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ORGANIZATION

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# INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE REVIEW

## General Assembly

**62nd session**

**Aruba**

**29th September - 5th October 1993**





## OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The 62nd session of the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly was held in Aruba from 29th September to 5th October 1993. The opening ceremony took place on 29th September.

After the Aruban national anthem and the Interpol anthem had been played, Mr Peterson, member of the Executive Committee for the Americas, said that it was a great honour for him to welcome all those attending the 62nd session of Interpol's General Assembly to Aruba: he hoped his colleagues would have a very pleasant stay in his country.

Speeches were then given by Mr R. Croes, Minister of Justice of Aruba and Mr N.D. Inkster, President of Interpol.

The texts of both speeches are given in full.

### **Speech given by Mr Croes, Minister of Justice**

"Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Distinguished Delegates, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning, and welcome to Aruba.

We in Aruba are honoured that you have accepted our invitation to gather here for your annual General Assembly meeting, and I am pleased to extend official greetings to you on behalf of my government and the citizens of this happy island. I offer my personal wishes for a successful and satisfying conference.

Aruba has been a member of the Interpol family for only six years. That is a relatively short time. But during that time we have experienced the indisputable advantages of

**Mr Peterson, a member of the Executive Committee and Director of Public Order and Security in Aruba**

teamwork among police professionals and every day we realize new benefits of our Interpol affiliation.

Although this is the first time Aruba has hosted a General Assembly session, it is not our first experience at hosting other Interpol conferences. In 1990 we held a major meeting on money laundering which, perhaps, many of you attended.

A few days later we hosted the Interpol American sub-regional conference. Then we held a meeting for the Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies, often known as HONLEA. This was followed by a meeting of the International Association of Air and Seaport Police.

These gatherings were said by those in attendance to be unqualified successes, and we are proud of the part we played in making them happen. Our collaboration with

Interpol, however, goes far beyond simply hosting meetings.

Not long after joining the Organization, our Director for Public Order and Security, Roland Peterson, became a member of Interpol's Technical Committee for the Caribbean and Central American Region. It is my understanding that the Committee had been formed to provide a sense of continuity between Interpol's bi-annual regional meetings in this part of the world and to monitor the implementation of recommendations emanating from those meetings.

Their most notable and, perhaps, most visible accomplishment was the establishment of the Caribbean/Central American telecommunications network. That network, as you know, was inaugurated in late 1989, and now gives us, for the first time ever, police-to-police communications with neighbouring nations in this part of the world.

Aruba's willingness and, indeed, our eagerness to sponsor Interpol meetings, along with the many other avenues of support we have given to the Organization, are a reflection of our dedication to the principles of co-operation and co-ordination upon which Interpol was founded.

It is in this spirit that I welcome you here today, and I commend your allegiance to the goal of building a better tomorrow for our children and for the world which we will leave in their care. As with all Interpol meetings, you have an ambitious agenda in front of you. The diverse topics you have outlined for discussion during this conference parallel the reality of criminal activity in today's world. The universal nature of these activities confirms the basic wisdom and foresight of the men who directed the formation of the Interpol Organization all these many years ago.



AMERICANA  
ARUBA





*View of the platform during the official opening ceremony*

They saw the need for police co-operation across national borders and their vision became the genesis for the high degree of co-ordination among criminal investigators which today is unsurpassed in excellence.

Although the principles of co-operation and co-ordination form the basis of your Organization, there is another principle which I associate with Interpol. That principle is commitment. It is seen in the singleness of purpose which has consistently guided you toward the goals spelled out in your Constitution. And it is seen in your continuing efforts to bring all of the member nations to a level of technological competence capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century.

Technological competence, indeed, is an absolute necessity as you prepare yourselves for the next century. But I suggest that, coupled with technology, one of your greatest strengths in dealing with what lies ahead is the extraordinarily innovative ideas of men and women like yourselves who come together at gatherings such as this one.

It is encouraging to see that you are addressing not only the traditional areas of criminal conduct, such as weapons and drug trafficking, terrorism, economic crime and the apprehension of fugitives, but also crimes that affect our environment, such as the illegal dumping of hazardous waste material.

By sponsoring conferences to call attention to the problems of illegal international environmental pollution, and by forming working groups to look for ways in which legislation can work hand-in-hand with enforcement measures, you are doing your part to ensure a brighter future for the generations to come.

I applaud Interpol — indeed, my praise goes out to all of you ladies and gentlemen for your dedicated efforts in the area of crimes against minors. Trafficking in children, child pornography, child prostitution, sex tourism, child exploitation, illegal adoption — these are all crimes too

horrible to contemplate. Yet, as you and I know, they exist. They are reality.

You, as an Organization, are doing that which you do best. You have joined forces with the United Nations in raising awareness of the problem; you are sponsoring conferences and you have established a working group to look at legislation in the various countries in an effort to get more uniformity in laws dealing with this type of activity.

I understand there is also an effort to get each National Central Bureau to name a liaison officer specifically for these types of crimes against children so as to facilitate communication between affected countries. I commend these efforts.

We, as nations, must do everything in our power to eliminate the cruel and inhuman atmosphere in which so many children of the world are forced to exist. As they grow into adulthood, they continue in the only lifestyle they have ever known. And, just as contempt breeds contempt, so too does pain feed upon itself to breed more pain — degradation to breed more degradation. Hope has no basis upon which to flourish and so it dies an untimely and unjust death. Just as our past actions have led us to where we are today, our future will be determined by the measures we now take to protect and preserve our children.

*The first plenary session, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Americana Hotel*







**Mr Croes, Minister of Justice of Aruba, welcomes the delegates**

They are the hope of the future, and it is our profound duty to see that the legacy we bestow upon them is cleaner than that which we have seen emerge during our lifetime.

It will only be through the combined and co-ordinated efforts of caring people like yourselves that the unfortunate children caught up in these terrible conditions, may know peace and health in both mind and body some day. I know you will agree that in bringing them to lives of decency and order, we will take the first steps toward turning the course of crime. While the crimes I just spoke about are directed toward children, I would like to briefly mention two groups of citizens who are often forgotten but who also need and deserve our care and attention.

They are the elderly and the handicapped.

These people form a very important part of our society, but they are often the targets of criminal actions and are just as incapable of defending themselves as the children. Although their physical abilities may be limited, their minds and hearts have much to give. We would be well-served to make use of their talents, perhaps in police offices and laboratories. I offer this only as a suggestion.

In just over six years, a new century will begin. For law enforcement, it should be an exciting time, particularly in the area of forensics.

Technology has made the sky the limit in what you can accomplish. Who could ever have imagined fifty years ago that today's policemen would be identifying suspects by the use of computerized fingerprint systems or through the analysis of blood and other body fluids.

Technology is on our side, and combined with the human element we can embrace the promises of a better tomorrow. We have the means by which to meet the forces of adversity head on, and we will succeed.

Aruba pledges to continue its commitment and support to Interpol just as I know that Interpol will continue its commitment to the men and women who lead the global struggle against criminal conduct.

Before I leave you to get on with the business in front of you, I want to offer a special welcome to the spouses who have accompanied the delegates and observers to this Happy Island. We welcome you, in particular, and hope that you will enjoy our beaches, restaurants and shops during your stay. I understand we have some excellent activities arranged for you.

Let me now close by expressing the hope that the session which opens today will mark a new milestone in the unified development of this enterprise which is dedicated to the service of your ideals and to the greater good of all people.

In the name of the government and citizens of Aruba, I bid you welcome."

**Speech given by Mr N.D. Inkster, President of Interpol**

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues:

I am delighted to be here in Oranjestad today. On behalf of the Secretary General and the Executive Committee, I would like to thank our colleague, Mr Roland Peterson of Aruba and his task force co-ordinators, for being our hosts and for their efforts in organizing the sixty-second General Assembly Session of Interpol.

