning amendment of the Financial Regulations. He specified that a two-thirds majority would be required.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/13, thus amended, was adopted and became Resolution AGN/67/RES/15.

INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence submitted the General Secretariat's report on the international illicit drug traffic in 1997, and gave a summary of the Drugs Sub-Directorate's activities over the previous year.

With regard to trends in drug production and traffic in 1997, it was to be noted that heroin production and consumption continued on a massive scale. Development of this traffic was shown by the very large quantities seized throughout the world.

Heroin

In South-West Asia, Afghanistan remained the major supplier of heroin to the region and beyond. Substantial quantities were intercepted in Pakistan and Iran. Heroin intercepted in Turkey accounted for nearly 35% of the total heroin seized in 1997.

It was estimated that in 1997 over 80% of the heroin seized in Europe transited the Balkan Route. The former Yugoslav branch of this route had apparently reopened for drug traffic.

Most of the drug seized along the Balkan Route was intended for European Union countries.

The "opening up" of Central and East European countries was again exploited by the trafficking organizations for storing and transporting drugs.

In the Near East, Lebanon ceased to be a major source country for illicit narcotics, thanks to the efforts made by the Lebanese and Syrian security forces to eradicate poppy and cannabis cultivation in the Bekaa Valley.



The Persian Gulf countries were seriously affected by the heroin traffic from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In South-East Asia there had been a downward trend in heroin seizures since 1995. The increased manufacturing of methamphetamines and the opening of new routes through China appeared to have considerably influenced the trends and patterns of heroin trafficking in that region.

China now bore the main brunt of traffickers' activities and spectacular seizures had been effected in that country as well as in Myanmar.

The most impressive increase, however, took place in Australia, where heroin seizures increased spectacularly. South-East Asian heroin continued to dominate the market in Australia. North America remained an important heroin market. For a number of years, heroin in the United States arrived mainly from South-East Asian countries. However, in 1995 South American heroin began to dominate the market

in the United States and this trend continued in 1996 and 1997.

Heroin processing continued in Colombia, particularly in the urban areas of many Departments throughout the country.

As predicted in 1996, heroin from South America was now supplying more than just the North American market. European countries also reported seizures of heroin from this region.

Cocaine

Forecasts from previous years which predicted that cocaine production and traffic would remain stable had proved accurate, despite the efforts made by the three coca-producing countries (Bolivia, Peru and Colombia) to reduce production.

The latest drug-trafficking organizations were smaller and more discreet, but no less efficient. They were highly specialized and difficult

to infiltrate, and had rejected the example of the big cartels with their extravagant lifestyle and overt violence.

The clandestine laboratories were located in increasingly inaccessible and remote areas of the rain forest. They were also now better hidden and smaller, but they still had a large production capacity.

The co-operation machinery in the Caribbean, which was set up as a result of the memoranda of understanding concluded between the United Kingdom, the United States and the Bahamas, proved effective when two tonnes of cocaine were seized in February 1998 aboard a boat flying the Honduran flag.

In 1998 it was observed that cocaine was widely available in Jamaica, where considerably more seizures were made than in previous years.

Cost Rica reported a high number of cocaine seizures with a total weight of several tonnes. The situation was not unique to Costa Rica and affected other Central American countries as well.

The huge amount of cocaine seized in Central America was a clear indication that the region was being used as a bridge between the North and the South.

Cocaine seizures in Europe were up by 30%: Eastern European countries were being increasingly affected by cocaine trafficking.

Co-operation between customs and police in Croatia resulted in significant seizures totalling more than half a tonne.

The Spanish authorities had certainly seized the most cocaine in Europe, followed by the Netherlands and Portugal.

Cannabis

Worldwide illegal traffic in cannabis increased substantially in 1997. Over the year, Western Europe and Asia accounted for almost 90% of the cannabis resin seized throughout the world.

Cannabis was grown all over the world because of the profits involved. It was replacing the main regular crops in many African and Central American countries and other regions of the world.

Indoor cannabis cultivation was also reaching alarming proportions in Europe and North America.

In North America, outdoor cultivation and hydroponic cultivation of herbal cannabis were very common in Canada.

Mexican herbal cannabis entered the United States across the borders of the South-Western States, and seizures made along this border accounted for over half the total amount seized in the United States.

In Canada, herbal cannabis came mainly from Mexico and Jamaica. Cannabis resin came from Pakistan and India.

Most of the cannabis found in Europe originated in Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa had become a major source supply for the world market, in addition to cannabis from Morocco.

In Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan both produced cannabis: Afghanistan produced the most but, as it had no coastline, its cannabis was ex-

ported mainly via Pakistan, although some passed through Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Singapore, like Hong Kong, was still being used as a transit area for cannabis produced in South-East Asia.

Cambodia and Thailand deserved mention among the South-East Asian countries which produced large quantities of herbal cannabis.

Morocco was the main producer country of cannabis resin seized in Europe, and Colombia appeared to be the producer country of most of the herbal cannabis seized there.

Spain and the Netherlands were the two main distribution centres in Europe.

Psychotropic substances

In 1997, quantities of amphetamines seized increased, whereas quantities of other psychotropics such as amphetamine analogues and methamphetamine remained relatively stable. Seizures of other psychotropic substances such as khat, flunitrazepam and LSD decreased. It was also noted that more stringent controls on essential chemicals had caused a downward fluctuation in seizure statistics.





The Drugs Sub-Directorate continued to supply strategic information of vital importance to member countries, as well as operational intelligence concerning specific cases. It had organized, inter alia, a meeting on criminal groups of Albanian origin involved in heroin trafficking via the Balkan route, the 24th Meeting of Heads of European Drugs Services (Antwerp, April 1998), a working meeting on African networks involved in drug trafficking (Nairobi, July 1998), and the 3rd International Conference on Cannabis Traffic (Halifax, 14th and 15th October 1998).

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence then went on to give more detailed information about two operations conducted by the Sub-Directorate, and involving several countries. Both operations had demonstrated the importance of keeping full, precise records of seizures and of determining the origin of the substances seized.

He also provided information about operations which had succeeded thanks to information transmitted via Interpol.

The Colombian Delegate confirmed the information given about one of those operations and thanked the General Secretariat and all those who had co-operated with the Colombian authorities in the investigation. He asked member countries and the General Secretariat to organize a meeting to study the new methods used by traffickers for hiding drugs and ways of countering those techniques.

The Iranian Delegate said his country was engaged in an active struggle against cannabis trafficking. Iran had spent large sums on digging trenches to make it difficult to get through its borders and on building checkpoints. It had also launched a wide-ranging operation in Baluchistan.

The police had paid a heavy price in this struggle because, since the Islamic revolution, 12,500 officers had been killed by traffickers.

Iran was also a transit country for morphine intended for Europe. However, the drug was not consumed within Iran.

The country was making great efforts to combat the traffic, and had

The Israeli Delegation

begun to achieve considerable success, thanks mainly to its co-operation with Pakistan and the United Nations.

The Chinese Delegate thanked the General Secretariat for having organized working parties on the subject, which his country considered very important. The Chinese Parliament had adopted resolutions on the fight against drug trafficking. In July 1998, an exhibition on drugs organized in Beijing had attracted 9 million visitors. International co-operation could make it easier to plant substitute crops to replace poppies.

The Pakistani Delegate referred to the opium and poppy producing tradition in the Golden Crescent in the north-east of Pakistan. Since the Islamic revolution in 1979, opium producers with large stocks had learned to convert opium into heroin.

The area covered by crops and production in general had been considerably reduced, but the number of drug addicts had reached almost 4.5 million.

The Delegate said that even if production was reduced in one region, the fact that demand remained the same would simply encourage production in other regions. Efforts

The Kazakhstan Delegation



therefore had to be made to tackle demand as well as supply.

Efforts to combat the problem were being carried on in the context of agreements with China, Russia, Afghanistan and various international organizations. Other agreements were in the pipeline and co-operation with India had been strengthened. Pakistan, which had extradited several drug barons during 1997-1998, was convinced of the need for close international co-operation since the fight was far beyond the means of Pakistan alone.

The Kenyan Delegate reported that his country had taken part in various successful controlled deliveries, notably with United Kingdom officers and the DEA. He urged those European countries that were still wary of using that procedure to take a more positive attitude to the matter.

Referring to sub-regional co-operation, the Delegate said that at the Meeting of Heads of African Drugs Services held in Zanzibar in October, a draft agreement for combating drugs in the region had been finalized in conjunction with a General Secretariat representative.

Specialists meeting in Nairobi had asked the OAU to create a contact point and co-ordination team for Africa.

The Nigerian Delegate reported on his country's efforts to combat drug couriers. The authorities had succeeded in significantly reducing traffic by stopping direct flights between Nigeria and source countries.

An operation was currently being carried out to eradicate cannabis crops. Nigeria, in conjunction with UNDCP, had launched a project to set up a drugs database.

The OAU Conference of Heads of State, held in Yaoundé in 1996, had adopted a resolution on combating drug trafficking and abuse. The Delegate said that an operation carried out with Niger on the basis of information from Interpol had led to about 20 arrests.

The UNDCP Observer, speaking on behalf of the Regional Bureau, referred to the role played by the Bureau both individually and as the



secretariat of the Cairo drug control office. The Cairo office had been set up in 1997 for the 17 countries of the region.

It had no operational role but was actively involved in analysing trafficking trends and promoting crop substitution. Its activities were remarkably similar to the objectives set out in Interpol's new Strategic Development Plan. As the secretariat of the United Nations control body, it monitored trends in the Middle East and was endeavouring to strengthen the means available to law enforcement agencies and to support legislative and crime investigation initiatives in the countries concerned.

General Mansour, the Observer from the International Narcotics Control Board, described the activities of that independent body, which implemented United Nations drugs agreements. The INCB co-operated to combat the production and distribution of drugs, as well as the smuggling of drugs for scientific and medical purposes, mainly by pinpointing weak points within central regulatory bodies. Information exchanges with the WCO in particular had resulted in the seizure of large quantities of acetic anhydride destined for South America.

The Bahraini Delegate said that his country's authorities had discovered a heroin laboratory for the first time. They had arrested those responsible and seized large quantities of drugs.

The Delegate of Myanmar said it was easy to smuggle drugs produced in China and neighbouring countries into Myanmar. In 1997, 32 laboratories had been dismantled. The drugs were mainly destined for the international market. A crop-substitution programme would run in the border region until 2011.

A conference on heroin would be held in Myanmar in 1999.

The Romanian Delegate reported that his country had become a drug-storage country on the Balkan Route, and there was good reason to think that situation would probably get worse in the coming years. The Romanian authorities had signed 57 co-operation agreements with 29 countries and were currently negotiating 33 others. Large seizures had already been made in application of the agreements signed to date.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIME

Corruption

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence said that the general public was becoming less and less tolerant of corruption. Numerous initiatives had already been taken by national authorities, and by various regional and international organizations, to combat such abuse but very few had been taken to date by the administrations responsible for maintaining law and order.

It was therefore satisfying to note that the First International Conference on Corruption-Related Crime, held at Interpol Headquarters from 28th to 30th April 1998, had unanimously approved the General Secretariat's recommendation to set up an Interpol Group of Experts on Corruption (IGEC), which planned to hold its first meeting at the beginning of 1999.

The Group would be responsible for drafting a code of conduct, a code of ethics and a guide to good practice. It was also planned that representatives of the Group should participate in the Organizing Committee for the international conference on corruption to be held in South Africa at the end of 1999.

The French Delegate said that, in keeping with the undertaking made in New Delhi, a European seminar on economic crime had been held in Paris in September 1998.

He pointed out that the American and Asian Regions had held their own seminars on the subject in 1997.

Organized under the aegis of the General Secretariat, the meeting had been attended by representatives of 24 European countries and numerous observers.

The meeting had concluded that it was essential to step up the fight

against corruption in all its forms. There also had to be greater sharing of information concerning all persons and institutions in the financial world subject to investigation.

It had also stressed the need to abolish banking secrecy and tax havens, to step up the fight against all forms of fraud, including fraud involving the European Community, and to find ways of taking concerted action against money laundering.

Participants had also stressed the vital importance of technical training for anti-corruption personnel and the need to increase protection for currencies, including the future European currency.

The Ugandan Delegate highlighted the seriousness of the threat posed by corruption to the vulnerable economies of developing countries. In 1998, the Ugandan Parliament had adopted a new law which increased

penalties and obliged those found guilty to return all the money they had illegally obtained. The Ugandan Government had also set up a ministry of ethics and integrity. The Delegate welcomed the creation of the IGEC and called for a more extensive exchange of skills to combat corruption.

The Pakistani Delegate pointed out that the World Bank had decided to make combating corruption a requirement for obtaining loans. In 1997, the Parliament of Pakistan had passed a new law instituting harsher penalties for corruption offences.

A special department had been set up and its investigations had revealed the existence of a number of foreign bank accounts that had been opened illegally. The help of the General Secretariat had then been enlisted to repatriate the millions of dollars which had been illegally exported.

The Indian Delegate deeply regretted the insurmountable difficulties encountered by the Indian police in a number of international corruption cases. Many member countries had refused requests for assistance from the Indian police on the grounds that the actions concerned were violations of tax law, not criminal offences. Indian legislation provided for the notion of "disproportionate assets", which was a punishable offence. However, many Interpol member countries considered letters rogatory based on that definition to be unacceptable.

The Cameroonian Delegate said that Cameroonian legislation obliged high-ranking individuals in public office to declare all their assets upon taking up their duties. The Cameroonian Government had also decided to set up an anti-corruption committee and an intensive public-awareness campaign had been launched.

The Latvian Delegate





Currency counterfeiting

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence reminded the Assembly of the international community's efforts to combat currency counterfeiting; the Geneva Convention had been adopted in 1929.

International currency counterfeiting conferences were held every five years, and had special status in that they were held in conformity with a provision to that effect in the Geneva Convention. As a result, the resolutions they adopted were not submitted to the Interpol General Assembly for approval.

Nevertheless, the 9th Conference — held in Helsinki in 1997 — had recommended that the Interpol General Secretariat should be responsible for monitoring resolutions on currency counterfeiting, and that the results of its work should be submitted to the General Assembly. That decision arose from the fact that many Interpol member countries had not ratified the Geneva Convention.

In compliance with the task it had been given, the General Secretariat had reviewed all the resolutions on currency counterfeiting adopted since 1950. It had merged them into two draft resolutions, entitled "Legislation, co-ordination and police co-operation to combat currency counterfeiting" and "Techniques and procedures for manufacturing banknotes and other security documents". They were appended to Report No. 16 and were being sub-

mitted to the General Assembly for approval.

The first draft resolution (AGN767/P.RES/10) should be modified slightly to respond to a concern expressed by several European Union member countries. The Romanian Delegate also proposed an amendment to the first recommendation contained in the resolution.

The Bahraini Delegate described a serious case of currency counterfeiting which had involved such enormous sums that it had affected the Bahraini economy. Exemplary international co-operation had resulted in the seizure of some 40 million Bahraini dinars, or approximately 500 million US dollars. The speaker thanked the countries involved and the General Secretariat for the assistance given his country in connection with the case.