I should also note that Aruba joined Interpol in 1987 and since that time, the National Central Bureau has been an active player in the work of Interpol to suppress ordinary law crimes of international scope.

This is my first General Assembly as President, and I should like to thank you for the honour you have conferred upon me by asking me to serve you in this capacity. I look forward to working with you in meeting the challenges of future international police co-operation.

The themes of technological innovation, continuing institutional modernization and international co-operation in the fight against crime must be pursued on the basis of certain values and principles which we all believe are the bedrock of effective policing on a local, national or international scale. The principles of justice, the dignity of the individual, an unswerving commitment to the rule of law and a dedication to serving our communities and our clients will keep Interpol dynamic and relevant.

In a world plagued by social and political instability, individuals on the

**Mr Inkster, President of Interpol, announcing the major themes of the 62nd session**





margins of society suffer from lawlessness, violence and geographic displacement.

These people look to police organizations for some measure of protection. We must work to continue to deserve their trust by respecting human rights, upholding the rule of law and extending a helping hand to those who may be at risk. No more tragic circumstance exists in the world, today, than that of a child who is hurt, hungry or lost. Police officers have a special obligation to protect those who cannot protect themselves. I am pleased to note, therefore, that the issue of "Concern for Children" is one of the subjects of Interpol's continuing concern.

Allow me to reflect on last year's accomplishments and to set out our future goals. In doing so, I must express our gratitude for the modernization progress made to date through the efforts of the professional and dedicated personnel, both permanent employees and secondees, who work in our mutual interest in Lyons under the leadership of our colleague, the Secretary General.

As I am sure delegates will agree, we cannot base our operations on yesterday's organizational frameworks or technologies, and we are not. We live in an era of rapid and destabilizing change, and this dynamic affects police work as much as it does other endeavours. Managing change is and will continue to be our challenge.

As we all know, the advent of global telecommunications and air travel has led to the unfortunate globalization of crime. This has required an accompanying change in our approach to police work.

As a recent international conference in England concluded, organized crime is using old family ties and new technology to expand its criminal empires farther and its criminal enterprises faster throughout the world.

Organized crime is using its vast profits to acquire state-of-the-art computer systems, large and fast aircraft, and advanced and destructive weaponry. Police colleagues around the world have to adapt to meet this new challenge.

To paraphrase my Minister in Canada: "The organized criminal's market is the world and as such, our enforcement agencies must continue to emphasize co-operation and intelligence sharing with their foreign colleagues as essential to the fight against crime". Membership in Interpol allows us an excellent opportunity to do so.

The growing internationalization of business crime and the speed and distance which illegal transactions can now be conducted present a technological and jurisdictional challenge to police authorities. We face new types of crimes, such as telecommunications theft and cellular telephone fraud. We are also facing new sources of organized crime, including in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

I believe that we are meeting these challenges and that Interpol is in the vanguard of technological innovations in police work.

We can all be proud that Interpol has become, in the last few years, one of the most modern police organizations in the world, on the cutting edge of technological development and modernization.

I was pleased, for example, to be able to officiate as President in opening the new Sub-Regional office in Abidjan last spring, to strengthen our police telecommunications network and our ability to transmit police information rapidly and efficiently in Africa. I know our colleagues from Eastern Europe are most interested in pursuing this aspect of Interpol membership to assist them in enhancing their effectiveness in international police co-operation.

During 1993, Interpol conferences, meetings and workshops addressed a number of significant international crime issues, such as computer crime, illegal traffic in radioactive substances, disaster victim identification, standardization of fingerprint forms, offences against children, international fraud, fraudulent travel documents, art, antiques and cultural property, environmental crime, international terrorism and organized crime.

We can take pride in our accomplishments in addressing these important issues in a serious way. But

because our criminal adversaries are ruthless, resourceful and relentless in their activities, the challenges which confront international policing are enormous. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

To ensure the continued effectiveness of Interpol in the 1990s, we must vigorously address the issues of effective information sharing and management, institutional reform and international co-operation.

One of the issues in information management is to take advantage of technological change to reduce the paper burden confounding all major organizations, including (or especially!) police forces. Technology can help us to streamline procedures and to find efficiencies. As I have already noted, Interpol is in the vanguard of technological innovations in police work.

These innovations include the development of a world-wide police telecommunications network to expand Interpol's capacity to transmit police information rapidly and efficiently, and the expansion of encrypted computer-to-computer communications using the international protocol X.400. The General Secretariat will cease to support radio in December 1993.

Interpol also has a very powerful information storage and retrieval system, which is combined with a disciplined, detailed and effective reporting system for data such as international drug seizures.

This provides for an automated search facility which is being developed to increase Interpol's capacity for value-added processing of information and world-wide access to criminal information, including fingerprints and photographs, within seconds.

Developing the Organization's analytical capability will enhance its effectiveness in providing relevant information and criminal intelligence to assist police forces in successfully preventing crime and enforcing the law. Examples of this would include computer matching and trend or pattern analysis of significant crimes, such as money laundering, or of crime groups.



We can all look forward to the start-up this fall of a fully operational crime analysis unit in Lyons to pursue these issues. In fact, I am pleased to inform you that a civilian member of the RCMP, Mr Rob Fahlman, will play a part in this effort.

We must also work to overcome procedural and cultural barriers to the timely sharing of important data. With 169 member countries in Interpol, one can imagine the linguistic, cultural and procedural hurdles that must be overcome to pursue common goals. Finally, to encourage information sharing, Interpol continues to seek new ways and means of assuring contributing police forces of the security of any sensitive information they provide.

The second major challenge is institutional reform. The need for organizational reform and renewal is a global phenomenon created by global forces.

Our world is being shaped and influenced by events, many of them unpleasant and threatening, in a global community which seems to be drawn ever closer together by technology and trade. Geopolitical structures, societal, economic and political norms and institutions are in massive and rapid transformation. Organizations must be dynamic and adaptive in the face of such revolutionary changes.

I spoke earlier of the special trust our societies place in the police, especially during times of distress.

To uphold this trust, we must remain relevant. We recognize Interpol is no exception; organizational changes have occurred, are occurring and will continue to occur.

A major initiative, Interpol 2000, has been launched to respond to this challenge.

We must review our organizational structure, our human resource management, our planning process and our accountability regimes to ensure that these are as effective as possible. The organizational renewal of Interpol Headquarters and the National Central Bureaus of Member States should focus on effectiveness, efficiency and accountability. To be effective, we must have the right mix of motivated, trained, skilled and

experienced professionals in the right places and focused on common objectives. To be effective, the National Central Bureaus will also have to become "service-oriented", more responsible.

The responsibilities of National Central Bureaus and the minimum standards of Member States must be established.

Budgeting continues to be a major preoccupation as each Member State is faced with reduced resources. We must do our part and rein in costs and streamline processes. We have an obligation to assure you that our stewardship of the Organization is efficient and transparent. We must demonstrate that we are providing a value-for-money service, worthy of your continued financial and moral support.

We must achieve our goals within a framework of restraint. We need to provide the quality service which is expected, recognizing that this effort must be balanced by fiscal realism.

By the same token, Member States must pay their fair share to ensure that Interpol has the operating revenue to provide the functions it is being asked to provide. I know that some Members are concerned about recent adjustments to the funding arrangements, but I can assure you that they are intended to ensure an equitable funding formula and were

determined only after many lengthy and thoughtful debates.

In return, we will need to establish service standards that we and Member States can use to measure our performance.

Our management must also be transparent. The adoption of Financial Regulations and Staff Rules, governing all aspects of financial and staff management, are a step in the right direction.

My role, as President, and that of the Executive Committee, is to set and manage the agenda for change which can only occur through collective will and co-operation.

We on the Executive Committee can assure you that this change process is well under way with the streamlining of general administrative procedures and the adoption of modern accounting procedures and regimes being implemented at Interpol Headquarters in Lyons.

You will have noted a recurring theme throughout my remarks today, that of international police co-operation. As police-to-police communication is the core of Interpol, I am sure you will agree that continued and improved co-operation is essential to its continued effectiveness.

The Organization is also feeling the effects of change elsewhere. The

#### *The Aruban Delegation*





recent changes in Europe, including open borders and a wave of criminal activity following the collapse of some old regimes and the emergence of new nations, have created new challenges in co-operation for Interpol through the resulting development of several new organizations and formal agreements to facilitate co-operation among the various countries in that part of the world.

The Europol initiative, in particular, and its possible impact on the role of Interpol in Europe, is of particular interest to the Interpol Executive Committee. We will have to work together to ensure that challenges become opportunities rather than crises, that any new nations or organizations become partners, not competitors.

Finally, Interpol must work to demystify itself, and to promote its strengths to the police community and to the general public.

Our collective challenge is to raise confidence in Interpol as an efficient, effective and accountable institution, and in its ability to store, retrieve, analyse and exchange information between and among police forces on a systematic, professional, secure and timely basis. In this regard, mutual trust is essential to effective co-operation.

Thirty-five years of police experience has taught me that a police force is most effective when it has the co-operation of the community it



*The Cypriot Delegate*

serves, whether this is the local community or the community of nations.

I hope to ensure that Interpol remains an effective global police information network in the common cause of combating crime. Effective co-operation is essential to this success.

Information sharing and management, institutional reform and international co-operation — these are our challenges as an Organization. All of us on the Executive Committee are anxious to work with the Secretary General and with you to meet these challenges.

With your help, we can meet these challenges and ensure that Interpol remains an effective global police information network, dedicated to the common cause of combating ordinary law crime around the world.

In closing, I would once again like to thank our colleagues for hosting this conference. I look forward to our upcoming discussions.

Thank you."

The official opening ceremony ended after the Assembly had observed one minute's silence in memory of police officers killed on duty.



## SEVEN NEW MEMBER COUNTRIES

Seven countries — Belarus, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Slovakia and South Africa — applied for membership of the Organization, and the General Assembly approved their applications. Interpol therefore now has 174 Members.

The status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was also discussed. The Assembly adopted Resolution AGN/62/RES/1, stating that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not automatically be considered as the successor to the former Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia. The Assembly therefore decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should submit a new application for membership of the Organization, in conformity with Article 4 of the Constitution, if it wished to be a member of Interpol.





# 1992 PROGRESS REPORT

## Policy and Management Programme

This Programme has two Sub-Programmes:

- Management of the General Secretariat,
- Legal Matters (corresponding to Division III).

## Management of the General Secretariat Sub-Programme

### Structure

The structure of this Sub-Programme is as follows:

- Executive Office,
- Financial Control,
- European Secretariat.

### The Secretary General's Executive Office

The Executive Office is the technical and administrative support unit which assists the Secretary General in his work. Its structure is as follows:

- Executive Office,
- Public Relations Department,
- Secretariat.

The number of visitors and meetings increased compared with 1991, but the number of missions carried out by the Secretary General and events he attended fell considerably.

### Financial Control

Control of the Organization's finances is carried out externally by the External Auditors and internally by a Financial Controller.

The External Auditors — the French Cour des Comptes — presented their annual report on the accounts for

1990 to the General Assembly at its 61st session in Dakar, and the contents were approved. The Cour des Comptes's three-year term of office came to an end at that session and the General Assembly congratulated it and thanked it for the quality of its work for the Organization.

Following a proposal from the Executive Committee, the General Assembly appointed the Chambre des Comptes of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to succeed the French Cour des Comptes for the three-year period 1992-1994.

Under the Secretary General's authority, the Financial Controller's activities consisted of:

- Preparing and presenting the draft Financial Report for 1990 (Balance Sheet, Income and Expense Statement, Budget Implementation Statement);
- Preparing the budget for 1993, which was approved by the General Assembly during its 61st session in Dakar;
- Controlling budget implementation from the financial viewpoint, with regard to compliance with procedures for incurring, sanctioning and payment of expenditure;
- Daily monitoring of the situation with regard to expenditure commitments and, in this context, presenting a budget implementation status report at each Executive Committee meeting;
- Managing the Organization's assets (cash flow, investments, transfers, exchange rate risks);
- Continuing to improve existing procedures having direct or indirect financial implications (accounting plan, capitalization management);
- Liaising with the external auditor and the Organization's Financial Advisers.

The Organization benefited from the collaboration of two external Financial Advisers who provided significant assistance in studying and implementing the Financial

Regulations currently in force, and the resulting new application procedures.

When their mission was accomplished, at the Executive Committee's proposal, the General Assembly congratulated them on the very important work they had done and reserved the Organization's right to have recourse to Financial Advisers again, if necessary, for specific missions.

## European Secretariat

The European Secretariat's activities throughout 1992 were concentrated on carrying out the tasks conferred on it by Resolutions AGN/54/RES/3 and AGN/57/RES/10.

In this context, the unit assisted the General Secretariat and the Interpol European Committee (IEC) in their efforts to determine Interpol's reaction to changes taking place in Europe. It helped to organize European meetings both at the General Secretariat and elsewhere, and much work was done to accomplish the specific actions assigned to it within the framework of the European Business Plan for the period 1992-1996. The European Secretariat's staff attended many meetings inside and outside the General Secretariat and conducted a number of other missions including one to Albania with the Secretary General in January 1992.

Other activities included the question of examining the co-ordination of Interpol, UNDCP and CCC activities; a project for the General Secretariats of Interpol and the CCC to exchange information on Balkan Route drugs seizures; a study on problems related to trafficking in motor vehicles across Europe; a study to assess the impact of the specific offence of extortion to the prejudice of food and grocery businesses in Europe. Following a presentation made by Norway at the 21st European Regional



Conference (Rome, 1992), the European Secretariat sent a letter to countries that had hosted major sports events attracting large numbers of people from abroad. The aim of this letter was to draw upon the experience of those countries and produce a package which could be of use to Norway, the host for the 1994 Winter Olympics. Also in 1992, the European Secretariat conducted research which resulted in proposals being made to the 1992 General Assembly session with a view to improving the content of Interpol notices.

## **Legal Matters Sub-Programme (Legal matters, Studies, ICPR, General Reference Sources, Training)**

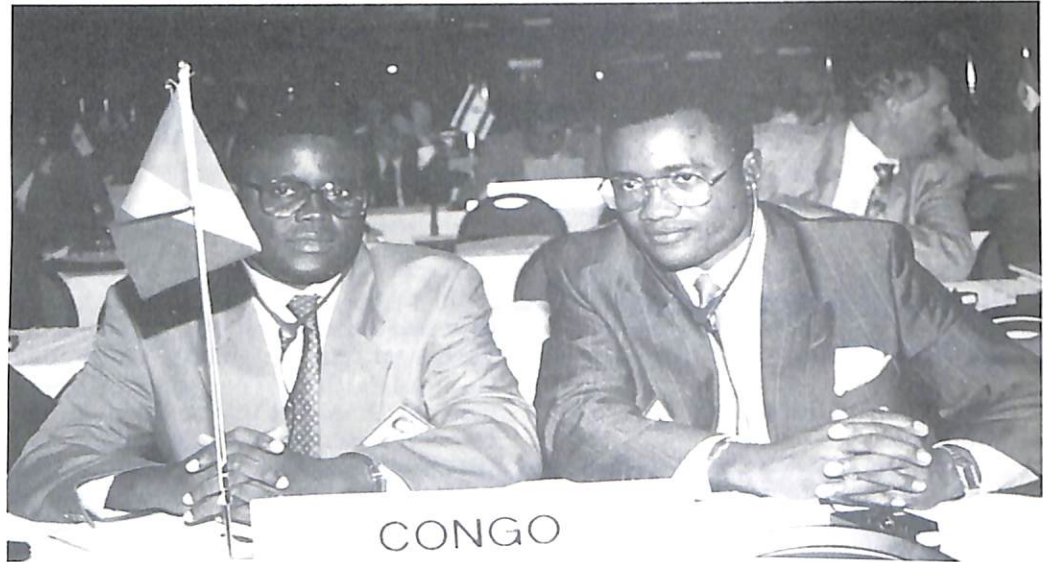
### **Structure**

This Sub-Programme corresponds to the Organization's Division III. It includes the functions of the Legal Adviser, the General Reference Department, and the International Criminal Police Review (ICPR) and of training and technical co-operation.