The Chinese Delegate said that the Chinese Government was in favour of implementing preventive measures, which included strengthening co-operation between specialized police departments, banks (including central banks) and customs authorities, increasing the sharing of information, which should take place on a regular basis between all the parties concerned. Finally, he said regular public awareness campaigns should be conducted through the media.

The Chairman asked the General Assembly to vote on Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/10, as amended by the General Secretariat and by the Romanian Delegate.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/10 (as amended) was adopted, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/10.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/11 was then put to the vote and adopted, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/11.

Specialized Publications Branch

The Head of the Specialized Publications Branch at the General Secretariat explained the structure and role of the Branch, which was part of the Directorate of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence. He then listed the publications it produced:

The Counterfeits and Forgeries Review, which had been launched in 1923.

The Smart US Dollar Checker (which was an extract from Volume One of the Review) had been put onto computer disk. It had been produced in conjunction with the US Secret Service.

The Interpol Guide to Vehicle Registration Documents, which described registration documents from over 40 European countries and two North African countries.

The Branch also planned to:

- make the Counterfeits and Forgeries Review available on CD-Rom by the end of the year,
- launch the Passport Book,
- produce a CD-Rom on stolen works of art during the first quarter of 1999.

The speaker thanked the Chinese authorities for their recent help in launching the publication of 20,000 copies in China, and pointed out that the Review was sent to banks as well as to law enforcement authorities.

The Chairman said that the Australian and Thai Delegations had not been able to take the floor during the discussions on drug trafficking but that they had forwarded their draft speeches to the General Secretariat.

ORGANIZED CRIME AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Working Party reports

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence reported on the activities of the Interpol Working Parties since the previous General Assembly session, pointing out that separate reports would be given on the Standing Working Party on Offences against Minors, and the Working Party on DNA Analysis.

Disaster Victim Identification

The Standing Committee on Disaster Victim Identification had held its 10th meeting in May 1998, in Spain, when it had adopted new approaches and objectives. It was currently finalizing a training programme which would be made available to all NCBs on request.

Police/Bank Co-operation

The Working Party on Police/Bank Co-operation had extended its activities, which was an indication of the importance member countries attached to it. Its 7th meeting had taken place on 22nd and 23rd September 1998 at Interpol Headquarters and the 95 participants had come from very different backgrounds, proof in itself of the need for a multidisciplinary approach. Those present had agreed that future meetings should take the form of international conferences, that joint training courses should be organized with NCBs and banks, and that there was a need to monitor the resolution which had been adopted by the General Assembly in Bangkok. That resolution had recommended that Member States create national committees for co-operation between the financial sector and the police.

The Working Party had also pronounced itself in favour of a smaller group of experts being created to study existing legislation, cybercrime, problems relating to tax havens and the harmonization of the various resolutions adopted on those matters. It was, of course, up to the General Secretariat to decide on the financial implications of those recommendations.

Cybercrime

The Indian Delegate considered that cybercrime was the crime of the future and its effect on national economies threatened to be as serious as that of terrorism. The police officers who would have to deal with that new type of crime had had no preparation at all and there were still practically no national laws on the subject. Training should be a priority.

The speaker said that gathering information was a matter of urgency and asked whether Interpol had institutional relations with banking establishments and all the institutions which specialized in combating fraud. Was there an agreement?

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence said that there was no formal international agreement between the police and financial establishments, but machinery for day-to-day co-operation had been set up. Both parties were doing their best to strengthen that co-operation. He also announced that a conference on cybercrime would be held in Lyons.

The United Kingdom Delegate called on the General Secretariat to follow discussions on the subject within the G8 and the European Union very closely, in order to be sure that all organizations were moving in the same direction in the fight against such crime.

The Indian Delegate suggested that the Legal Affairs Directorate should produce a model law on cybercrime, which would be useful for countries attempting to draw up national laws on the subject.

The Secretary General felt it would not be possible to meet that request immediately, given the ongoing discussions at world level to determine whether it was preferable to impose regulations or to rely on a sort of self-regulation at the initiative of service providers. He personally felt that regulation might be preferable. In any case, he would keep Members informed of developments.

Environmental crime

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence then turned to the Working Party on Environmental Crime and said that it had aroused particular interest among Member States. Since 1996, the Working Party's meetings had taken the form of international conferences. In 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding had been concluded between Interpol and the CITES Secretariat (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Although that agreement was not binding on NCBs, Member States were encouraged to actively co-operate with the national representatives of the CITES Secretariat.

Furthermore, an environmental crime training programme (which included a video) had been produced. The programme was intended for police officers and would be used at Interpol training sessions, the first of which was to take place during the first half of 1999.

Lastly, the Working Party had suggested that various changes be made

to its structure in the interests of increased effectiveness.

Referring to the observations made by various delegates about cyber-crime and environmental crime, the President said that they were relatively new problems and would be among the most serious in the coming century. They were being discussed in many international institutions, particularly the European Union, the G8, and the United Nations.

The G8's group of experts, of which the President had been a member, had acknowledged that they were the areas which most urgently needed to be studied. The General Secretariat should therefore closely monitor the studies being conducted by the other organizations.

Particular attention would be paid to environmental crime at a future G8 meeting. The President would attend that meeting and would keep his colleagues informed of the progress made.

Traffic in stolen works of art

The Assistant Director (General Crime) in the Directorate of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence, said that, despite the considerable efforts made by Interpol, UNESCO and the International Council of Museums (ICOM), traffic in stolen works of art was booming.

However, there was a lack of accurate statistics and he deplored the fact that very few member countries had replied to the questionnaire which had been sent to them in 1996. Similarly, very few Members had replied to a circular about the Icon Project.

In 1997, the General Secretariat had published 152 international notices relating to 567 stolen items. Those figures in no way reflected the real losses suffered by member countries.

At the present time, the ASF stolen works of art database contained information on more than 15,000 stolen items (13,000 of them with photographs); in 1997, nearly 3,500 additional items had been entered. In one case, use of the database had



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made it possible to identify a number of paintings which had been discovered in the United States. They had been stolen in Romania in 1968 and had now been returned to their country of origin.

In early 1999, the General Secretariat and the Egyptian NCB would be organizing a conference in Luxor on illicit traffic in works of art and, in particular, protection of archaeological sites. The General Secretariat was also endeavouring to provide all member countries with access to the specialized database via ASFMail, and producing a CD-Rom for museums, antique dealers and collectors.

Finally, the Assistant Director asked NCBs to provide the General Secretariat with as much information as possible about the works of art stolen in their countries.

The Italian Delegate said it was well known that Italy was an open-air museum and that its wealth of culture attracted a large number of "specialized" criminals. Every year

as many as 15,000 works of art were recorded stolen in Italy. Archaeological objects were not well protected. Each theft was a cultural and scientific loss, and the international community had to take joint action to combat the Mafia networks involved and, with that aim in view, define universal legislation aimed at thwarting the illegal export of works of art.

The Chinese Delegate said that the Chinese Government attached particular importance to preserving its cultural heritage. Despite that, China was so huge and housed so many relics that traffic and smuggling were on the increase in certain regions.

China had signed the Convention prohibiting the illegal transfer of intellectual property and had also signed the Convention on the restoration of stolen items. Since then, China had been able to recover some works of art which had been illegally exported.

The Romanian Delegate said that since the early 1990s, Romania had been faced with a constant increase in such crime, which was facilitated by the lack of specific national legislation. The traffic was causing considerable losses. Nevertheless, Romania had been able to recover four paintings stolen 30 years previously, which had been returned with the help of the United States NCB. The Delegate took the opportunity to thank the United States Delegation and the General Secretariat very warmly for all their help in that connection.

The Sri Lankan Delegate expressed his concern at the scale of the traffic in stolen works of art in his country, which particularly affected places of worship. The Sri Lankan authorities were drafting specific laws on the subject. The Delegate expressed his country's gratitude to the United Kingdom NCB for returning a painting which had been illegally exported.

The Saudi Arabian Delegate reported that his country's NCB had signed an agreement with the customs authorities, which made it possible to boost co-operation between the two administrations. In addition, the work being done by the General Secretariat was regularly publicized.

The Saudi authorities were also endeavouring to prevent the illicit trade in, and export of, works of art by publishing a special periodical on the subject.

The Yemeni Delegate supported the remarks already made about the need for international co-operation to safeguard works of art. He thanked the authorities of Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman for their help in recovering a number of stolen works of art.

The Chairman noted the importance the General Assembly attached to the subject and said he was convinced that all the delegations would henceforth make full use of the ASF stolen works of art database, thus increasing even further the effectiveness of that powerful tool.



International Stolen/Misappropriated Vehicle Database

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence commented briefly on Report No. 11. He had been pleased to note that 30 countries (compared with eight at the same time the previous year) had been regularly updating the information they sent to the database and that in August 1998, Germany had downloaded data on 300,000 stolen vehicles.

More than a million vehicles reported stolen were now listed in the database and the results achieved so far had been very satisfactory. The system itself had been improved and new servers had been installed, resulting in the response time being reduced to about 2 minutes.

An "alarm" system had also been set up. The database was an extremely useful tool and all relevant national police services should be informed of its existence. It was equally important for member countries to forward their national stolen/misappropriated vehicle data to the General Secretariat. The draft resolution invited member countries to do that.

The speaker also said that a joint Interpol/FBI project had been launched so that Interpol channels could be used to access stolen vehi-

cle information in North America. Lastly, he said that the Interpol Guide to Vehicle Registration Documents had been published in December 1997. The speaker listed the meetings on stolen vehicles which had been held during 1998 and said that, in principle, others should be held during 1999 in Europe and Africa.

Replying to a comment from the Saudi Arabian Delegate to the effect that all types of vehicles should be entered in the database, the Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence explained that since the database contained no nominal information, users simply had to enter the registration number of the vehicle, irrespective of the vehicle type.

The Chairman read out Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/7 on the Interpol ASF stolen/misappropriated vehicle database which was adopted, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/7.

Offences against children

The Assistant Director said that the Standing Working Party on Offences Against Minors had held its 12th meeting in Ottawa that October.

The Standing Working Party wanted a monitoring system to be set

up to ensure that member countries applied the resolutions on offences against minors adopted by the Organization. It had also agreed that measures to combat the problem should be regionalized. Finally, an executive committee had been established.

A Handbook on Good Practice for Specialist Officers Dealing with Crimes against Children had been published in March 1998. It had taken two years to prepare and was available free of charge. It had been well received in the large number of countries which had acquired copies.

In the context of the activities of Interpol and the non-governmental organization ECPAT, which was based in Bangkok, a joint project had been developed to combat the use of the Internet for the sexual exploitation of children.

The Internet provided such easy, safe access for paedophiles that it had so far been impossible to control or restrict its use, even for criminal purposes. It would seem, therefore, that the only possible option would be a technical one consisting of interrupting transmissions as soon as consultations were made regarding child pornography.

The Assistant Director speaking on behalf of the Standing Working Party, said how much he hoped that

the resolutions adopted by the Organization would be applied, in the interest of all the member countries and, in particular, of children. It was vitally important to give law enforcement departments the instruments and resources they needed to work effectively towards protecting children throughout the world. For its part, the General Secretariat had decided to expand Interpol's activities by creating a new department and recruiting two officials to increase the Organization's effectiveness.

The Italian Delegate reported that the Italian Parliament had adopted legislation on the exploitation, prostitution and sexual abuse of children, which provided for terms of imprisonment of up to 12 years in certain cases.

He stressed the fact that the law made it possible to prosecute any Italian citizen found committing such crimes abroad and included a notion of "flagrant délit" which could be extended to cover all forms of telecommunications. The law also provided for the training of a specialized police unit.

The United Kingdom Delegate thanked the General Secretariat and the various countries which had contributed to the success of a long operation in his country in 1996, to put an end to the activities of a paedophile network which had been operating over the Internet and was composed of people of many different nationalities who used particularly sophisticated code names and passwords.

The NCBs concerned had been alerted and the main problem had, of course, been to ensure confidentiality, without which it would have been impossible to seize the necessary evidence. The operation had been a total success and had led to 105 arrest warrants being issued simultaneously in different countries.

It should be remembered that the main thing was to ensure that the offences committed against children had in fact ceased. Other important points to note were: an expert in information technology had to be available to decipher the sophisticated codes; a strategy which could be applied immediately had to be

agreed upon, while ensuring that essential confidentiality was not compromised; the public prosecutors and other judicial authorities had to be capable of following through the excellent work done by the police.

The Australian Delegate said that his country's laws made it possible to prosecute Australian nationals or residents engaged in sex tourism involving children, and to prosecute those engaged in child pornography.

Australia had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a South-East Asian country, and another was being negotiated with a country in the South Pacific region. Like his British colleague, he stressed the importance of having computer experts working on the subject: a specialized team had already been set up in Australia.

The Norwegian Delegate said that his country's government greatly appreciated the valuable contribution that Interpol had made towards combating offences against minors. It had therefore decided to send a police officer to the General Secretariat in a few months' time to provide further assistance for the team working on that type of crime.

The Philippine Delegate reported that his country had become the 31st country to ratify the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of the Child. The Philippine Parliament had adopted a law aimed at protecting minors against all forms of ill-treatment. Also, a special committee had been set up under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, and the police were now committed to a vigorous plan of action to defend and protect children in danger. There were still relatively few police officers who had had the benefit of attending specific training courses, and the speaker was pleased that some officers had been able to attend training sessions provided with assistance from Australia, the United Kingdom and France.

DNA analysis

The Head of the European Liaison Bureau in the Directorate of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence, commented briefly on Report No. 12. Following the decision taken at the

25th European Regional Conference held in Warsaw in 1996, a European Working Party on DNA Profiling had been set up.

It had been asked to explore and discuss the use of DNA profiling as an investigative technique and make recommendations concerning the use of DNA in criminal investigations with a view to facilitating wider use of the technique in Europe.

At the end of its study, the Working Party had submitted a report to the 27th European Regional Conference held in Dubrovnik in May 1998.

The Conference had endorsed the report and recommended that the standards it proposed should be adopted by all Interpol member countries. The General Assembly was therefore being asked to endorse those recommendations and adopt the Draft Resolution appended to Report No. 12, which the Chairman read out.

The Japanese Delegate said that the report considered that four DNA characteristics were required to define a given genetic profile, but only two were used in Japan. Consequently, any attempt to define universally accepted standards would have to take account of regional differences.

The Australian Delegate pointed out that non-European countries also had DNA profiling techniques. The draft resolution should therefore be amended since it did not fully reflect the recommendations expressed in the European Working Party's report, by adding another sub-paragraph at the end of the recommendations, viz.:

"- An international conference for user groups should be organized as a matter of urgency under the auspices of Interpol."

Unless a conference of that kind was held, it was unlikely that techniques and standards could be harmonized.

The United Kingdom Delegate also emphasized the importance of computer harmonization, which was essential for development of the project.

The Swiss Delegate felt that consideration would certainly have to be given to exchanging DNA profiles. Swiss experts hoped that a high number of markers would be used for that: the 13 markers used in the United States would seem to be a good model.

The Belgian Delegate congratulated the European Working Party and submitted two amendments to the draft resolution which he felt more accurately reflected the conclusions reached by the 27th European Regional Conference.