### **Programme of Activities for 1992**

In addition to usual day-to-day tasks, the Programme included:

- Work on Interpol's Constitution and General Regulations,
- Revision of the Staff Rules,- Rules on co-operation between NCBs,
- Application of the Headquarters Agreements for the Bangkok and Buenos Aires Bureaus,
- Study on the setting up of a Sub-Regional Bureau in Puerto Rico,
- 10th Forensic Science Symposium,
- 10th Symposium for Heads of Police Colleges,
- Training Seminar for NCB Officials,
- Meetings of the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives,
- Publication of a catalogue of audiovisual equipment for police training.



*The Congolese Delegation*

### **Activities in 1992**

#### **Legal matters and studies**

Work on the Constitution and General Regulations was carried out with the assistance of the Organization's Advisers. It required a great deal of correspondence, reports and research, and resulted in a draft revised Constitution being submitted to the Executive Committee for communication to the 61st General Assembly session.

When work was being carried out on the revision of the Staff Rules, it became clear that it would be desirable to modify certain provisions of the Staff Regulations. That was why the General Secretariat was submitting draft amendments to the Staff Regulations for adoption by the Organization's governing bodies: such adoption would allow work on the Staff Rules to continue.

The legal situation concerning rules on co-operation between NCBs was examined and was the subject of a circular sent to the NCBs in 1991. No further work has been carried out on the matter.

Negotiations concerning a Headquarters Agreement for the Sub-Regional Bureau in Abidjan were concluded and the draft Agreement was approved by the General Assembly during its 61st session.

Legal monitoring of the Headquarters Agreements concluded in respect of departments located outside the Headquarters continued.

The study on the setting up of a Sub-Regional Bureau in Puerto Rico was abandoned following a decision by the Technical Committee for the Caribbean.

The 10th Forensic Science Symposium was held at Interpol's Headquarters.

Secretariat assistance was provided for the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives. The Board met three times, carried out 25 verifications in response to requests from individuals, and made 26 spot checks.

14 reports were prepared for the Executive Committee or the General Assembly.

Over 60 contractual matters required attention by the Legal Department (e.g. calls for bids, negotiations and drafting of contracts, following up contracts, disputes); other departments were also given the assistance they needed to apply the internal rules in this area.

A study was conducted on harmonizing Interpol's contractual conditions.

Over one hundred problems which arose in the context of international



public law, including the laws relating to international civil service, required the involvement of the Legal Department (preparation of texts, legal studies and opinions, defending the Organization in disputes with the staff, etc.).

### General Reference Department

The General Reference Department replied to 468 requests for documents from outside the Headquarters and 820 requests for documents from the Organization's staff.

The Department produced documents for the NCBs and officials at the General Secretariat.

It received some 150 periodicals and 400 books, either free of charge or in return for payment.

It followed up orders for books and journals and managed the corresponding budget. The computerized document searching system was formally accepted. The Thesaurus of classification categories and the classification plan were updated. At 31st December 1992 there were five databases with the following contents:

- Documentation (2,800 reports including some which had existed since 1990) for automated preparation of bibliographies and bulletins,
- News (5,900 notices on press articles) for automated preparation of bibliographies,
- Books (670 notices),
- Video (70 notices),
- Interpol (320 analyses of documents published by the General Secretariat),
- The possibility of consulting outside databases was studied.

### International Criminal Police Review (ICPR)

The ICPR, which is published in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish), had a circulation of 8,250 copies distributed as follows: 3,567 copies to the NCBs, 190 within the Headquarters, and 3,258 to subscribers (741 of which were free of charge).

Twenty-eight articles were printed, all except one of them previously unpublished.

A special four-colour 64-page double issue on disasters was produced; all the texts prepared in other languages were translated into English.

The special General Assembly edition was larger than usual (48 pages).

The Department prepared eight "News and Notes" items or bibliographies for publication.

The possibility of introducing desktop publishing was examined and a call for bids was launched with a view to acquiring a suitable system.

The Department looked for authors, revised their texts, co-ordinated production with the printer, liaised with the Spanish and Tunisian authorities responsible for publishing the Spanish and Arabic versions, managed subscriptions (this process has been computerized), handled various public relations tasks, produced the general information brochure about Interpol, worked on the "ASF" leaflets, continued work on the installation of a photograph library, etc.

### Training — Technical co-operation

A training seminar for NCB officials (French and Spanish speaking) and the 10th Symposium for Heads of Police Colleges were organized at the Headquarters.

The Training Unit handled the managerial aspects of grant awards for the said training seminar and for courses given by the Telecommunications Department.

88 members of the General Secretariat staff attended 15 internal training courses, and further training was given to meet specific requests for assistance from General Secretariat staff.

Training requests from member countries were processed with a view to finding countries or institutions likely to be able to meet their needs.

A catalogue of audiovisual material has been completed and is being translated.

## Police Programme

### Structure

This Programme covers Division II at the General Secretariat and has the following structure:

- Head of Division II
- Sub-Division 1: General Crime (property and persons)
- Sub-Division 2: Economic and Financial Crime
- Sub-Division 3: Drugs
- Sub-Division 4: Criminal Intelligence.

### Programme of Activities for 1992

In addition to the usual day-to-day tasks, the Programme included the preparation and organization of conferences, symposia, and meetings of working parties.

### Sub-Division 1: General Crime (property and persons)

#### FOPAC Group (Assets Derived from Crime)

With the strong endorsement of the General Secretariat, Project Eastwash began in December 1992. It will deal with money laundering in Eastern Europe and especially in the former Soviet Bloc Republics. Circulars have been forwarded to member countries requesting information regarding this project and replies are now being received. Meetings in Eastern European countries were planned for 1993. Close co-operation continued between FOPAC members and the main international specialized agencies.

The FOPAC Group and FINCEN jointly organized a working party meeting on money laundering, which was held at the Organization's Headquarters.

FOPAC Group members made four presentations on international money-laundering techniques.



## Documents produced

The Financial Assets Programme Encyclopaedia was reformatted, updated and modified in its entirety; English, French and Spanish versions were dispatched to member countries in April, and the Arabic version was sent out at the end of the year once translation had been completed.

The FOPAC Encyclopaedia was subsequently transferred onto computer disc and forwarded to the United States NCB.

The FOPAC Bulletin was produced and distributed in January 1992.

## OC Group (Organized Crime)

Operation Green Ice can be considered to be one of the largest and most significant international operations carried out against narcotics-trafficking and money-laundering organizations active in the Americas and Europe. The operation was undertaken by several countries, in particular Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. Tight police co-operation on an international level served to enhance investigations carried out over a year. This operation's particularity lies in the fact that police were able, through close co-operation, to dismantle an international criminal organization which had direct links with the Colombian Cali Cartels and members of the Italian Cosa Nostra, Camorra and 'Ndrangheta.

Thanks to close co-operation between police forces throughout the Americas and the assistance of Interpol, Project Rockers co-ordinated the sharing of relevant information between European police forces and thus enabled the Canadian authorities to mount a successful operation to stop the members of Hells Angels Europe from entering Canada under false pretences to attend the Hells Angels World Run in July 1992. In February 1992, the French authorities in Marseille and Grenoble successfully solved the murder and attempted murder of members of the Bandidos MC Marseille that took place in August 1991. The authorities arrested several members of the Hells Angels Grenoble Chapter, members of the Buccaneers MC of Fréjus and the President of the Hells Angels Paris

Chapter. Several of these individuals have been convicted and sentenced; cases are still pending against the others. The success of this operation is due in part to the information on the structure and organization of these clubs transmitted to the authorities through Project Rockers.

In co-operation with HEUNI (the United Nations' Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control), a circular (reference 20/DII/SD1/OC, dated 16th April 1992) was sent to member countries asking for all available information on organized crime tendencies in different regions. Once this information has been received, collated and reviewed with HEUNI, the OC Group will establish an organized crime encyclopaedia in conjunction with HEUNI.

## Meetings — Working Parties

The OC Group organized two working party meetings at Interpol's Headquarters:

- a meeting on organized crime committed by groups of Asian, East European and Italian origin,
- a Project Rockers meeting on outlaw motorcycle gangs involved in illicit activities.

It co-organized two other working party meetings with the GC Group (General Crime):

### *The Dominican Republic Delegation*



- One on Latin American organized crime groups,
- One on stolen vehicles in the Latin-American region. Both were held in Rio de Janeiro.

## Documents produced

The Group published seven documents on specific topics, as well as six issues (Nos. 7 to 12) of the Organized Crime Bulletin. In addition, the Project Rockers "European Perspective" for motorcycle clubs involved in criminal activities was published in June.

## GC Group (General Crime)

A Standing Working Party on offences committed against minors was established as a result of a specific study. The first meeting was scheduled for March 1993.

The Standing Committee on Disaster Victim Identification continued its programme of work with the creation of a new section of the DVI form and the establishment of a sub-committee to review and revise the Manual.

A project for the publication of a collection of motor vehicle registration documents was launched. Specimen documents are being requested from member countries.



Members of the Group co-operated with many bodies, including non-governmental organizations, in addition to normal co-operation with NCBs.

The Group organized several meetings.

It circulated 11 documents on specific topics and produced a wide variety of other material, details of which are given below.

- Identification manuals of internationally active pickpockets were supplied to the French authorities for the Winter Olympic Games in Albertville, to the Spanish authorities for the Summer Olympic Games and for the international "Expo", to the Italian authorities for the duration of the celebrations surrounding the 500th anniversary of the birth of Christopher Columbus, and to the Swedish authorities in relation to the European Nations football tournament.

- 250 stolen art and cultural property notices were created and distributed to member countries; stolen art posters were produced in June and December.

- A report was circulated asking member countries to submit statistics on juvenile delinquency for the years 1986-1989.

- The full report on offences committed against minors was completed and submitted to the General Assembly at its 61st session held in Dakar, Senegal.

- A survey was carried out on behalf of the International Civil Aviation Organization and Interpol to establish the feasibility of detecting contamination from unmarked plastic explosives on the external surfaces of objects subject to screening at airports and elsewhere.

### **TE Group (Anti-terrorism)**

The TE Group prepared two documents concerning a synthesis of the activities of two international groups, namely "Dev Sol" and the criminal element of a group claiming to be a Kurdish Workers' Party. These documents were prepared on the basis of official information received regarding the aims, background, modus operandi and activities of these groups.

Co-operation continued throughout the year between the TE Group and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Airports Association Council International (AACI). In February, the Head of the Group represented Interpol at the 2nd Annual African Regional Conference organized by AACI in Gabon. Representatives of ICAO and IFALPA were also present at that meeting.

In December, the Secretary General of AACI visited the General Secretariat, and in particular the TE Group, to discuss Interpol's role in international airline security.

During a TE mission to Romania, it was proposed that ICAO and Interpol establish close co-operation for the training of airport staff in terms of terrorism control. Official letters have been exchanged between the two organizations, and these training sessions should be set up for 1993. The Group published four documents on specific topics.

## **Sub-Division 2: Economic and Financial Crime**

### **Group E (Economic Crime)**

In 1992, Group E processed 1,648 new files, i.e. an average of 137.3 files a month. This represents a reduction of 14.4% compared with 1991.

The percentage of different types of fraud in 1992 was as follows:

- Bank fraud (including fraud involving cheques and credit cards): 37.7%;
- Business fraud (including advance fee fraud): 21.5%;
- Investment fraud: 5.2%;
- Miscellaneous types of fraud: 35.6%.

In 1992, the European NCBs reported 1,037 cases, i.e. 62.9% (compared with 1,334 in 1991, a reduction of 22.3%); the Asian NCBs — including Australia — reported 254 cases, i.e. 15.4% (compared with 223 in 1991, an increase of 13.9%); the NCBs in the Americas reported 242 cases, i.e. 14.7% (compared with 227 in 1991, an increase of 6.6%); the African NCBs reported 115 cases, i.e. 7% (compared with 144 in 1991, a

reduction of 20%). In 1992, Group E co-operated with a large number of governmental and non-governmental organizations and organized various meetings.

### **Documents produced**

The Group produced its annual report on fraud and economic crime and about ten miscellaneous circulars, including various operational matter and modus operandi sheets.

### **Group F (Counterfeit Currency and False Documents)**

In 1992, the Group handled a total of 3,898 cases: 3,054 counterfeit currency cases, 809 false document cases, and 17 cases involving false cheques or travellers cheques; the Group also dealt with the discovery of 18 illicit printshops producing counterfeit currency.

During the same period, 2,746 counterfeit banknotes were received for examination.

Among the projects launched were:

- The establishment of a database at the General Secretariat for counterfeits produced using colour-copiers; this was discussed during the 8th International Counterfeit Currency Conference, and a resolution on the subject was adopted by the General Assembly at its session in Dakar;
- The setting up of an information system based on a list of serial numbers of the most-counterfeited European currencies, regularly updated and distributed in English, French and Spanish to the European NCBs — this list supplements the analysis reports already published in Volume I of "Counterfeits and Forgeries".

In addition to co-operating with various international organizations and organizing meetings, the Group produced the following documents:

- the Annual Report on Currency Counterfeiting,
- a list of the most-counterfeited European currencies.

Group F is also responsible for preparing and editing the "Counterfeits and Forgeries" Review. The Review is updated every month



and is drafted in French before being translated into Arabic, English, German and Spanish. Circulation is restricted to subscribers, of which there are currently 17,000.

### **Sub-Division 3: Drugs**

As in 1991, the Sub-Division had a very full calendar. Its principal activities could be classified under four headings:

- operations,
- intelligence,
- training,
- relations with other international or regional organizations.

In a new programme of work initiated by the Drugs Sub-Division, analysts conducted in-depth studies on drug trafficking syndicates, mainly on the basis of information available in the database. These reports were very valuable to investigative officers in the various countries concerned and also enabled the Drugs Sub-Division to improve the Pro-Balkan Programme, as recommended by the Heads of European Drugs Services at the last meeting.

While on their missions or when participating in working party meetings, the Liaison Officers enhanced their functions by co-ordinating the work of investigation officers in two or more countries, thereby achieving positive results in ongoing investigations or operations. Very often, the Liaison Officers provided investigation data to officers of member countries who were unaware of new developments. These tasks were satisfactorily carried out.