The United States Delegate supported the amendment proposed by the Australian Delegation, whose arguments were perfectly sound. Other countries outside Europe had DNA profiling — including the United States. His country was prepared to play an active part in disseminating the technique. The Delegation had software which had already been given to the specialized agencies in the United States, and would be happy to supply it to any countries which expressed an interest.

The Netherlands Delegate proposed amending the draft resolution by adding another sub-paragraph to the recommendation, viz.:

“- DNA profiles be exchanged through Interpol channels”.

The Director of Information Systems pointed out that common standards would have to be defined before such information could be exchanged over Interpol's electronic network. The problem was the same for fingerprints, and the proposed amendment might therefore appear to be somewhat premature.

After a discussion in which the Delegates of France, the United States, Spain, Mexico and Saudi Arabia took part, the Assembly decided to delete the phrase “(police, forensic laboratories, prosecuting authorities)” from the 3rd sub-paragraph of the recommendation.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/8 on DNA profiling, as amended by the Assembly, the Australian Delegation and the Belgian Delegation, was adopted, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/8.

Standard Training Programme on Crime Analysis

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence submitted Report No. 13 on Interpol's crime analysis training strategy and programme.

He drew attention to the role of the ACIU, a “centre of excellence” in the specialized field of crime analysis, and to that of the crime analysis working group, which had been set up to provide a framework for the development of a crime analysis strategy for the use of all member countries.

The working group had produced a strategy document and standardized the terminology and definitions used in practical crime analysis.

The ACIU had helped to organize two important Interpol conferences — one in September 1995 and one in September 1997 — which had highlighted the need for training in crime analysis techniques.

It had therefore been decided to institute a 10-day course for 15 English-speaking trainees who would, in turn, become trainers within their national administrations. The training would be provided free of charge and the General Secretariat would endeavour to find accommodation for the trainees. The crime analysis strategy and the training programme were the subject of a draft resolution which was being submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

The Chairman observed that the training programme for crime analysts was entirely in keeping with the ideas expressed in the Strategic Development Plan. He asked the Assembly to vote on Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/9: Interpol's Crime Analysis Training Strategy and Programme.

The Draft Resolution was adopted, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/9.

International terrorism

Presentation of Report No. 10, entitled “New guidelines for combating international terrorism”.

The Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence reminded the General Assembly that a guide, prepared by the General Secretariat and outlining the practical possibilities for co-operation in dealing with terrorist cases, had been adopted by the Assembly in Belgrade in 1986. Twelve years after the Guide had been adopted, it needed to be reviewed to take account of the many changes which had occurred in international terrorism.

International terrorism had become more organized, violent and global, to the extent that it now affected all regions of the world. New perpetrators and modus operandi had emerged, terrorist know-how had become accessible to a wider public, so that amateurs could commit acts without there being any prior indications, and non-typical groups could target society as a whole. These extremist groups pursued their aims through criminal acts which they tried to justify by hiding behind ideological principles.

Interpol's policy was very clear. It applied the theory of predominance. The circumstances surrounding an incident were examined and used as a basis for determining what was being dealt with, before looking at the offenders' motives. In fact, terrorist activities could be classified under a number of penal offences and, consequently, were entirely subject to ordinary law.

The new version of the Guide took into account not only developments in international terrorism but also the different activities undertaken by the TE Group with a view to improving international co-operation in the fight against this form of crime. The Guide's title had been changed, and it was now entitled “Interpol Guidelines for Co-operation in Combating International Terrorism”, with the emphasis on co-operation between the NCBS.

The General Secretariat had used the 13th Symposium on International Terrorism held in Palma de Mallorca at the beginning of October to give a preview of the new Guidelines.

A Working Party had then been set up and had proposed various modi-

fications which had been incorporated in the new version. The Secretary General said that the first guide on combating terrorism had been produced to help member countries and to deal with the constitutional aspects of terrorist acts vis-à-vis Article 3 of the Constitution which forbade the Organization to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character. The Guide had been widely used ever since. The problem was that there was no universal definition of terrorism as yet.

Terrorist acts therefore had to be broken down into their constituent parts in order to determine the criminal elements, as the General Assembly had decided. The new guide being submitted for approval reflected the resolutions previously adopted by the General Assembly, which had expressed a wish to see the General Secretariat undertake specific action.

It was well known that, since 1986, terrorism and other international criminal activities had become more and more closely linked, hence the need for a multidisciplinary approach.

Interpol was not an international political intelligence organization, which was why the new guide stressed the need for prevention. On the other hand, Interpol was a police organization and had to define and adopt an action plan aimed at

putting an end to crime and helping to bring offenders to justice.

The Secretary General stressed the fact that red notices were increasingly being recognized as legal documents and their use was constantly spreading.

They could be particularly effective for prevention and could be used for offenders known to have been involved in a crime and who had taken refuge in another country.

The main advantage was that any criminal who was the subject of a red notice risked arrest if he tried to leave the country where he had taken refuge.

States often established bilateral relations to combat terrorism. However, there were also multilateral relations and any legal action taken in that context required true international co-operation, the machinery for which was described in the new guide.

The Turkish Delegate said that his country had long been a victim of terrorism, which had become a major obstacle to the country's development. It posed a constant threat to human rights and its links with other criminal activities had been clearly established.

The Spanish Delegate welcomed the revision of the Guide, which had become obsolete given the developments in terrorists' techniques: they

did not hesitate to use information technology and cybercafes for their activities, or to use offshore banking systems. It was therefore essential to consider acts of terrorism from the angle of predominance in order to prevent any violation of Article 3 of the Constitution.

The Kenyan Delegate supported the new version of the Guide. He outlined the circumstances of the Nairobi bombing on 7th August 1998. Kenya had always enjoyed good international relations and was at a loss to explain such an act.

It wished to express its gratitude to the international community, which had shown sympathy and provided logistical support during that tragic time. In fact, co-operation with Interpol had made it possible to arrest the suspects as they were trying to flee.

The Indian Delegate said that India had been fighting terrorism for many years, and considered terrorist offences had caused the deaths of 26,000 innocent citizens and 5,000 members of the security forces. The money spent on fighting terrorism and maintaining order could have been better used in other ways in a country which was still developing.

The Iranian Delegate also stressed the fact that co-operation was essential in the fight against terrorism. No country should agree to shelter terrorists who had fled the scenes of their crimes: providing such asylum only encouraged criminals. Terrorist activities should therefore always be excluded from the field of application of restrictive extradition treaties.

The Yemeni Delegate asked that the Arab agreement on combating terrorism be added to the list of reference documents quoted in the guide.

The Delegate of Bangladesh agreed with the Secretary General's comments on the value of red notices. The red notices system had been used by the authorities of Bangladesh to trace the murderers of the "Father of the Nation". One fugitive had already been extradited and five others were still at large travelling from one country to another. The speaker asked all Heads of NCBS



to do everything in their power to obtain the extradition of the killers.

The Bahraini Delegate stressed the need for good co-operation. Bahrain had been suffering from terrorism over the past four years, but co-operation — via the Interpol General Secretariat — had made it possible to extradite various people who had committed terrorist acts.

The speaker drew attention to the fact that at its 54th session in Washington, D.C., the General Assembly had decided that the subject of international terrorism should be included on the agendas for all regional conferences. He called on all his colleagues to ensure that that resolution was observed.

The Sri Lankan Delegate drew his colleagues' attention to the existence of front organizations, which raised funds to finance such criminal activities, and called on NCBs to take stringent measures against such organizations, many of which were well known. He concluded by expressing his satisfaction that Interpol had decided to hold the 14th International Symposium on Terrorism in Sri Lanka in 1999.

The Pakistani Delegate said his country had shown its willingness to co-operate internationally by extraditing offenders wanted by the United States for involvement in terrorist acts and drug trafficking, and offenders wanted by Kenya for involvement in the bombing of United States embassies.

The United States Delegate said that the investigation into the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania had been a model of international co-operation. In the unfortunate event of similar incidents occurring, he encouraged all countries to draw their inspiration from that remarkable example of collaboration.

The Egyptian Delegate congratulated the General Secretariat on having fully appreciated the scale of one of the biggest threats ever to the international community: to possessions, human life, democracy and basic human rights. At the European Parliament in Strasbourg in 1996, President Mubarak had called for an international conference on terror-

ism to be held under the auspices of the United Nations.

Egypt had ratified the conclusions of the meeting between Arab Ministers of the Interior and Arab Ministers of Justice which had been held in Cairo in April 1998.

The increasing amount of resources available to terrorists meant that an international conference was needed to produce a universal strategy.

The Ugandan Delegate said that the government had decided to create a special anti-terrorist unit in 1998. Its efforts had quickly led to 92 arrests being made, as well as numerous seizures of weapons and explosives. The Ugandan authorities were currently reviewing their anti-terrorist legislation and were studying the possibility of making terrorism an extraditable offence.

Taking note of the various comments and proposals made, particularly those made of the Palma de Mallorca working group, the Iranian, Nigerian and United Kingdom Delegates, the Chairman asked the General Assembly to vote on Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/6: "New Guidelines for Co-operation in Combating International Terrorism", as amended. The Draft Resolution was adopted, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/6.

At the end of the discussion, the ICAO Observer, greeted the General Assembly on behalf of the President and Secretary General of the ICAO Council. Attacks on civil aviation had decreased, but the danger was still ever-present. The ICAO Assembly had therefore reiterated its policy of giving major priority to aviation security in its programme of activities. Both legal and technical measures were planned.

Cairo Declaration against Terrorism

The Egyptian Delegation submitted a draft resolution on terrorism, the text of which was examined by a drafting committee comprising representatives of Egypt, the United States, France and India, assisted by the Director of Legal Affairs.

The drafting committee then submitted Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/15, "Cairo declaration against terrorism", to the General Assembly.

The Libyan Delegate said that, since the 1986 General Assembly session, his country had been asking for an international conference on combating terrorism to be held under the auspices of the United Nations, to produce a definition and prepare a strategy. In general, the Libyan Delegation approved the draft resolution, although it had some reservations, in particular with regard to the international action plan and the extradition of fugitive terrorists. National sovereignty always had to be respected.

The Egyptian Delegate wished to reassure the Libyan Delegate: any observations a country might make would be examined during the international conference on combating terrorism which the General Assembly had planned in application of the proposal made by President Mubarak in 1986.

Draft Resolution AGN/67/P.RES/15, "Cairo declaration against terrorism", was put to the vote and adopted, becoming Resolution AGN/67/RES/12.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Head of the European Liaison Bureau in the Directorate of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence, reported on activities in the European region (comprising 45 countries), and more particularly those of the European Liaison Bureau, since the last European Regional Conference which had been held in Dubrovnik in May 1998.

The European Liaison Bureau had continuously provided member countries with advice on legal and technical matters, and had helped facilitate the exchange of police information as well as progress with some of the key elements of the European Business Plan. Lastly, it had organized many meetings and conferences.

It comprised ten detached officials, who would shortly be joined by one or two more officials. The staff of the Bureau spoke a total of 12 European languages.

They had represented the General Secretariat at 25 European meetings at which police matters had been discussed. They had also visited several NCBs and would continue to make such visits, which seemed to be much appreciated and were undoubtedly extremely useful since they helped strengthen links between the NCBs and the General Secretariat and improve day-to-day co-operation.

One result had been to organize the visit the Interpol Secretary General would be making to Sarajevo at the beginning of November 1998 when, in addition to the Head of the NCB, he would be meeting representatives of the international community, the United Nations, and the international police force. Furthermore, during the present General Assembly session, arrangements had been made for the Secretary General to visit the NCB in Tirana.

From the foregoing, it would be quite clear that the European Liaison Bureau played an important role in

strengthening co-operation between NCBs on the one hand, and between the NCBs and the General Secretariat on the other. The annual meeting of European contact officers was particularly important in that respect. The last one had been held in Lyons in September 1998, and like all such previous meetings, had done much to improve day-to-day co-operation.

Also, the European Liaison Bureau continued to foster contacts between Interpol and Europol, to avoid duplication of effort. He said that, with the Director of Liaison and Criminal Intelligence, he had attended the meeting of Heads of Europol National Units at The Hague at the end of September. He was convinced that the entry into force of the Europol Convention would help provide a formal framework for co-operation between the two bodies in the very near future. In the meantime, Interpol was maintaining very close relations with the European Union and meetings took place at all levels.

The Regional Co-ordinator then described regional activities in other parts of the world.

Beginning with the Sub-Regional Bureaus, he said that with the exception of Harare, their situation was far from satisfactory due to a severe lack of both financial and human resources — and that despite the generosity of the host countries.

For example, the 1998 payment rate of contributions for the Sub-Regional Bureau in Buenos Aires had only been 18% and had only been 11% for the Sub-Regional Bureau in Abidjan, which was obviously unacceptable. Added to that was the fact that the number of detached officials could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

All that meant that the performance of the Sub-Regional Bureaus was bound to be disappointing. Furthermore, there were sometimes no candidates to fill vacant posts. That

was the case in Buenos Aires, for example, where Mr Ribeiro-Bittancourt had come to the end of his term of office.

The situation was even more regrettable because when courses were organized, they were always successful. That had started to become apparent in Abidjan and particularly in Harare.

The Sub-Regional Bureau in Harare was a success, with a 1998 contributions payment rate of 54% and a high number of detached officials. That Sub-Regional Bureau was also the SARPCCO Secretariat, which gave it a higher profile in Southern Africa.

Past experience had shown the General Secretariat that there was no point in opening the Sub-Regional Bureau in Nairobi until the money was available.

The Regional Co-ordinator said he was pleased to inform the Assembly that a reserve of FRF 2 million had been raised by the countries of the sub-region, that negotiations with the Kenyan authorities had been completed, and that a Headquarters agreement had been signed on 14th October 1998. The agreement could come into force within one or two months and the Sub-Regional Bureau in Nairobi (whose opening had been recommended by the General Assembly two years previously) would finally become operational. The Regional Co-ordinator thanked the Kenyan authorities who had continued with the negotiations despite the terrorist attack in their country.

There were clearly many difficulties, and the main one was financial. In 1995, the Assembly had decided that Sub-Regional Bureaus would be financed by the member countries in the sub-regions concerned. It had to be said, however, that their financing was still uncertain to say the least, and that they could not function without staff. Ways of implementing

regionalization would definitely have to be redefined in the light of the Strategic Development Plan.

However, those problems should not discourage the Organization from opening Sub-Regional Bureaus where they were plainly needed (in the Caribbean or even more so in Bangkok), nor lead it to neglect regional training. There was a huge need for training but there was often a shortage of host countries for the courses. The Regional Co-ordinator thanked those member countries which had provided premises and helped to organize training, and urged other countries to follow their example. Strong commitments had to be made if the Organization's training plan was to be achieved.

Finally, he said that host countries had still not been found for some of the planned regional conferences. That was the case for the Asian Regional Conference to be held in 2000. The African Regional Conference would take place in Cape Town in March 1999 and the European Regional Conference would take place in Oslo in June 1999. Correspondence was being exchanged with El Salvador, which planned to host the American Regional Conference in May 1999.

The South African Delegate said that his country could indeed host the African Regional Conference, preceded by the Meeting of Heads of National Drugs Services, but not on the date given in the calendar in the Programme of Activities. It would probably have to be in the spring. His country's authorities would consider the matter and send the General Secretariat a proposal.