Ongoing projects at the Drugs Sub-Division included:

1. The Pro-Balkan Programme (to follow the movement of heroin along the Balkan Route to Europe);
2. The Pro-Star Programme (to follow the movements of ethnic Chinese groups in drug trafficking within or connected to Europe);
3. Psychotropic programmes, including:
  - the legitimate narcotic drugs programme,
  - the legitimate psychotropic substances programme,
  - the illicit psychotropic substances programme.

- the clandestine laboratory, precursors and essential chemicals programme;

4. West African drug trafficking organizations;

5. The Kilis connection: Use of TIR trucks to transport heroin from Turkey to Europe;

6. Improving monitoring and control of drug trafficking by ship;

7. Improving monitoring and control of drug trafficking by commercial aircraft;

8. Study on the Baltic States as transit countries;

9. Harmonizing co-operation between scientific laboratories, especially in relations with Eastern European countries, to standardize a drug identification system.

With regard to training, Drugs Sub-Division officers were invited to make special presentations on drug trafficking and drug control measures at seminars at the General Secretariat and at outside forums sponsored by international and regional organizations.

### **Meetings — Working parties**

The Sub-Division organized several meetings and 86 missions were carried out. With regard to publications, several Interpol reports on drug trafficking and control measures, indicating current developments and trends in respect of heroin, cocaine, cannabis and psychotropic substances, have been circulated to member countries in English, French and Spanish. These reports have been used as conference documents at international and regional forums.

The "Weekly" Intelligence Drug Bulletin published by the Drugs Sub-Division in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish), is by far the most useful drug-related information bulletin distributed to member countries. It covers:

- significant seizures,
- current developments/trends in drug trafficking,
- country profiles,
- modus operandi and methods of concealment, etc.

Most of the articles published in the Weekly are copied by agencies in member countries for publication in their national drug bulletins for wider circulation.

The Drugs Sub-Division published 52 weeklies in 1992 (containing 178 subjects of special interest). The Quest — a quarterly statistical report — also appeared in 1992.

### **Sub-Division 4: Criminal Intelligence**

From the technological viewpoint this Sub-Division is very close to the Technical Support Programme, but it has been attached to the Police Programme for reasons of consistency and efficiency.

### **Message Research/Response Branch (MRB)**

During the calendar year the Message Research/Response Branch received over 111,000 criminal information messages from the NCBs by telecommunications, mail and fax.

All criminal information messages were researched by the MRB staff using the Interpol computer system. During 1992, members of the MRB created 43,000 new computerized files. They also updated, changed, modified or linked 127,700 existing computerized records, making a total of 170,700 computer records that were either created or updated.

The MRB is responsible for researching and processing the majority of cases furnished by the member countries. The number of cases routinely handled by the MRB continues to increase. This has resulted in more efficient and timely processing of incoming and outgoing intelligence data at the General Secretariat.

It is anticipated that in 1993, the work of the MRB will again increase and remain a primary focal point of the General Secretariat's mission. The MRB will maintain its direct link status with the NCBs which will continue to foster the confidence of the NCBs with the General Secretariat.

### **Analytical Criminal Intelligence Unit (ACIU)**

From November 1991 to March 1993, the ACIU was an integrated part of the MRB and played an important



role in processing the more complex messages. Following the successful re-organization of the Police Division, which is now called the Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Division, the ACIU became a separate unit using criminal analysis techniques.

The new ACIU was set up on 15th March 1993 and immediately underwent several major modifications and developments.

The Unit followed a detailed "project-plan" designed by the Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Division, assisted by experts from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The most important aim of the plan was to set up a fully operational and professional Crime Analysis Unit, using a uniform technique of crime analysis, which would be of assistance not only to all police staff at the General Secretariat but also to all Interpol member countries. The Unit will therefore be the first of its kind in bringing together several crime analysis techniques in one uniform model in a multi-national environment.

One of the principal reasons for including the new Unit in the Criminal Intelligence Sub-Division was to allow specialized police officers and civilian crime analysts to work closely together. In order to successfully integrate the new ACIU within the Sub-Division 4 structure, an in-house Crime Analysis Awareness Session was held from 10th to 14th March 1993. The entire Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Division attended the Session, as well as members of the European Secretariat.

The aims of the Session were:

- to inform all officers about the new supportive role crime analysis could play in their police work, and
- to recruit new crime analysts.

In connection with the recruitment of new crime analysts, a testing and selection procedure was devised, implemented and concluded in August 1993, resulting in the transfer of three new analysts on 1st October 1993.

A complete Crime Analyst Training Programme was also designed. The Programme included a 10-day in-house Analytical Training Course which was held from 27th October to

10th November 1993. The course was presented by specialist trainers from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The training method chosen had been developed by combining the techniques used in those two countries.

Similarly, equipping the new Unit with sophisticated automated facilities such as word-processing, and graphical, analytical and statistical software, required a separate training programme. Some parts of this programme have already been completed (for example, by Division IV staff).

Being one of the newest Units within Interpol, the ACIU is often asked to give presentations about its present status. The Unit has presented these developments, making sure that all member countries are aware of this new form of support which is developing continuously and will soon become available to all member countries.

## **International Notices Branch**

During the year the Notices Branch was involved in the Mafia project and produced notices in connection with several major cases of terrorism. It also assisted the GC Group, particularly with regard to missing children. In 1992, it produced 796 notices of various kinds.

## **Fingerprints and Photographs**

Statistics for 1992 are excellent indicators of the work performed by fingerprints staff: 12,459 files were created/searched during the year, 10,401 files were destroyed and, by the end of the year, the number of fingerprint files totalled 101,475. 110 fingerprint identifications were made in 1992.

## **Automated Search and Archives Section (ASA)**

The ASA section was detached to the Technical Support Division during 1992 (213 working days). Four additional temporary staff and overtime working enabled ASA to achieve its aims and to contribute to development and testing of the ASF in co-operation with the Technical

Support Division Research and Development Section. Nevertheless, a significant amount of time had to be devoted to adapting Interpol notices by hand to meet ASF scanning requirements.

Electronic archiving: a total of 27,926 files were created/updated during 1992 in the Electronic Archive System (EAS), generating 80,863 additional images in the system, bringing the total number of images in the EAS system to 266,654.

Quality control: a total of 32,327 nominal files were controlled during the year and were authorized for further transfer into the ASF server — an average of 2,693 files were controlled every month.

ASF data/image base: an additional 84,331 nominal files were back-recorded by ASA and/or created by MRB during 1992, bringing the total to 102,902 files.

24,400 images were created in the ASF server between July and December 1992.

## **General Administration Programme**

This Programme covers part of Division 1 and has the structure described under the headings given below.

## **Personnel and Social Affairs Sub-Division**

The Sub-Division is responsible for managing personnel movements and all matters arising in connection with employment contracts and the secondment of officials by member countries.

It is also responsible for internal language training for staff. It manages the Staff Welfare Fund and the Social Activities Fund with the participation of the Staff Committee.

It deals with revision of the Staff Rules and is responsible for liaison with social welfare and pension bodies.

A breakdown of staff by category and nationality at 31st December 1992 is given in the table opposite.



## Finance and Accounts Section

Its activities consist of recording suppliers' invoices, receiving and disbursing funds, and preparing the accounting documents.

## Document Production Sub-Division

This Sub-Division comprises four language sections, one for each of Interpol's official languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish), a printing group and a mailing group.

The volume of translation handled by the four language sections increased by around 20% compared with the previous year. This led to a corresponding increase in the amount of typing required. Outside translators are sometimes called on for particular documents in an attempt to produce translations more rapidly.

## Printing Group

There was a considerable increase in the number of photocopies made by the printing department (5,573,845 in 1992) compared with (4,358,894 in 1991). The Printing Group produced all the issues of the ICPR in English and in colour with very satisfactory results. Also, a study was made of the documents sent to NCBs with a view to rationalizing presentation and reducing costs.

## Mailing Group

In 1991, lower charges were negotiated with the French postal authorities and the reduction in mailing costs was confirmed in 1992. Co-operation with Division IV made it possible to transmit the Assembly's minutes by electronic mail between Dakar and the Headquarters in Lyons. This transmission system worked perfectly and greatly improved the quality of the documents distributed to the delegates.

## Security Section

The guards unit is responsible for monitoring the maintenance of security equipment. The system was improved, thus becoming more

## GENERAL SECRETARIAT STAFFING LEVELS

Categories	French	Non-French	Total
Seconded officials	24	54	78
Detached officials	6	19	25
Officials under contract	157	42	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>302</b>

Number of nationalities represented at the General Secretariat: 41

### Seconded officials:

4 Argentine, 3 British, 2 Canadian, 3 Chilean, 1 Danish, 1 Finnish, 24 French, 5 German, 2 Greek, 1 Guinean, 5 Italian, 2 Ivorian, 4 Japanese, 1 Korean, 3 Netherlands, 3 Norwegian, 3 Spanish, 1 Swedish, 8 United States, 2 Zimbabwean.

### Detached officials:

1 Argentine, 1 Australian, 1 Austrian, 1 Belgian, 1 British, 1 Canadian, 6 French, 1 Indian, 1 Italian, 1 Pakistani, 1 Philippine, 1 Polish, 1 Russian, 1 Senegalese, 1 Spanish, 1 Sri Lankan, 1 Swedish, 1 Tunisian, 1 Turkish, 1 Uruguayan.

### Officials under contract:

1 Austrian, 15 British, 1 Cambodian, 1 Colombian, 1 Egyptian, 157 French, 1 German, 1 Iraqi, 1 Italian, 3 Lebanese, 2 Portuguese, 11 Spanish, 1 Sri Lankan, 1 Sudanese, 2 Thai, 1 United States.

efficient. Officials on duty at the External Security Post checked 6,621 visitors during 1992. The Central Security Post was responsible for monitoring the performance of the technical equipment, processing passes and scheduling guard duties. All members of the Section received training in 1992.

## General Services Section

This Section comprises a Management Unit and a Building Upkeep Unit. The Management Unit is responsible for managing stocks and purchases of the supplies required for the General Secretariat's operation, making an inventory of all assets, and running the shop.

In addition to general maintenance, the General Services Section is responsible for monitoring the maintenance of the building's technical equipment, as well as the various contracts which are essential to the smooth operation of the General Secretariat (canteen, office cleaning, etc.).

## Meetings and Missions

In 1992, 368 missions were carried out and 50 meetings of all kinds were organized, both at Interpol Headquarters and elsewhere. The Meetings and Missions Office was responsible for all the necessary preparations and organization.

## Technical Support Programme

This programme corresponds to the activities of Division IV of the Organization. The structure can be summarized as follows:

- Head of Division IV
- EDP Section- Research and Development Section (created on 22nd May 1992)
- Telecommunications Sub-Division EDP Section.

As in the past, this Section's duties included both operating and improving the existing systems and also integrating the new workloads resulting from the new applications. The systems concerned are: the



CIS/STAIRS System (linked to the IBM computer); the All-in-One System (office automation and electronic mail), the Sigagip software (package for payroll and accounts) and the Desktop Publishing System (all linked to the Digital computer); the Archives System, the Automated Search Facility (ASF) and the Library System (all linked to the Wang computer).

## Research and Development Section (R&D)

The Research and Development Section was created in 1992 to ensure better management of the ASF project. It is staffed by officials transferred from the Telecommunications Sub-Division and from the EDP Section.

Creating the Research and Development Section allowed resources to be concentrated on a coherent analytical strategy to develop technical solutions and specific applications while guaranteeing the General Secretariat's independence vis-à-vis its suppliers.

Costs are thus reduced, while freedom of action and security of the information processed are guaranteed.

## Automated Search Facility (ASF)

The aim of the ASF is to manage a local and remote data and image base using current telecommunications facilities. The work that was carried out for this purpose is described below.

- Prior analysis, general design, detailed design, implementation, testing the ASF software while respecting standards of analysis (Merise + IPT), and programming (structured programming) inherent in the development of a major project.
- Management of the scope of the standard software (around 30) and follow-up of the version levels (savings to the General Secretariat of FRF 1.6 million per year).
- Long-term maintenance of the specific software: this was taken into account because the Research and Development Section has complete control over the ASF specific software, which leaves the General Secretariat complete independence in its technical and financial choices (savings to the General Secretariat of

FRF 250,000 per year for maintenance of specific software).

- Installation of a "help desk" structure to take control of the NCBs' technical calls, and the organization/constitution of the NCBs' medias installed by the ASA Section (Division II, Sub-Division 4).
- Testing of all the specific software functions; over 360 anomalies detected and corrected.
- Installation and testing of the system by regular service checks, amounting to two days of tests per week, in co-operation with the ASA Section and the Telecommunications Sub-Division.
- Installation of the ASF database available since June 1992.
- All the modifications to the CIS structure taken into account to create the ASF type.
- Creating, modifying, and testing the package installation procedures for Options 2, 3, 3A and 5.
- Writing and modifying the user and installation manuals for Options 2, 3, 3A and 5 in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

A partnership agreement was signed with France Télécom and Wang to install ISDN lines in an international environment.

## Regional Modernization

The aim is to install a standardized electronic mailing system to promote and manage communications in each region. Preparation of the project involved:

- A study of technical solutions, and a "benchmark" analysis (test of PC speeds and software), in respect of qualitative and quantitative solutions.
- Choice of principles and orientation towards the international X.400 standard.
- Simplification of the proposed architecture after technical, political, legal and administrative negotiations.
- Analysis of replies to the call for bids, visits by the supplier, solutions and creation of comparison files to propose a final choice early in 1993.

## Telecommunications Sub-Division

1992 was a very busy year, marked by the large-scale extension of the

X.400, encryption and ASF systems to the NCBs, and by the in-depth studies to prepare for the launching of the new Regional Modernization Plan. Co-operation with the NCBs became ever closer, particularly as a result of activities such as the November training session.

## Traffic, costs, and quality of service

### Traffic

Messages exchanged via the Central Station in 1992 amounted, for both the AMSS and X.400 servers, to 284,597 messages received and 699,638 messages sent, or a total of 984,235. This represents an increase in traffic of 2% compared with 1991, which itself had seen an increase of 5.2% compared with 1990.

The increase slowed a little but the X.400 statistics are as yet incomplete and the real figures are a little higher than those currently provided by the system.

The most remarkable fact is a major decrease in ARQ (-29.2%) and telex (-17%) traffic despite the arrival of new member countries equipped only with telex.

Finally, with regard to the breakdown of traffic between the regions, the European and North American shares are still by far the largest.

### Costs

The average cost per message sent rose, owing mainly to the increase in the average cost of telex messages from FRF 19.92 (inclusive of taxes) to FRF 22.66 (inclusive of taxes). Connecting the new member countries, particularly in Eastern Europe, could explain this increase. In any case, telex traffic still accounts for 60% of the total cost of communications and this figure can only be reduced by modernizing the NCBs in the Europe/Mediterranean zone.

Use of the dedicated line between Lyons and St Martin d'Abbat was discontinued in November, resulting in a saving of FRF 130,000 per year. This was possible due to the reduction in ARQ traffic.