The Europol Observer, said that the Europol Convention had been in force for three weeks, thus giving Europol the official status of European Police Office.

That change of status considerably enlarged the nature and scope of Europol's work, provided a structure for its relations with national police bodies, and also had implications for its own structures.

Its current scope of activities — combating trafficking in drugs and radioactive and nuclear substances,

illegal immigration networks, traffic in vehicles and human beings and money laundering — would be extended by the Council of Ministers of the Interior and Justice to include terrorism, child pornography and probably the counterfeiting of currency and other means of payment, with particular reference to the new European currency.

In the coming months, it was also expected that official relations would be established with other States and organizations such as Interpol and the WCO, and that a standard model would be introduced for reporting information to be used by Europol and most of its Member States. There would be participation in specific training and support programmes for Member States and other European countries (the Phare, Falcone, Oisin, Tacis and Stop Programmes).

But Europol's main function was to help with police activities in its Member States by sharing information, by co-ordinating transnational investigations and cross-border operations (controlled deliveries, international surveillance, etc.), and by analysts and specialized officers participating in major investigations.

The Amsterdam Treaty foresaw an even more operational role for Europol and the establishment of international task forces which Europol would support. But there were no plans to turn Europol into a sort of European FBI, as had been erroneously reported in the media.

Europol fervently hoped to avoid any duplication of effort with Interpol, particularly since its Member States were also Members of Interpol and so contributed to Interpol's budget. Considerable efforts had therefore been made to highlight areas of common interest and to prepare an agreement on co-operation and define the responsibilities of each organization.

Analysis methods had been jointly developed and efforts would be made to improve them in the future. Attempts were being made to make the two organizations' analysis projects compatible. They were invited to each other's training sessions, seminars and conferences.

There was a constant exchange of views and experience between the experts of the two organizations, which informed each other about their operational and strategic projects as far as possible.

Such co-operation was, however, still unofficial and provisional and the conclusion of a formal co-operation agreement would be a major step in the fight against international organized crime.

The Brazilian Delegate then reported on the 2nd Regional Meeting of NCB Representatives which had taken place in her country and which had resulted in a declaration of intent to co-operate in the fight against international crime.

The Delegate of El Salvador confirmed his country's offer to host the American Regional Conference. It could perhaps take place in May 1999.

The Chairman thanked El Salvador and asked its Delegation to contact the General Secretariat in that connection.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the proposal for the American Regional Conference to be held in El Salvador in the spring of 1999.

The Polish Delegate informed the Assembly that his country had already organized a training course for NCB officers from Central and Eastern Europe, and was offering to host a second such course, to be given in recently modernized premises.

The Croatian Delegate announced that his country was offering to host the 2nd training course for NCB officers from Western and Southern Europe.

The Chairman thanked the Polish and Croatian Delegations for their offers, and noted that since no proposal had yet been made, the date and meeting place for the next Asian Regional Conference would be discussed later.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

This title replaces that used in previous ICPR General Assembly issues, "Computerization and Telecommunications".

The Director of Information Systems repeated the comments he had made at the General Assembly session held in New Delhi on the Information Systems Strategy which was being developed and which would have to be closely linked to the Strategic Development Plan.

Report No. 4 dealt with the subject, but in such a rapidly changing field, the explanations he was about to give might differ from the information given in the Report.

Two draft resolutions were referred to in the Report. The first one concerned the upgrading of the current X.400 network. The aim was to use Internet technologies, the advantages of which included security, flexibility, new services, higher transmission speeds, user friendliness and value for money.

The SCIT had strongly supported that idea and had drafted a recommendation which had been unanimously approved by the recent conference on information systems.

In the light of studies carried out on the subject, it had seemed inappropriate to tie the General Secretariat down to one particular option by asking the General Assembly to adopt that recommendation.

Nevertheless, the current General Assembly session did provide an excellent opportunity to assess the extent to which Internet technology was being used in member countries.

The speaker carried out a survey using the electronic voting system. The results were as follows:

- 42 out of the 82 countries which replied to the question said that they had one or two police websites (35 had none and five were intending to create one soon);

- 41 out of the 91 countries which replied to the question said that they used their website for public relations purposes, 15 for missing children, 10 for stolen vehicles, 11 for information about specific types of crime and 14 for missing persons;

- out of the 69 countries which replied to the question, 33 included Interpol information on their websites, 17 did not and 15 intended to do so in the near future;

- out of the 79 countries which replied to the question, 48 used e-mail to transfer police information to the website, 18 did not and 14 intended to do so in the near future.

It could therefore be said that, overall, the worldwide use of the Internet was certainly increasing.

The Report also referred to the need to encourage member countries to allow direct access to their national databases. An initial pilot study of such a system was currently being conducted. It allowed the countries taking part in the study to consult the stolen vehicle databases at Interpol and the FBI.

The implications of the study for Interpol and the member countries should be examined in depth before a draft resolution was submitted to the General Assembly.

The Director said he wanted to draw attention to the connections between the Strategic Development Plan and the information strategy, to establish information priorities for the coming two years, and to give a progress report on certain strategic projects.

He referred to Article 2 of Interpol's Constitution and cited the strategic aims, the first of which was to ensure that governments and police and justice authorities throughout the world acknowledged Interpol as the foremost worldwide organization involved in combating international crime. The consultants' study showed in particular that, in order to achieve that aim, Interpol had to improve its response to meeting the different needs of its "customers".

The second strategic aim was to improve the effectiveness of information exchange and the development and sharing of information. It was obvious that it was neither possible nor desirable to store all the information the "customers" needed in a single international database.

It would be better to use systems which allowed individual users to obtain information from the desired source, according to their needs. The Director mentioned four factors which were crucial to encouraging the sharing of information and to improving the quality of subsequent analysis:

- clearly defined projects
- mutual confidence and adequate security
- powerful, easy-to-use systems systems which provided added value to the information.

With regard to information, the clear priorities were:

- rapid access to the central source of information
- adequate security
- services developed to meet specific needs
- access to other sources of information
- agreed standards for the sharing of information.

Those priorities required that the following objectives be set:

- a global network which was rapid, powerful, secure, reliable, versatile, user-friendly and gave value for money
- a range of databases meeting users' current needs highly-developed analysis tools
- access to other sources of information "customized" information services.

The X.400 network was secure, reliable and worldwide. However, there were certain shortcomings: it was relatively slow, image transmission was expensive, it used technology which was already out of date, it was not Year-2000 compatible, the installation cost was high, it was complicated to maintain, it was incompatible with certain national systems, and it was impossible to connect scanners.

Consequently, if the network was to be improved, it would be necessary to solve the Year-2000 problem, simplify matters for the NCBs, build encryption into the system, provide a capacity to process complete files and numerous images, and ensure that the system was easy to use and maintain, that it could provide new services, and that it was compatible with any new technology.

To solve the Year-2000 problem, the Organization could either do nothing or establish a completely new system before 2000, but neither option was realistic. It seemed preferable to begin by improving the network but to accept the fact that any such improvement could not be completed within a year, which meant that NCBs which did not have the new equipment would have to do their best while waiting to be modernized.

Four aims were proposed for the ASF database:

- simplify access to the database for authorized police users
- add new fields and new possibilities
- authorize access to certain data for third parties
- extend access to certain information to the general public.

The General Secretariat's departments could inform delegates about

how the agreement with the i2 company to develop the ICIS database and i2 tools on a joint basis would provide excellent tools for strategic and operational analysis.

The Director then referred to the possibility of access to other sources of information: national databases, information freely available on the Internet, "custom-made" databases to meet local needs, other international systems and private databases.

The obvious priority to take into account was the security of those networks.

The Organization had a duty to respond to Member States' specific requirements, which meant that it should define an excellent basic system, which could be used by everyone, together with technical solutions to solve particular needs.

He mentioned, in particular, the database on ivory smuggling and destruction of fauna in the countries in Southern Africa; the databases needed by certain South-East European countries which were attempting to step up the fight against drug smuggling; the information-sharing mechanism which several Caribbean countries were trying to put in place; the programme being developed by the Balkan States to combat organized crime and the G8 project on the same topic; or again, the technical support Interpol could provide for Member States regarding information systems.

Obviously, sharing police information was inconceivable if all those concerned did not have complete confidence in the system and those managing it. Interpol therefore had to prove that it could manage the security aspect.

That was an absolute priority for the Organization, which involved recruitment policy as much as risk management and data control. Indeed, security had to be taken into account in all aspects of the General Secretariat's work. It was up to the NCBs to ensure that all the information they had was made available to the General Secretariat.

Common data-sharing standards would also have to be defined. In that connection, the Director re-

ferred to the InterForm project which, although it had been studied for years, did not function satisfactorily because it was too complex and because users' requirements had not been defined properly.

It had therefore been dropped, but the work done on it had not been wasted: it had helped develop the Edipol standard, thanks to which Interpol, the WCO and UNDCP could share information on drug seizures and in other areas.

The Director of Information Systems then described developments relating to the criminal information network, the ASF and the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

He stressed that the aims being pursued were to provide users with a global network which would be significantly superior to the X.400 system in terms of security, speed, bandwidth, value for money and flexibility.

As far as the AFIS was concerned, an invitation to tender had been launched. Five private companies and the FBI had replied. Following a proposal submitted by the Secretary General, the Executive Committee had chosen the Sagem-Morpho Company, whose bid had been accompanied by an offer from the French Government to meet all installation and operational costs for five years.

Provision would have to be made to ensure the necessary compatibility so that information could be exchanged between the General Secretariat's AFIS system and national systems. That meant that a standardized system for compressing fingerprints would have to be developed as none existed as yet.

A Working Party comprising Interpol representatives and people representing the main AFIS users should therefore be set up. The ideal solution would then be for police forces to demand that that standard be incorporated in all systems designed by private companies.

The Director also referred to the successful creation of the ASF international stolen vehicle database which, in September 1998, con-



tained details of over 1.5 million stolen vehicles.

He encouraged those NCBs which had not already done so to consider downloading their databases of vehicles reported stolen to the Interpol database. He concluded by giving some examples of international projects to which the General Secretariat's Information Systems Directorate had contributed.

This excellent presentation gave rise to many questions.

The Australian Delegate congratulated the Director and thanked him for his remarks. The Delegate stressed the importance of defining a single international standard for identifying fingerprints and said the Australian Delegation was fully prepared to participate in the Working Party to be set up for that purpose.

The Netherlands Delegate also approved the development of a single AFIS standard. He wondered about the risks the "Millenium bug" might pose for national computer systems: could the General Secretariat guarantee that the Interpol network was not threatened?

The Director of Information Systems replied that the computer problems related to the "Year-2000 compatibility" had to be dealt with at national level. The Organization was, of course, modifying what had to be modified in its own computer system, but it could not guarantee

that all the NCBs would do the same. There was therefore a risk of an incident occurring.

The United States Delegate said that the United States Delegation would willingly participate in the Working Party which was to be set up to define a single AFIS standard. The United States NCB would also be prepared to provide the secretariat for the Working Party.

The Director of Information Systems said he would indeed appreciate any help he was given and thanked the United States Delegate for his offer. He stressed the fact that no contract had yet been signed with any supplier. Before that could be done, it would be necessary to make certain that the system's security could not be breached.

That being said, however, the matter would have to be settled within the next few months because the Organization could not afford to wait any longer. The Working Party should therefore meet as soon as possible, with a clear, well-defined agenda.

A great deal of work had already been done, and that should be continued, rather than starting again at the beginning. Working with a well-known supplier, for example, would bring many benefits. The main users of the AFIS system were Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the United States, and they could be involved in the

consultations if they so wished, as could any other member countries if they made their interest known.

The Delegate of Botswana said he had understood from the presentation that three options could be considered; the first was to not modify anything in the current X.400 system, the second was to install an entirely new system, and the third was to combine the first two options for a certain period.

He considered the third option to be the most suitable, because immediately discarding the existing system would be very costly and indeed might prove prohibitively expensive for some member countries.

The Director of Information Systems agreed, but said the costs/benefits would have to be analysed. However, the fact remained that the technological progress made since the X.400 system had been installed made matters much easier. The main problem was training.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1999

The Programme of Activities for 1999 was given in Report No. 17.

Administration and Finance Directorate

- Ongoing study on social welfare schemes;
- Studying with Directorate III the introduction of a supplementary retirement pension scheme;
- Ongoing study on the installation of a computerized system to manage document workflow and of a computer-assisted translation system;
- Study on reorganization of the Security Branch;
- Completion of building of the new canteen and conference hall;
- Modifications to the operating mechanism and intercom systems for the atrium lifts;
- Converting the space currently occupied by the canteen and kitchen into offices;
- Remodelling the offices on the 3rd and 4th floors;
- Converting the "moat" into flower beds;
- Replacing some of the security CCTV cameras.

Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Directorate

Sub-Directorate 1: General Crime Branch

Trafficking in women

- The development of a special collection format to facilitate the exchange of information: this special



collection form will be presented at the International Conference during the last quarter of 1998; evaluation of the quality of this form and the practical value of the requested items will be reported beginning 1999; pilot sites are invited to Lyons;

- Evaluation of existing practices with regard to special police techniques to combat trafficking of human beings.

Arts and Cultural Property

- Promotion of the CD-Rom for stolen works of art and cultural property;
- Enhanced analysis of trends affecting the theft of works of art (encouraging member countries to use the "Cancellation of search request" form).

Motor Vehicle Crime

- Active promotion and development, in collaboration with Directorate IV, of the centralized database of stolen vehicles using the ASF;

- Development, in collaboration with Directorate IV, of the ICIS programme to account for the specific needs in the field of motor vehicle trafficking and, as appropriate, modify it according to experience;

- Study on the feasibility of incorporating a VIN validation programme in the Interpol ASF International Stolen/Misappropriated Vehicle Database;

- Updating and improving the annual edition of "The Interpol Guide to Vehicle Registration Documents";

- New edition and computerization of the booklet "Motor Vehicle Registration in various countries".

Arms and Explosives

- Incorporation of the IWETS database into ICIS programme. To include:

- Formatting IWETS entry form for X.400 transmission.

- Providing direct, limited query access to IWETS through NCBS;

- Production of a standardized firearms manufacturers listing for MRRB use;

- Study on the proliferation of AK-47 type assault rifles throughout the world.

Disaster Victim Identification

- Promotion of the concept of compatible DVI computer programmes within member countries to facilitate the exchange of complex data;

- Increasing the awareness and capabilities of member countries in both the need for DVI and its practical application;

- Development of a network of DVI experts to provide assistance and support within each Interpol region;

- Refining and making available DVI training material to member countries;

- Promotion of the established Interpol DVI principles and protocols through effective and enhanced co-operation and liaison with other agencies.

Offences against Minors

- Production of specialized model training programmes;

- Study on the possibility of creating child pornography images databases.

Property and Violent Crime

- Issuing green notices for international itinerant thieves.

Sub-Directorate 1: Organized Crime Branch

Continuing the co-ordination and analysis of the following projects, and exchange of information on individuals wanted on an international level in relation to the following projects:

- MACANDRA (Italian Organized Crime).
- ROCKERS (Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs).
- OCSA (Organized Crime in South America).
- EASTWIND (Organized Crime in Asia).
- GOWEST (Organized Crime in Eastern Europe).

- MARCO POLO (Illegal immigration to Western Europe);

- Project on the utilization of the Interpol database as a centralized point for the collection of intelligence on East European/Russian organized crime groups, at the request of the G8 Law Enforcement Working Group.

Sub-Directorate 1: Terrorism

- Handbook on organizations involved in international terrorism;

- Terrorism in South America;

- Legislation on terrorism project;

- Statistics on the volume of correspondence relating to terrorist activities;

- Analytical study on global terrorism and Powerpoint presentation of TE studies;

- Terrorism on the Internet;

- Aviation matters: joint training project with ICAO to be reviewed on a new basis;

- Islamic extremist terrorism and logistic support of the groups involved in international terrorism.

Sub-Directorate 2: Economic and Financial Crime

Information Technology Crime

Organization of training courses on computer crime and project groups on specific IT related subjects such as network crime or encryption, updating of the Computer Crime Manual;

Payment cards

- Maintaining and developing an international payment card database as part of the future ICIS, establishment of an international central reference point and central reference library for counterfeit payment cards;

Environmental Crime

- Organization of training courses, on a regional basis: training materials will be developed in co-operation with the Project Group on Training for Environmental Crime Investigation;

Protection of the euro

- Participation in the anti-counterfeiting initiatives taken by the European Commission and the European Central Bank;

Computerized database on currency counterfeiting (ASF)

- Starting and or continuing to scan counterfeit banknotes for dissemination to Member States;

Asia Wash

- Continuing the study of the alternate remittance system (underground banking) in the Asian Region;

IMoLIN

- Continuing the IMoLIN joint project in co-operation with United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Vienna and other bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Organization of American States, Council of Europe and Commonwealth Secretariat, in order to make available useful information on money laundering matters for enforcement bodies and as well as international organizations.

Sub-Directorate 3: Drugs

- Making maximum use of the Interpol Drug Seizure (ST) Message;

- Analyzing ST information and NCB drug messages that involve on-going drug investigations and to identify international drug trafficking organizations;

- Preparing special analyses and monitoring all movements of drug trafficking along the Balkan Route, as brought to the attention of SD3 of the General Secretariat;

- Continuing to update and supplement the documentation on controlled deliveries;

- Continuing to work closely with the UNDCP/INCB/WCO/EC/EDU/WHO in training, regional meetings, co-operation initiatives/meetings and especially specific UNDCP regional assistance projects.

Sub-Directorate 4: Criminal Intelligence

Message Research/Response Branch

- Continuing the conversion of the Interpol Criminal Information System (ICIS) from the existing CIS/STAIRS system;

- Study on ways to increase MRRB productivity and worktime to enhance service to NCBs and improve quality and timeliness where possible; the objective will be a 24-hour response to incoming messages.

ASA (Automated Search and Archives Branch)

- Loading the ASF Nominal Image server with photos, fingerprints and text of notices for individuals subject of an Interpol notice or diffusion and completing the back record conversion when a new ASF authorization is received from one of the countries that have still to answer the ASF questionnaire;

- Creating digital and coloured images in relation to the Stolen Works of Art database (back record conversion and new information);

- Managing, in close liaison with EDP and R&D/D4, the production of ASF local database support (DAT and 3.5" floppy disks) for the NCBs and Regional Bureaus equipped with ASF Option 5 and ensuring all necessary ASF liaison with member countries.

International Notices Branch

- Expanding the publication of the "Wanted by Interpol" and of the "Missing Children" posters to evolving technologies (i.e. Internet) to increase the awareness of Interpol's role and efforts in these areas;

- Re-engineering the process of producing notices; this process has the aim of producing expected higher numbers of notices in a faster, cost-effective way, without loss of quality; the application of computer technology is one key to this.

Fingerprints Branch

- Continuing to re-organize the Branch in line with the future requirements of the AFIS system;

- Encouraging member countries to send more sets of fingerprints to the General Secretariat; this could be achieved by:

- direct contact with NCB where we have noticed that the number of fingerprint forms has decreased compared to the previous year.

- requesting fingerprints for persons for whom a nominal file number has been created but for whom fingerprints were not sent by the NCB at the time of creation;

- Processing all fingerprint information by an AFIS system sent by the NCBs by mail or by electronic means.

Analytical Criminal Intelligence Unit (ACIU)

- Fully developing, establishing, organizing and holding a ten-day basic crime analysis techniques training course for NCBs to help member countries which are in process of establishing their own centralized units with their own trainers;

- Further spreading the techniques of Crime Analysis Conferences and/or working meetings;

- Developing Interpol policy for the use of Open Source information;

- Further development of ACIU automated facilities.

European Liaison Bureau

- Pursuing the Business Plan 1998-2002 for Europe;

- Pursuing the European Liaison Bureau Activity Plan;

- Monitoring and encouraging the implementation of standards for the good functioning of NCBs in Europe;

- Monitoring and encouraging the implementation of minimum standards for the good functioning of NCBs in Europe; Accelerating the provision of practical advice and assistance to countries in transition;

- Updating the Police and Judicial Booklet for Europe.

Regional Co-ordination Bureau

- Continuing to oversee the smooth introduction and development of the

Sub-Regional Bureaus (in particular the new Bureau for East Africa scheduled to open during 1998) and the implementation of their work programmes;

- Monitoring and supporting the activities of regional committees such as the Working Group for Co-operation in Asia, the Mercosur Working Party, the Council of Police Chiefs (Southern Africa), the Committees of Chiefs of Police for Central, East and West Africa and the Regional Committee for the Caribbean and Central America and exploring the potential for the introduction of regional committees in other regions;

- Ensuring that the necessary links between the Sub-Regional Bureaus and the regional committees, where they exist, are firmly established;

- Exploring the scope for and the viability of establishing formal links with regional co-operation systems which have been or may be established outside the structure of Interpol;

- Monitoring and reporting on the achievements of member countries in meeting the NCB Service Standards.

Training

- Organizing and running Regional Training Courses:

- 2nd Regional Training Course for Police Officers at North American and Caribbean NCBs.

- 2nd Regional Training Course for Police Officers at East African and Southern African NCBs.

- 2nd Regional Training Course for Police Officers at Central and Eastern European NCBs.

- 2nd Regional Training Course for Police Officers at Western and Southern European NCBs.

Specialized Publications Branch

- Continuing the revision, updating and production of the "Counterfeits and Forgeries Review", on paper, and finalizing the CD-Rom on Counterfeits and Forgeries; finalizing and launching the Chinese version;

- Production of the CD-Rom on Stolen Works of Art;

- Creating and launching the Passport Book.

Legal Affairs Directorate

- Amending the Rules on International Police Co-operation and the Rules governing the database of selected information ("ASF Rules") and merging the two;
- Organizing meetings of the Supervisory Board;
- Studying bilateral police agreements: drafting a model agreement for submission to the General Assembly for approval;
- Studying the establishment of a database of criminal reference sources and relations among NCBs;
- Draft co-operation agreements with international organizations involved in the fight against international crime;
- Studies on the consequences of new information technology being used for criminal purposes and how such technology can be used for international co-operation;
- Study on the possible introduction of an internal welfare scheme covering sickness, family allowances, retirement, etc.; negotiating an administrative arrangement to this effect with the French authorities; launching a call for bids for a supplementary retirement pension scheme;
- Preparing documents to define the type of assistance Interpol can give the newly established International Criminal Court (draft resolution, co-operation agreement, etc.);
- Continuing action vis-à-vis the police and judicial authorities to promote the use of red notices;
- Updating the Vade Mecum: filing documents and reference sources by electronic means;
- Publishing and promoting the ICPR;
- Amending and harmonizing the Organization's financial texts;
- Concluding agreements between the Organization and suppliers and administrative authorities.

Information Systems Directorate

- Adapting computer equipment and the network with the year 2000 in view;
- Integrating the ASF into the ICIS and developing different Options 5 for the NCBs;
- ASF (Automated Search Facility): Developments relating to stolen or suspect vehicles, boats and aircraft, to lost or stolen passports and identity documents, and to counterfeit credit cards;
- Studying network developments and replacing the General Secretariat's X.400 central server;
- Installation of an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and its integration into Interpol's information system;
- Installation of a new payroll system;
- Optimizing and integrating the technical administration of the information systems;
- Continuing to provide advice for NCBs (PHARE, ASEANAPOL, ALERT, ROCISS);
- Ongoing study on, and installation of, an Intranet/Internet server to allow for the widest possible dissemination of non-confidential and non-nominal data;
- Development and use of the InterForm software;
- Study on workflow on the AGORA and ICIS systems;
- Full evaluation of information security;
- Ongoing work on the Regional Modernization projects, particularly for the South Pacific, and in the remaining NCBs in other regions; studying the replacement of existing equipment from 2000 onwards;
- Technical equipment for the new conference hall;
- Continuing provision, on a regional basis, of technical information in

connection with the equipment installed at the Regional Stations.

(The Calendar of Meetings appended to Report No. 17 has not been reproduced in this issue.)

The General Assembly approved the Programme of Activities.

ELECTIONS AND SELECTION OF A MEETING PLACE FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION



Elections to the Executive Committee

- Mr Espigares Mira (Spain) was elected to the post of delegate for Europe.

Selection of a meeting place for the 68th General Assembly session

The General Assembly decided to accept Korea's offer to host the 68th session which would be held in 1999.

Mr Espigares Mira, elected to the post of delegate for Europe.

RESOLUTIONS

AGN/67/RES/1

Subject: Interpol Strategic Development Plan

HAVING EXAMINED Report No. 5 entitled "Interpol Strategic Development Plan: Progress Report",

NOTING WITH APPROVAL the efforts of both the Executive Committee and the Secretary General, assisted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, to produce a plan which will define Interpol's future role in an increasingly complex international policing environment, prioritize and give focus to Interpol's activities, and articulate targets for improvement in the services provided.

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Cairo from 22nd to 27th October 1998 at its 67th session:

REQUESTS the Executive Committee and the Secretary General to continue the planning process and

CALLS UPON the Executive Committee to make a full report to the General Assembly on all aspects of the plan and its implementation and to establish and publish the final version of the Strategic Development Plan during the first quarter of 1999 in order to allow the General Secretariat and the National Central Bureaus to start its implementation.

AGN/67/RES/5

Subject: Establishment of a Special Allocations Fund to receive donations from foundations

HAVING STUDIED Report No. 8, entitled "Establishment of a foundation",

NOTING that the public or private resources which could be collected in addition to Member States' statutory or voluntary contributions to be used for a project of international public utility launched by Interpol are limited, *inter alia*, by the fact that there is no suitable structure (foundation or similar body) to prevent the rare subsidies received by the Organization from being included in the mass of income, rather than being specifically allocated, making it impossible for the donors to exercise any form of control.

AWARE of the obstacles currently encountered by the Organization in obtaining and benefiting from such other sources of income, and of the need to facilitate recourse to such income in order to cope with the growing demand for international action in the fight against ordinary law crime,

CONSIDERING that the establishment of one or more foundations would facilitate the quest for additional resources to be put towards achieving the Organization's aims and objectives.

ALSO CONSIDERING that, in order to have a central structure to channel contributions to be paid to the Organization by the foundation(s), it would be necessary to set up a special allocations fund in conformity with Article 19 of the Financial Regulations.

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the Executive Committee should be authorized to set up a subsidiary body within the Organization to accept, control and monitor the use of donations from the foundation(s), subject to the Secretary General's statutory role in managing the fund and the projects to be implemented by the Organization.

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Cairo from 22nd to 27th October 1998 at its 67th session:

DECIDES:

(1)(a) to support the establishment of one or more foundations, the statutes of which could be based on the model given at Appendix 1;

(b) to authorize, for this purpose, the Secretary General to set up a legal entity (association) independent of the Organization with the aim of creating the proposed foundation by transferring to it any assets collected by that association;

(c) to empower the Executive Committee to accept payment of a donation not exceeding FRF 500,000 as participation in the formalities to set up the foundation and, if necessary, to set up a subsidiary body which would be responsible for deciding on the acceptance of donations made by the foundation(s) to the Organization, for carrying out the appropriate controls, and for reporting to the Executive Committee on the allocation of such donations;

(d) to authorize the Executive Committee to appoint *ex officio* members to sit on the foundation's board of administration should the founders wish to reserve seats for the Organization on the board, it being understood that any foundation wishing to use Interpol's name or any of its dis-

tinctive signs shall be obliged to reserve *ex officio* seats for the Organization on the board;

(2)(a) to set up, in application of Article 19 of the Financial Regulations, a special allocations fund called the "Interpol Special Allocations Fund" for the purpose of receiving money (or objects) given to the Organization as gifts, bequests, subsidies or other donations;

(b) to authorize the Executive Committee to use its financial powers to pay gifts, bequests and other donations made by private individuals other than the foundation into the Special Allocations Fund, it being understood that the Executive Committee is free to decide whether to pay such sums into the Special Allocations Fund or into any other existing funds (such as the ATSFDC), or to include them in the mass of general income;

(c) to empower the Executive Committee, or the subsidiary body set up by the Executive Committee, to establish the necessary procedures allowing the Secretary General to draw on the Special Allocations Fund in order to finance expenditure exceeding budget allocations, and to use the donations in the Fund in accordance with the conditions imposed by the persons or foundations making the sums available to the Organization, unless those persons or foundations consent to the donations being used for another purpose;

(d) that the Special Allocations Fund shall be managed by the Secretary General, who shall set up the required mechanisms for project co-ordination and implementation and who shall, for this purpose, appoint an official to act as "fund raiser" to manage the funding of projects approved by the foundation(s);

(3)(a) to authorize the Secretary General to inform those intending to set up a foundation of the Organization's general policy regarding the collection of private resources and the conditions governing the acceptance or refusal of gifts, bequests, subsidies and other donations;

(b) to authorize the Executive Committee to empower the Secretary General to conclude an agreement, under the terms of Article 41 of the Constitution, between the Organization and

the foundation(s) established to support Interpol's actions.

MODEL STATUTES

(for submission to donors wishing to support Interpol's activities)

I — PURPOSE

The purpose of the Foundation, called, set up <>, is:

- to provide and develop the widest possible assistance both for operational and non-operational activities carried out by departments responsible for crime investigation and law enforcement, and for cultural, scientific, humanitarian, artistic, legal and administrative activities undertaken with a view to making an effective contribution to crime prevention and law enforcement at world, regional or national level;

- to develop and organize any action required to devise and implement international measures and procedures aimed at furthering the fight against slavery and traffic in human beings, the protection of civilian populations during armed conflicts, locating missing people and identifying corpses, environmental protection, the protection of animals and endangered species, etc.;

- to increase awareness in both the public and private sectors in all Interpol member countries and help them to carry out activities to further the fight against corruption, organized crime and drug trafficking, which are considered to be threats to freedom, democracy and society in general (providing information for crime victims, improving prison conditions and education for prisoners, code of conduct and ethics, training, improving forensic science facilities, improving human rights training in police colleges, etc.);

- to promote, by any means defined by the Foundation's governing body, specialization in the fight against crime, training for police officers in all aspects of crime prevention and law enforcement, and research into new approaches to both forensic science and modern crime (the use of computers and other modern technology to commit crime, etc.);

- to back all activities in support of the above-mentioned actions, in par-

ticular activities such as legal consultations and the creation of international standards to improve international co-operation between international organizations, States and national and international professional associations, the use of telecommunications networks, computerized databases and data transmission equipment, or printing, assembling and mailing documents and reports, and maintaining collections of reference material and archives, and organizing or implementing internal security systems for law enforcement agencies;

- to mobilize all possible private and public resources to support steps taken by Interpol to achieve its statutory aims and its activities and events organized with a view to achieving those aims, and to create the appropriate regional police co-operation bodies for countries which do not have the means or resources to develop such activities themselves.

It has its headquarters in <>

II — ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

The Foundation shall be administered by a Board comprising <> members, including:

- <> founders, or persons appointed by the founders and whose terms of office are renewed by them or, if necessary, by the Board itself;

- <> *ex officio* members: the member(s) appointed by the ICPO-Interpol;

- members co-opted by virtue of their expertise in the area of the Foundation's activity.

With the exception of the *ex officio* members and, if applicable, the founder(s), the members of the Board shall be appointed by <> every <> years.

AGN/67/RES/6

Subject: New Guidelines for Co-operation in Combating International Terrorism

CONSIDERING that international terrorism has undergone significant changes over the past ten years,

DEEMING it necessary to revise the "Guide for Combating International

Terrorism", which it adopted during its 55th session, held in Belgrade in 1986 (Resolution AGN/55/RES/3), to take account of developments in this form of crime,

APPROVING the Secretary General's initiative to draft a new version of the said Guide and ENDORSING the analyses and guidelines contained in the document.

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Cairo from 22nd to 27th October 1998 at its 67th session:

ADOPTS the new version of the Guide for combating International Terrorism, entitled "New Guidelines for Co-operation in Combating International Terrorism" as it appears in the appendix to Reports No. 10 and 10A, and DECIDES that this new version shall replace the one adopted in 1986;

INVITES the NCBs to circulate this Guide to the appropriate specialized national services and to refer to it systematically in the context of international police co-operation in terrorist cases;

ASKS the Secretary General to ensure that the Guide is regularly updated and to distribute each update to the NCBs.

AGN/67/RES/7

Subject: Interpol ASF International Stolen/Misappropriated Vehicle Database

NOTING the contents of Report No. 11 on the Interpol ASF International Stolen/Misappropriated Vehicle Database,

RECOGNIZING the practical usefulness of such a tool in the fight against international vehicle trafficking, and the significant progress already made in identifying and returning stolen vehicles,

ACKNOWLEDGING the investment in resources to develop and implement the database and make it available for use by all member countries,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Cairo from 22nd to 27th October 1998 at its 67th session:

CALLS UPON all member countries to use the database systemati-

cally for checking; motor vehicles suspected of being stolen or misappropriated, imported second-hand vehicles prior to re-registration;

URGES member countries to make known the existence of the database to all their relevant national services and actively promote the use of the database as a means of combating the illegal traffic in stolen vehicles;

ALSO URGES:

All member countries which have not already done so to forward their national stolen/misappropriated vehicle data to the General Secretariat by one of the means available (namely, manual or automatic updating of the ASF).

Member countries to ensure that stolen/misappropriated data is regularly revised and updated.

Member countries to use the international standard 17-digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) when reporting stolen/misappropriated vehicles.

FURTHER URGES member countries to respond promptly to "alarm" messages upon receipt and take any appropriate action necessary.

AGN/67/RES/8

Subject: DNA Profiling

RECOGNIZING the considerable scientific and technological progress achieved in the recent past in the field of DNA analysis,

BELIEVING in the efficiency of DNA profiling as a powerful tool for criminal investigations,

CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT that the national DNA databases can provide important logistical support for the investigating officers,

AWARE that further progress can best be achieved by the harmonization of national activities and standardization of the DNA profiling process.

CONVINCED that Interpol can play a leading role in this effort and in facilitating international co-operation in the exchange of DNA profiles,

HAVING STUDIED Report No. 12 entitled "DNA Profiling", submitted by the General Secretariat,

MINDFUL of the recommendations made by the 27th European Regional Conference (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 1998),

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Cairo from 22nd to 27th October 1998 at its 67th session:

RECOMMENDS that:

The guidelines and recommendations set out by the Interpol European Working Party on DNA Profiling in its "Final Report of the Interpol European Working Party on DNA Profiling" should serve as a basis for further harmonization of the use of DNA technique worldwide;

National DNA databases of offenders and crime scene stains should be as comprehensive as possible, within the existing legislative limits, both nationally and internationally, in order to ensure maximum efficiency in terms of investigative requirements;

All institutions involved in the chain of evidence regarding DNA profiling should implement a quality assurance system that is accredited by a National Accreditation Body;

An international conference for user groups should be organized as a matter of urgency under the auspices of Interpol.

AGN/67/RES/9

Subject: Interpol's Crime Analysis Training Strategy and Programme

RECOGNIZING that crime analysis is an important and effective supportive tool for international police co-operation,

CONVINCED that the development of an Interpol training model on basic crime analysis and the organization of standard training courses for trainers on basic crime analysis techniques and working methods, are necessary for the further implementation of crime analysis within the Interpol environment and would be beneficial to the Organization's member countries,

REFERRING to the Second Interpol Crime Analysis Conference, which met in Lyons on 16th and 17th September 1997, and to the recommendation approved by its participants calling upon the Interpol General Secretariat to provide a stan-

dardized Crime Analysis Training Programme in support of the training requirements of all Interpol member countries,

RECALLING Resolution AGN/65/RES/16 concerning the ACIU and crime analysis adopted by the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly at its 65th session in Antalya,

HAVING TAKEN NOTE of Report No. 13 submitted by the General Secretariat on Interpol's Crime Analysis Training Strategy and Programme,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Cairo from 22nd to 27th October 1998 at its 67th session:

APPROVES the contents of Report No. 13 and the action plan contained therein;

ASKS the General Secretariat to implement the Crime Analysis Training Strategy and Programme as described in Report No. 13;

RECOMMENDS that member countries support the above-mentioned programme and that NCBs, experienced in crime analysis, especially training matters, provide all possible assistance to the General Secretariat in terms of human, financial and logistical resources.

AGN/67/RES/10

Subject: Legislation, co-ordination and police co-operation to combat currency counterfeiting

NOTING THE CONTENTS of Report No. 16 and Resolution 9/FOMON/RES/6 adopted by the Ninth International Conference on Currency Counterfeiting,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Cairo from 22nd to 27th October 1998 at its 67th session:

RECOMMENDS THAT:

The appropriate authorities in member countries ensure that the ICPO-Interpol is definitively recognized as an International Central Office for the Suppression of Currency Counterfeiting, according to Article 15 of the Geneva Convention of 20th April 1929 (updated version of Resolution No. 1 of the 3rd International Conference for the Suppression of Counterfeiting Currency);

The Interpol NCBs should draw the attention of governments which have not yet done so, to the need to accede to the Geneva Convention of 20th April 1929 (8/FOMON/RES/1);

All member countries should furnish evidence that can be used to prove that the genuine currency which has been imitated is current and legal tender in the country of issue, by:

(a) sending certified copies of the applicable currency legislation when requested to do so in connection with judicial proceedings, and if necessary,

(b) sending official representatives to appear before the courts as expert witnesses on their currency, when officially invited by the judicial or police authorities (8/FOMON/RES/6);

Member countries, which do not have legislation making it a criminal offence to pass on counterfeit banknotes without lawful authority, should institute such legislation (8/FOMON/RES/7);

The Interpol General Secretariat should be represented at Banknote Printers Conferences (9/FOMON/RES/1);

The Japanese Business Machines Makers Association should be asked to help the Interpol General Secretariat to co-ordinate the identification of colour copiers by the BITMAP system (9/FOMON/RES/2);

The issuing institutes in Interpol member countries should use publications, CD-Roms, the Internet or any other means to inform the public about the ways of identifying genuine banknotes (9/FOMON/RES/3);

Liaison officers working in other areas should be made aware of the problems associated with currency counterfeiting so that they can assist national specialized units more effectively (9/FOMON/RES/4);

Member States should provide the International Central Office for the Suppression of Currency Counterfeiting located at the Interpol General Secretariat in Lyons, France, with forensic staff, additional specialized officers and administrative personnel, in order to allow the Office to fulfil its mandate more effectively (9/FOMON/RES/5);

CONSIDERING that the "Counterfeits and Forgeries" Review is an official ICPO-Interpol publication which has the support of the issuing institutes and consequently constitutes an effective means of prevention in the fight against counterfeit currency,

The General Assembly FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT:

(a) Those countries which have not yet done so should adopt penal provisions prohibiting the imitation, either in whole or in part, of banknotes or coins unless the competent authorities of the country in which such banknotes or coins are legal tender have approved such imitations;

(b) Co-operation between the National Central Bureaus, the departments specialized in combating counterfeit currency, the issuing institutes and the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat, should be intensified with a view to preventing the circulation of such imitations;

(c) The issuing institutes should collaborate with the ICPO-Interpol by sending its General Secretariat all useful documentation which will help it carry out its role as efficiently as possible (7/FOMON/RES/1).

AGN/67/RES/12

Subject: Cairo declaration against terrorism

AWARE of the serious danger posed by acts of terrorism, not only with regard to security and stability, but also to the State of Law, to democracy and to human rights,

EXPRESSING its deep concern at the escalation of international terrorism, which makes it essential to adopt the idea of appropriate countermeasures, co-ordinated between all countries,

MANIFESTING its desire to increase the effectiveness of joint international action to guarantee international peace and security,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Cairo from 22nd to 27th October 1998 at its 67th session:

DECLARES:

(1) That it strongly condemns all terrorist acts, methods and practices as criminal and unjustifiable, irrespec-

tive of where and by whom they are carried out, and that it attaches great importance to the implementation of all the resolutions already voted on this subject and listed in the "Guidelines for Co-operation in Combating International Terrorism":

(2) That it fully supports the proposal to organize, under the aegis of the United Nations, an international conference on combating terrorism, with the aim of setting up, in close co-ordination with Interpol, a common international strategy for taking all appropriate prevention, protection, surveillance, and law enforcement measures, and to prepare concrete proposals for more effective action in combating terrorism, its funding and support networks and its pernicious effects on international peace and security;

(3) That it attaches the greatest importance to the idea of implementing an international action plan to strengthen police and judicial co-operation between member countries, inter alia by eliminating the obstacles which hinder the extradition of fugitive terrorists, the sharing of information essential to criminal investigations and to terrorism prevention measures, the detection of all types of traffic in weapons, explosives or other items directly or indirectly connected with the activities of organized terrorist groups, and the adoption of specific criminal charges relating to the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes;

(4) That it is necessary for all the Organization's members to undertake to observe the principle of international solidarity in the fight against terrorism, the application of which — subject to the constitutional principles of each member country — should make it possible to prevent their territories being used for the preparation, perpetration, or financing of acts of terrorism endangering the peace and security of other countries.

States, Territories and Observers attending the 67th General Assembly session

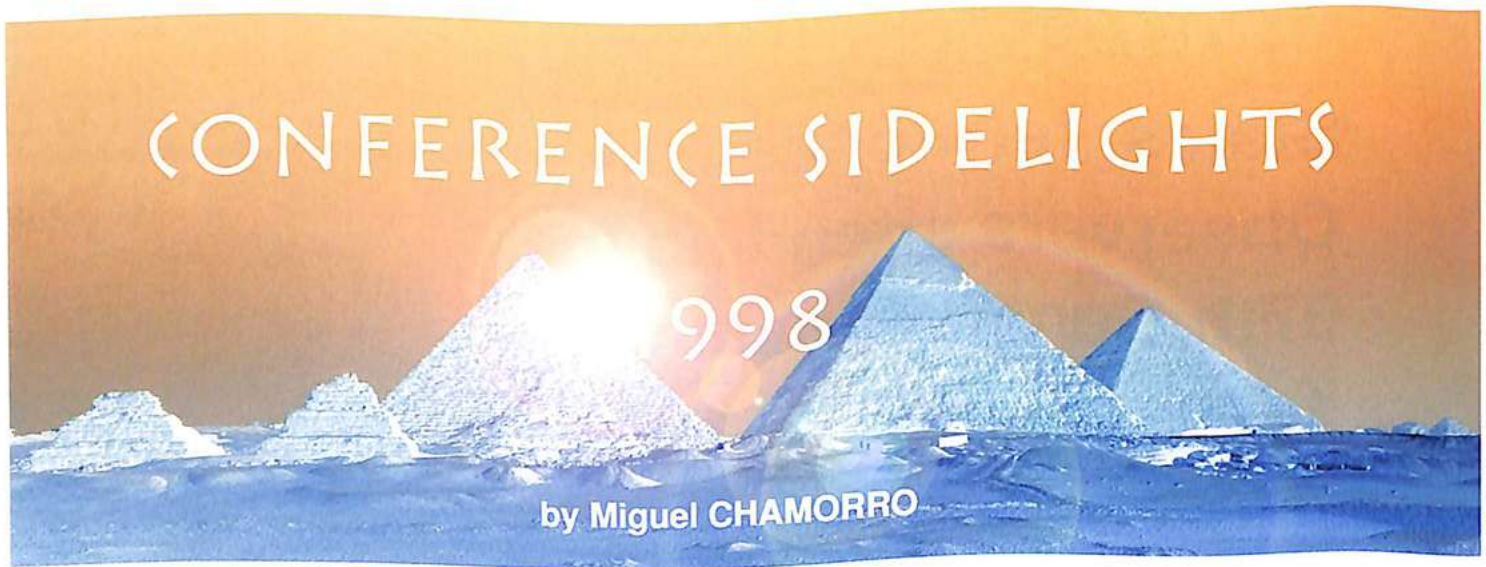
States and Territories

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao¹, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico², Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

1. Portuguese NCB Sub-Bureau
2. United States NCB Sub-Bureau

Observers

European Union
International Banking Security Association
International Civil Aviation Organization
Organization of African Unity
Prince Nayef Academy for Security Sciences
Technical Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council
United Nations Organization
World Customs Organization



As soon as we found out that the next Interpol General Assembly was to be held in Cairo, old geography and history books were dusted down and avidly reread to refresh our memories. Memories of a country which had fascinated us ever since our primary school teacher had told us stories of pharaohs, pyramids and journeys down the Nile which were intertwined with biblical tales such as Moses parting the Red Sea to get to the Promised Land, and the same teacher used our fascination as a sweetener for the maths which followed: "Now then, to calculate the area of one side of Cheops's pyramid given that the area of a triangle is ..."

The Arab Republic of Egypt is in the north east of Africa and with Sinai Peninsula forming the border on the Asian flank. With over 63 million inhabitants, who are unevenly distributed across an area of more than a million square kilometres, only 4% of which is populated, Egypt still has the largest population of all the Arab countries.

The enormous Cairo international conference centre, where the 67th General Assembly was held from 22nd to 27th October 1998, is situated just a few metres away from the spot where the Egyptian President, Anwar El Sadat, was assassinated in 1981.

It was no mean feat to organize successfully social events, excursions or even just transportation from the hotels to the conference centre for the 491 delegates (representing 140 countries and 11 international organizations), and those accompanying them, who had come to Egypt to attend Interpol's 67th General Assembly. The Assembly also provided an opportunity for delegates to visit the country with more wonders than any other, according to Herodotus 2,400 years ago.

Cairo

The rays of morning sun on Wednesday, 21st October made our wake-up call from the operator somewhat redundant as the brightness of the day filled us with optimism and enthusiasm for exploring Cairo.

We took advantage of the time before our appointment at the police college, by taking a tour round the city. It has 14 million inhabitants, making Greater Cairo the largest city in Africa and in the Arab world, in whose language Cairo means "victorious".

Cairo clings possessively to the Nile. The older part, with its narrow streets, lively bazaars and historic mosques, is on the right bank while, on the other side of the river, standing in contrast are large modern build-

ings and the "Garden City" residential area which is the location of many embassies and which was built on the oldest Pharaonic site in Cairo.

Cairo has a well-deserved reputation for culture and art, is the current headquarters of the Arab League and the intellectual centre of the Arab world with several prestigious universities. The large Islamic university of Al-Azhar is a former mosque and is now an undisputed world-centre of Islamic studies. The University in Giza, the 'Ain Shams University and the American University complete the city's enviable academic profile.

Today, Cairo is one of the largest cities in the world and of course the largest around the Mediterranean. It is an overwhelming place which prides itself on being busy all day and all night. The many charms of Cairo and its constant bustle make it one of the world's most popular tourist destinations.

The occasional sandstorms are a natural phenomenon which blow in from the surrounding desert to coat the city with a fine, blinding dust, but they do not seem to bother the proud Cairenes and for the tourists they are another tale for the folks back home.

We would have liked more time to take in the atmosphere of ancient Cairo by walking around the citadel and visiting the alabaster Mosque of

Mehemet Ali and his Ottoman style tomb, but it was already time to head for the police college. After the Executive Committee meeting, we attended an important meeting about the Organization's Strategic Development Plan, an ambitious project which was to be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

The opening ceremony was a combination of formality, some ritual and a dash of improvisation because there were two working parties (one from the General Secretariat and one from Egypt) co-ordinating the infinite number of details which make such ceremonies a success.

Blissfully unaware of the tension felt by the organizers, the delegates queued patiently to register in the conference centre. It was a moment of relaxed camaraderie to warmly greet former colleagues, quickly exchange information on a joint operation and discreetly glance at the ravages of time on the faces of friends — always the best reflection of ourselves.

The representatives of the Egyptian authorities arrived at the conference centre and were welcomed by the President and Secretary General of Interpol, who introduced them to the Executive Committee. The ceremony began and following a rendition of the Egyptian national anthem and Interpol's own, a minute's silence was observed in memory of police officers who had died in the line of duty. The Interpol President, Mr Kanemoto

gave a speech, as did General Habib Al Adli, Egyptian Minister of the Interior. A video about the Egyptian security services brought the ceremony to a close.

Next came the press conference which was attended by media representatives from Egypt and around the world. After the press conference the General Assembly began in plenary session. The procedure was different this year because there were no committee meetings and that reduced the length of the Assembly and made it easier and less costly to organize. During the first session, the Assembly approved the application for membership from the Comoros. The number of Interpol member countries currently stands at 177.

In the afternoon of the first day of the Assembly, the Spanish Ambassador in Cairo and the Director General of the Spanish police gave a reception where delegates were served Spanish wine at the luxurious Sheraton hotel.

People are usually shy at the first few social occasions but either the relaxing effect of the Rioja wine or the grace and beauty of the ladies from the Spanish delegation mingling so courteously with all the guests, made the occasion highly enjoyable and it continued well into the night.

We awoke to a pleasant surprise on Friday, when the usually heavy and somewhat chaotic traffic had all but disappeared. We had not realized that

Fridays are always public holidays in Egypt.

After the day's sessions, a cocktail was held in the Chinese gardens of the conference centre to present the book produced to mark the Organization's 75th anniversary.

Representing the sponsors was Mr Ivan Couchman, from Kensington Publications Ltd., and he and Interpol's President both spoke of the book's significance.

Those present were then given copies of the book, the 600 copies of which had been artistically arranged in the shape of pyramids.

Interpol's President and Secretary General sparkled like Hollywood stars signing copies of the book, which will be a precious souvenir of the Organization's 75th anniversary.

Another difference at this Assembly was that the Saturday was a working day. The rhythm of work was fairly fast to avoid us falling behind schedule.

As planned, from the conference centre, we crossed Cairo to:

Khan El-Khalili

Although not the largest of the many shopping areas in Cairo, it is certainly the most traditional. It is reminiscent of the main bazaar in Istanbul and it is no coincidence that it was called the Turkish bazaar during the Ottoman period. In 1382, the market was named after the man who ordered its construction, Emir Djaharrks El-Khalili.

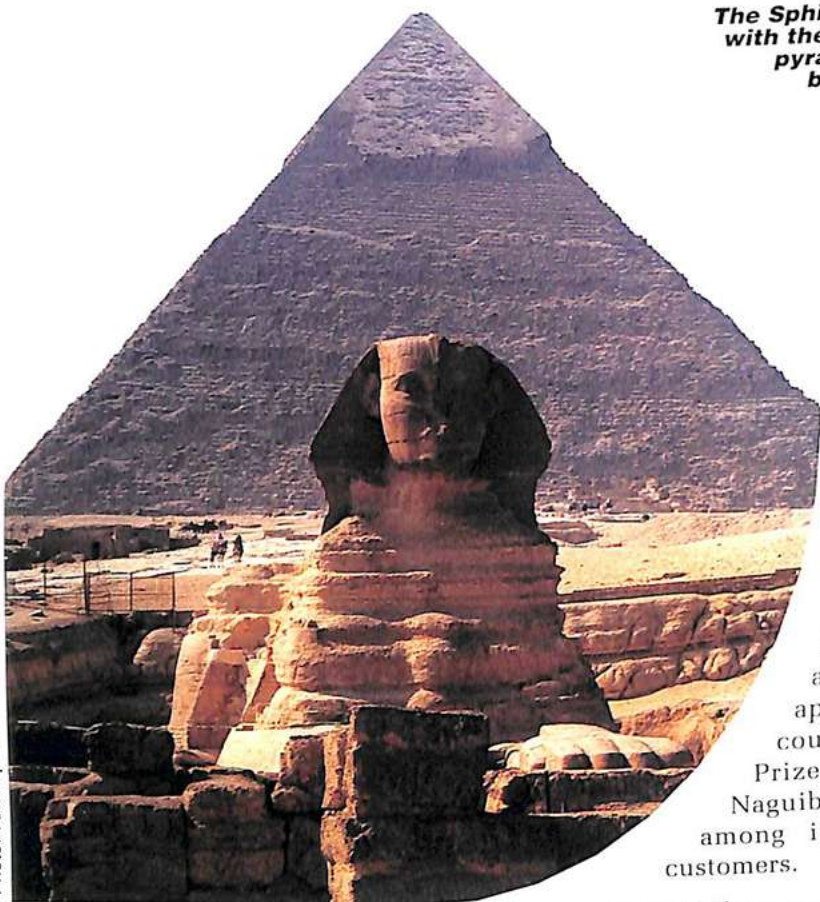
The Egyptians, with their subtle humour, highlight the bazaar's importance and say that it helped to discover America because in the time of the Mamelukes, the El-Khalili market had the monopoly on spices, that this encouraged the Europeans to search



Photo: Veronique Castan

Mr Ivan Couchman, Managing Director of Kensington Publications Ltd., representing the sponsors, presenting the book "Interpol — 75 years of international police co-operation"

Photo: Véronique Casian



The Sphinx og Giza with the Chephren pyramid in the background

which is reputed to be a meeting place for Egyptian artists and apparently counts Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz among its regular customers.

The Chilean and Spanish delegates were also there and we shared a table, coffees and the water pipe proffered by "Jordi" the well-known, friendly, and shrewd Catalonian salesman who invited us to his own establishment just a few metres away.

The market is definitely worth a visit to see the craftsmen creating all manner of objects in tin, copper and bronze: we left with the sound of their hammers still ringing in our ears, but not before purchasing a golden head of Queen Nefertiti, copied from the statues and busts of her in the museum — with her long majestic neck, sensual lips and captivating eyes, she is a model of beauty and grace. We also bought silver cartouches inscribed with the names of loved ones in hieroglyphics, a beautiful large copper serving dish and many other gifts.

The rooms of the Sheraton hotel in Heliopolis were suitably decorated on Saturday evening for the reception hosted by the United States Delegation, always the most traditional and impressive cocktail party of the Assembly and probably the one with the highest attendance.

The Egyptian Museum

On Sunday, the coaches transporting the delegates and those accompanying them left the various hotels and in a long caravan with a large security escort, headed towards the Egyptian Museum. The museum was founded by the French archaeologist August Mariette in 1857 and its exhibits were moved from one site to another until 1900, when they were transferred to the building which houses them today. Built in a neo-classical style by the French architect Marcel Dourgnon, it has a collection of over 120,000 items displayed in 100 rooms. The rooms are arranged in chronological order and give a relatively accurate picture of life, art, culture and customs in Ancient Egypt.

We divided into groups according to language and our guides explained the use and significance of the objects found in the Pharaonic tombs of various dynasties and also gave explanations relating to some of the mummies including that of Ramses II.

The museum houses a magnificent collection of antiquities, granite statues of Pharaohs, urns, jewellery, papyri, murals, furniture and most impressive of all, a vast library containing many valuable works on Egyptology.

The most spectacular exhibits in the museum are in the 12 rooms displaying the throne and sarcophagus of Tutankhamen and most of the 2,099 artefacts recovered from his tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

The centrepieces were most definitely the gold burial mask decorated with lapis lazuli, quartz and other stones, and above all the 110 kilo 24 carat gold sarcophagus depicting the Pharaoh with all his symbols of royal power: ankh (symbol of life), mitre, whip, sceptre and mace. However, these two magnificent items represent but a very small part of the vast treasure of this Pharaoh who reigned for nine years and died in suspicious circumstances when he was just 20 years old.

for new routes to the East, and that the bazaar was thereby responsible (albeit indirectly) for Christopher Columbus discovering the New World.

It is a place for haggling — providing you can summon up enough patience — and for stocking up on souvenirs for family and friends, which will be even more appreciated if accompanied by our observations on the trip as a whole.

It is a real pleasure to lose oneself in the labyrinth of narrow, rambling alleyways which are teeming with tourists following guidebook directions for the streets (or stalls) selling the cheapest gold and silver. The tourists end up walking in every possible direction since no two guidebooks give the same instructions — something which perhaps has more to do with the commission paid by the stall-holders than with the real sale price of the items.

Carried along by the flow of people looking at displays and comparing prices, we arrived at a cross-roads with an archway and the El-Fishawi café (or café of mirrors).



Photo: Véronique Castan

Pageant in the gardens of the Mena House Hotel

Pyramids and the Sphinx

At midday, we were back in the coaches and on our way to the desert plain of Giza, south of Cairo, which for the last 3,000 years has been the home of one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and the only one still in existence, i.e. the pyramids of Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus which (along with the Great Sphinx) are universal symbols of Egypt.

The pyramids were tombs for the Pharaohs who were considered to be earthly gods. Ancient Egyptians believed in the afterlife, i.e. that beyond this life there was another physical existence, for the soul ("ba" which leaves the body), as well as for the body itself or "ka" (vital force).

The tomb was the eternal home of the dead where they would continue to need everything they used on earth, including food and clothing. This did not include living beings like servants or animals but the tombs contained statuettes of servants for the domestic chores, and it was the priests who were expected to bring what was needed to sustain the "ka" of the dead Pharaoh.

The Pharaohs were divine rulers and after their journey to the land of the dead they would join the gods in the afterlife. They did however have to face the judgment of the gods. If they were found worthy, they were saved and did not suffer eternal death. This scene is represented in many tombs and on papyri and depicts Thoth, the God of wisdom, weighing the heart of the deceased against the figure of Ma'at, Goddess of truth and justice. The judgment takes place in the presence of Osiris, the ruler of the dead.

The great Cheops pyramid is the largest manmade burial monument ever and is made up of 1,300,000 blocks of stone. The lightest of these stones weighed 2.5 tons, the heaviest weighed 15 tons and the total weight is 6 million tons. The pyramid was originally 146 metres high (now it is only 138 metres) and its base measures 230 metres.

We were able to go inside one of the pyramids to the burial chamber but it was somewhat disappointing to go down the stuffy and narrow passages, bent over due to the low ceiling, and arrive at the centre of the pyramid where the reward for such an exhausting effort is a view of an empty chamber.

Not far from the pyramids is the Sphinx of Giza with the head of a king and the body of a lion (the head is said to be that of the Pharaoh Chephren). The Sphinx symbolizes the union of physical force and intellectual ability and our visit to this powerful symbol of the mystery of ancient Egypt was the realization of a cherished dream.

In the shadow of the pyramids, we were received in the gardens of the Mena House hotel by a group of musicians playing ancient instruments and a formation of warriors from the ancient empire who paraded behind their Pharaoh to provide the delegates with a guard of honour complete with music of the period. Refreshment from the heat of the day was provided inside the Mena House hotel in the form of a reception followed by an official lunch served in the Al-Khalifa hall.

Cairo Opera House

Sunday was certainly a full day because a few hours later we were at the Cairo Opera House in our evening dress to experience an exceptional evening with Verdi, Puccini, Adel Afify and Schostakovich on the programme which was performed by the Opera House's own orchestra.

Dinner was served during the interval in the Opera House gardens and after dessert, the second half of the evening consisted of a performance by the Cairo Opera House ballet.

At the stroke of midnight we returned to our hotels after a memorable and enjoyable day.

The Pharaonic Village

The following day we visited the Pharaonic Village which is few kilometres from Cairo, on Jacob Island, between two branches of the Nile. We went back 3,000 years in time to the days of the Pharaohs with over a hundred actors re-enacting entire scenes from Ancient Egypt with its crafts and customs.

The island is stocked with plants and animals of the time carefully recreated from the papyri and bas-reliefs to producing as realistic a picture as possible of what life must have been like for the Egyptians in days gone by.

Traditional dances performed by the Cairo Opera House ballet



Photo: Véronique Castan

The Pharaonic Village near Cairo

We walked around the village and saw the replica of a temple and its priests, the way of life of the nobility, labourers and craftsmen, crop-growing techniques and the games played by the ancient Pharaohs and children.

The replica of Tutankhamen's tomb is a true-to-life reproduction down to the finest detail thanks to the notes taken by Sir Howard Carter when he discovered it in 1922.

We were enthralled by the open-air market, the daily life of a village in the ancient empire and the representation of Moses being put in a basket in the Nile.

This fascinating journey through time was more than entertaining, it was a lesson in the geography, history, culture and art of ancient Egypt.

The elections for Executive Committee members did not take long because there was only one position vacant (for Europe) and two countries (Norway and Spain), both proposing well-known delegates. With two heavyweight candidates, it was bound to be close. In the end, the balance tipped in favour of the Spanish candidate and the language of Cervantes will now be twice as well represented on the Organization's Executive Committee.

By acclamation, the General Assembly decided to accept the Korean Delegation's offer to host the following General Assembly in Seoul in the Autumn of 1999.

The close of the 1998 General Assembly in Cairo with the end of official business was marked by the meeting of the Executive Committee to welcome the new members and to thank, and bid farewell to, those who were leaving.

Most delegates wanted to stay and see more of this extraordinary country and so we visited a few of the most outstanding historical sites, some of us contenting ourselves with a rapid bird's-eye view from a plane, others by sailing up the Nile at a more leisurely pace.



Photo: Véronique Castan

The Nile

This sacred river has had a profound influence on the history, economy and people of Egypt and is the thread which links everything about the country, hence our interest in its history.

The source of the Nile was a mystery until the 19th century and was the subject of many expeditions and much research. In spite of all this, Lake Victoria at a height of 1,134 metres is usually referred to today as being the source but the ultimate source is really the Luvironza river in Burundi. So from its source to the point it runs into the Mediterranean it is 6,700 kilometres long, making it the longest river in the world.

The Nile flows through mountainous regions, with rapids and waterfalls, passing through Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia, where it is called the White Nile later becoming the Blue Nile, because of its changing colour. Then it also flows through the deserts of Nubia and Libya.

The six great waterfalls between Jartum and Aswan make the Nile dangerous but then, because of the Aswan dam, the waters suddenly become calm forming a 500-kilometre-long lake when it enters Egypt.

Only the final 1,200 km flows through Egypt, meandering through the desert with a fringe of greenery on each bank.

After Aswan, the Nile flows through a heavily populated fertile valley where there are many well-known monumental sites such as Abu Simbel, Philae, Luxor, Karnak, etc. The Nile reaches Cairo and divides into several branches (originally seven) which form the Nile delta, situated between Port Said and Alexandria.

In the past, the Egyptian farmer did not have to worry about his land being fertile because the regular flooding of the Nile deposited a layer of mud and silt rich in minerals and organic matter, thus providing new fertile land every year.

The Nile was the life-blood of this ancient civilization, being the main communication route between the settlements which were all on or near the banks and boats were the quickest and easiest means of transport — indeed they were almost the only feasible one, given Egypt's climate.

The ancient Egyptians did not have the verb "to travel" and instead used the expressions "to go up the Nile" for going south and "to go down the Nile" for going north, even when referring to journeys by land.

In hieroglyphics, a boat with a sail meant to sail up the Nile because the prevailing winds blow from north to south, and a picture of a rowing-boat meant to sail down the Nile, either by rowing or — more often — simply by being carried by the current.

The Nile has borne witness to one of the world's most ancient and advanced civilizations.

Aswan

From the Nile Delta, it used to be possible to sail for 1,200 kilometres, straight to Aswan and the first of the seven great waterfalls of the Nile and we naturally included a tour of Aswan in our trip down the river. Nowadays, an artificial peace reigns over the waters of the Nile in the lake behind the Aswan dam until they thunder out through the six sluice gates to pour onwards to the Mediterranean.

An impressive engineering achievement, the dam was completed in 1970 and changed the course of the Nile, thus avoiding the annual flooding, providing electricity and increasing the amount of land available for farming. It resulted in the formation of the world's largest artificial lake. Many historical monuments were consequently put at risk but they were saved partly thanks to the UNESCO initiative to move some of them (such as Abu Simbel and Philae) to higher sites nearby or even to other countries. This was the case of the Debod temple which is now in Madrid and the Dendur temple now in New York.

Although the dam has provided many benefits, it inevitably has its critics who disapprove of the changes to the natural balance of the river and its ecosystem.

Abu Simbel

Countries throughout the world responded well to the UNESCO initiative (launched in 1960) to help Egypt save monuments threatened by flooding due to the construction of the dam. A particular effort was made to save Abu Simbel which, unlike other temples, was not built but was carved out of a mountain. Its facade is 38 metres across and 33 metres high, which is the equivalent of a ten-storey building.

The entire hill out of which the temple and its facade's four huge statues were carved was cut up into 807

blocks each weighing 20 tons. The blocks were then moved to a position slightly higher than the original location and reassembled like a massive Lego kit. Today the cuts in the rock are barely visible.

Once inside the temple, in the heart of the mountain, the true scale of the work can be appreciated. Sixty-five metres down, the ceiling is supported by columns depicting Osiris under Ramses II. Beneath, lies the sanctuary with four images of divinities including one of the Pharaoh himself. Twice a year, at solstice time, the first rays of morning sun enter the sanctuary at precisely 5.38 am, lighting up the left shoulder of Amon. Twenty minutes after lighting up the statue of the Pharaoh, the phenomenon disappears, as it did in the original location.

Philae

The island of Philae is now submerged by Lake Nasser but once knew a golden period when the sick of ancient Egypt would come to the temple of Isis, wife and sister of Osiris, to whom it was dedicated, in the hope of receiving her favours or those of their son Horus.

This monument dates from the 30th dynasty and was completed by the Ptolemaics and the Romans since it was the last remaining vestige of Pharaoh worship.

Between 1972 and 1980, it was cut into 37,363 blocks of stone and rebuilt on the island of Agilika, not far from its original location but above water-level. The British Egyptologist Amelia Edwards once spoke of the palm trees, colonnades and pillars which made Philae look like a mirage rising out of the river. Unfortunately, the description no longer rings true.

When the temple was restored, bas-reliefs, frescos and statues were discovered. The temple had been converted into a church by over-ascetic Christians who, shocked by the voluptuous curves of the goddess Isis, had covered the statues with plaster.

Trajan's Kiosk (105 AC) is the best remaining example of Egyptian architectural skill during Roman times, al-

though the boat which once transported the goddess during the traditional processions will never again be moored there.

Thebes, Luxor and Karnak

All that remains of Thebes are the ruins of the Temples of Luxor and Karnak. However, this cosmopolitan capital which was established around 2,200 years B.C., was the capital of Egypt for a millennium. Homer said of the city that its treasures were only surpassed in number by the grains of sand in the desert.

With the help of a guidebook and drawings by the artist David Roberts, we discovered and imagined what life must have been like in what was the world's largest city during the 18th dynasty.

Let us begin with Luxor, a small city on the banks of the Nile, where we visited the temple built by Amenhotep III. Little remains of its past splendour and opulence, its palaces and avenues. Nevertheless, Champollion, the renowned Egyptologist responsible for deciphering hieroglyphics, gives us a clear picture of its former grandeur. He talks about this historic site and refers to the awe-inspiring imagination of the Egyptians, saying that no other people had ever raised the art of architecture to such a level.

As is the case with all Egyptian temples, the one at Luxor has grand pylons consisting of two wedge-shaped walls which span the width of the temple in-between the walls framing the Temple's main entrance.

Ramses the Great completed the temple and built two enormous statues of himself at the entrance and the impressive obelisk which is 23 metres high and weighs 227 tons. During the reign of Mehemet Ali, the other (identical) obelisk was taken to the Place de la Concorde in Paris. In exchange, the French apparently gave him a clock which was installed in the citadel of Cairo and the Egyptians never miss a chance to mention that the clock does not work.

The massive walls are the most visible part of the temple and are there-



The avenue of ram-head sphinxes in the Temple of Karnak

fore decorated with scenes glorifying the life of the Pharaoh who built it, including important battles and victories. The Pharaohs who succeeded him would also depict their exploits on the walls and columns, and at times deliberately carved over the stories of their predecessors. The precision and detail of the paintings, papyri and relief work are a vital source of information about this ancient culture and prove that the Egyptians were refined artists.

The proportions were calculated exactly: the artist would divide up the surface into a grid, which always had the same number of squares. Each square was the size of the fist of the main figure, the head was three squares, the neck one, and so on.

The purpose of art (and of sculpture in particular) in Egypt was to create an ideal image of the Pharaoh or deity for posterity. Hence the Pharaohs appear bigger than other mortals to highlight their importance and they are always represented in profile (to be more recognizable) except the eye which is drawn as it would be from the front.

The temples of Luxor and Karnak used to be linked by an avenue of ram-head sphinxes which was several kilometres long. There used to be an annual procession to take the god Amon from Karnak to Luxor to celebrate his union with the goddess Mut to make Egypt and the whole world more fertile.

We were unable to follow the same route to Karnak as Amon, since the avenue is now partially buried.

Karnak

According to reliable sources, Karnak is the largest religious complex in the world. Its construction went on without interruption during the reign of many Pharaohs, and took 2000 years in all. Although it has been dedicated to various divinities, when Thebes became the capital, it was dedicated to the god Amon-Re, king of the Egyptian gods. The complex contains other temples but the one at Amon is the largest and most significant.

On reaching the Temple of Karnak, the visitor goes through a series of ten successive gates which offer a fantastic view of the enormous halls and patios with their hosts of columns until he reaches the sanctuary some 260 metres away.

The most remarkable structure in the Temple is the hypostyle hall with its countless columns supporting the ceiling and a surface area of approximately 5,400 square metres, which is bigger than any cathedral.

Despite the enormous size of the hall which dwarfs the visitor, there is a feeling of perfect harmony. This was perhaps a deliberate effect designed by Seth I and Ramses II or their architects to inspire a fear of the gods.

At the entrance to the Temple there were originally two 38-metre high obelisks made of red granite. They were probably the biggest in the world but only one remains standing, just a trace of the splendid monuments bequeathed to us by the Pharaohs.

In the evening, we went on a felucca trip down the Nile to see the temples against the backdrop of a red sunset, as was the wont of Cleopatra (daughter of Ptolemy XII and descendant of Alexander the Great) in the company of Mark Antony. Seeing the temples bathed in phantasmagorical shadows made them seem more romantic as our imaginations went to work in the darkness.

The Valley of the Kings

At first light the next morning (to avoid the heat), we headed for the Necropolis and the tombs of Pharaohs from the 18th, 19th and 20th dynasties.

To prevent the tombs from being robbed and desecrated, as happened with the pyramids, the Pharaohs looked for a secret valley close to Thebes where they could be buried, in an attempt to preserve the tombs, mummies and treasures. Large, winding tunnels were cut out of the rock which led to the burial chamber. Once the Pharaoh had been buried, the tunnels were blocked and the entrance concealed. All these efforts

Below: The 21-metre high Taharqua Column in the Temple of Karnak. Right: The Colossi of Memnon with the Valley of the Kings in the background.

were, however, in vain because most of the tombs were discovered and vandalized in any case.

Thanks to some dedicated priests, mummies of some of the great Pharaohs were saved such as those of Hatshepsut, Thutmose III and above all the mummy of Ramses II.

The last of the 62 tombs discovered was that of Pharaoh Tutankhamen which was discovered in 1922 by the archaeologists Sir Howard Carter and Lord Carnavon after 18 years' research. It appears to be the only tomb that had not been vandalized.

The long tunnels which lead to the Pharaohs' burial chambers are covered with writing and murals describing the Pharaoh's journey to the afterlife to join the gods. These incredibly beautiful scenes were designed to help the deceased in his journey to the afterlife.



Photo: Véronique Castan

Leaving the Necropolis of the Valley of the Kings and its arid, lunar landscape, we went on to visit the tomb of Queen Hatshepsut in an equally arid and lonely nearby valley, hemmed in by limestone crags.

This was the burial place for queens, princes and princesses who were buried in tombs similar to those of the kings but which were not as richly decorated and contained fewer treasures. The walls were covered with mud from the Nile, smoothed down and painted in vivid colours which have survived exceptionally well, despite the passing millennia.

This is the resting place of Nefertiti, the exceptionally beautiful wife of Ramses II who is always depicted in flowing white dresses.

Nobles also had their own tombs but they were much smaller and contained less treasure than the Pharaohs'. The tombs were cut into the rock and decorated with drawings which were completely different from those in the royal tombs. They did not depict scenes from the journey to the afterlife but they do provide us with detailed information on the day-to-day existence in the new kingdom such as farming, hunting, royal parties, etc.

A special village was built for the all the artists and labourers (craftsmen, stonemasons, engravers, etc.) employed to build the royal tombs and the village was isolated from the

rest of the world so that its inhabitants could not reveal the Valley's secrets.

The Colossi of Memnon

Facing the Nile are the 20-metre high sandstone statues of Amenhotep III, whose mortuary temple (no longer there) contained these statues of the king. The Greeks named them the Colossi of Memnon after the legendary Homeric hero slain by Achilles at the foot of the walls of Troy.

One of the statues became famous for the sighing sound it would emit when warmed by the morning sun, probably due to the air circulating between the cracks. After it was repaired during the reign of Septimus Severus, the phenomenon ceased and some of the monument's mystery was lost.

We returned to Cairo without having completed our journey which was to have included going down the Nile to Alexandria the city which was literally dreamt up by Alexander the Great and which once housed the great lighthouse, another one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Nor did we have time to visit the Red Sea and the Sinai Peninsula which is so rich in biblical history so we have some very good reasons to return to this mysterious and fascinating country which is definitely worth more than one visit.

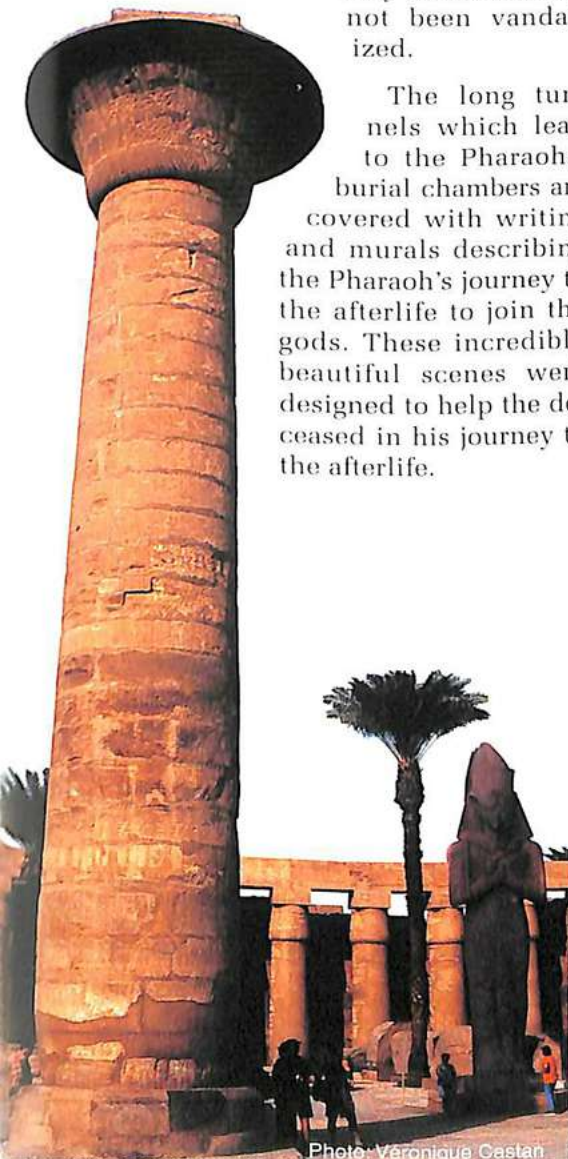


Photo: Véronique Castan



Photo: Veronique Castan

It could have been a mere coincidence but when our plane took off from Cairo international airport on the way to Europe, it turned to the west, crossed the Nile and flew over the pyramids which were pointing upwards to the sky, making us feel closer to the pharaohs who built their pyramids to the west, facing the setting sun so that with each new day their souls would be reborn with the sunrise in the east.

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