### Quality of service

The quality of the service provided by the AMSS System in 1991 was



maintained and cannot be improved any further given the quality of the lines connected to the system. The availability of the X.400 system will be measured exactly in 1993 and is already excellent. The regular service checks were completed successfully on 12th August 1992.

### **Developments on the telecommunications network during 1992**

Several major events dominated 1992 as far as developments on the network were concerned, as the efforts made in previous years bore fruit. Particular mention should be made of the decisive transition of all the most important European NCBs from ARQ to X.400 equipment and final adjustments to the ASF System with the first tests and the first connections.

#### **X.400 network**

In 1992, the NCBs in Rome, Stockholm, Madrid, Canberra and Moscow were connected to the X.400 server; tests were also carried out with the NCBs in Wiesbaden, Paris, Brussels, Washington, Dublin, Tokyo, Helsinki and Berne. The software used is generally standardized and follows our recommendations, which is essential for management of the network.

Most of these new X.400 NCBs will be connected in regular service in the very near future: that depends only on internal installation organization within each NCB.

Consequently there was, as planned, a significant decrease in the volume of ARQ and telex traffic: four radio transmitters were taken out of service and use of the dedicated line between Lyons and St Martin d'Abbat was discontinued in October, resulting in major savings.

The test period for X.400 server regular service quality ended on 12th August 1992 and a first extension allowing it to be connected to 32 similar servers (MTA) was delivered in November: this was necessary in the context of developments in Europe and of Regional Modernization.

The encryption system is either operational or being installed in

several European countries. However, the encryption equipment delivered in 1991 to the Caribbean and Central American zone is not being used, since priority is being given to familiarization with the use of the teletex equipment installed in 1989.

#### **All-in-One/X.400 link**

Preparations for this link, which will allow a number of All-in-One terminals at the General Secretariat access to the X.400 network, were continued with full tests being carried out. The micro-Vax, which will ensure continuity of service during periods when the main Vax has broken down or is out of service, has yet to come into operation: the order has been placed and the equipment should be put into service in March 1993. This link must be considered a very important improvement to the service offered to the NCBs and at the General Secretariat, and is an advantage directly linked to the use of the X.400 standard.

#### **Modernization of the NCBs**

Contacts with the NCBs increased, often to reply to their questions about the X.400 and ASF equipment they are planning to acquire. To that end, overall solutions, integrating the X.400, encryption and the ASF for all levels of NCB requirements have been defined. These solutions have been presented on a number of occasions, particularly at the 12th Telecommunications Conference in May 1992. A first training course, for NCB telecommunications officials in countries connected to Lyons, was organized in November: 22 countries participated. They were given all the information they needed to acquire the appropriate equipment, and the delegates were very positive in their assessment of the course.

#### **Regional Modernization**

After the General Assembly had adopted the new five-year plan in Punta del Este, the studies were conducted quickly: specifications for the South American network were prepared and sent to Wang, which replied in July. Subsequently it was decided to launch an open call for bids. There were then technical analyses to determine the possible

products and the specifications were adapted in a very short time.

In particular, the concept of using private virtual lines between Lyons and the Regional Stations was proposed and accepted by the SCIT.

Other studies were launched at the same time for other regions.

#### **\* West Africa**

Preparatory contacts with a view to France's participation in the project continued: preparation of files for the Ministry, preparation of draft Agreements with the assistance of Division III, mission to Bamako and Abidjan in October to make the first local contacts. A detailed report was made following this mission. Contacts are continuing with the Ministry for Co-operation and Development, in particular with regard to the protocol of agreement. In the meantime, the text of the Agreement for the Abidjan Sub-Regional Bureau was completed, allowing the General Assembly to vote in favour of creating the Bureau at its session in Dakar.

#### **\* Caribbean and Central America**

Extra equipment was put into service in Haiti, Jamaica and Belize in 1992, and equipment was put back into service in Montserrat, Trinidad and Tobago and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Regional Station decided to ensure reliable use of the teletex network before attempting to put the encryption system into service.

#### **ASF project**

Provisional acceptance took place in June 1992. Our strategy then had to be reoriented after Wang was made subject to Chapter 11, and the system had to be tested in regular service in order to maximize response times: this is still going on.

Contacts with the NCBs are continuing at the same time, and equipment has already been installed in France, Norway and the United Kingdom. Training was provided in 1992, and various meetings were organized during the year.



## FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Financial Report submitted to the General Assembly described the Organization's financial situation at 31st December 1992. In conformity with the Financial Regulations, the report comprised four sections:

- the Balance Sheet
- the Income and Expense Statement
- the Overall Budget Implementation Statement
- Implementation of the Budget by Programme

### Balance Sheet (Chart No. 1)

Assets and Liabilities totalled 75 million compared with 71.2 million for the actual 1991 figure, i.e. an actual increase of 5.3% (+ 3.8 million).

The "Assets" side of the Balance Sheet shows two main features.

- A marked increase in the amount for accounts receivable/deferred (+ 1.9 million). This was due to the increase in the *volume of contributions in arrears* which rose from 8.5 million in 1991 to 9.7 million in 1992, i.e. an increase of 14.1%. This situation is all the more regrettable as the trend had been reversed in 1991 and the countries with contributions in arrears are not necessarily those experiencing the greatest economic difficulties. As a result of this increase in contributions in arrears, the General Reserve Fund will have to be readjusted to the appropriate level on 1st January 1993.

- A slight increase in the value of net fixed assets (+ 0.9 million), with an identical increase in the stock accounts (+ 0.1 million) and the financial accounts (+ 0.9 million).

The "Liabilities" side of the Balance Sheet shows several features worthy of comment.

- An increase (+ 2.2 million) in the level of the Statutory Funds which can be broken down as follows: + 1.5 million for the Capital Investment Fund; + 0.9 million for the General Reserve Fund; - 0.2 million for the other Funds.

- An increase (+ 2.1 million) in current liabilities, due to the new policy of setting up provisions for invoices not received in respect of orders placed for 1992.

- A slight decrease (- 0.1 million) in the net equity figure.

- A decrease (- 0.4 million) in the amount for provisions against risks (- 0.5 million) and in the net accounting result (- 0.1 million). The net accounting result is + 3.3 million (CHF 3,348,262.24) compared with + 3.2 million in 1991 (actual).

### Income and Expense Statement (Chart No. 2)

The Income Statement shows a total of 33.9 million compared with 29.2 million, i.e. an actual increase of + 4.7 million. The following points should be noted.

- There was a significant increase (+ 2.1 million) in the amount for contributions called up which rose from 23.2 million in 1991 to 25.3 million in 1992. The increase is due to the calling up of 123 additional budget units over and above the budgeted figure, the value of the budget unit having remained constant for 5 years at CHF 17,300.

- The figure for financial income almost doubled (+ 1.9 million) as a result of sound management and the favourable international context (high investment rates).

- There was an increase (+ 0.7 million) in exceptional income as a result of provisions and reprocessing of the accounts.

The Expense Statement shows a total of 30.6 million compared with an actual figure of 26 million in 1991, i.e. an actual increase of + 4.6 million. The following points should be noted.

- There was a significant increase in the figure for personnel expenses which totalled 17.4 million (+ 2.8 million) as a result of the recruitment of 20 more detached officials or officials under contract during the year (213 at 31st December 1992 compared with 193 at 31st December 1991).

- The increase (+ 1.7 million) in the figures for stock consumption — purchases — external services and other external services was to be expected in the context of necessary maintenance action.

- The provisions for depreciation and reserves decreased (- 0.7 million).

- There was an increase (+ 0.8 million) in the figure for other expenses.

The difference (+ 3.3 million) corresponds to the net accounting result which also appears on the *liabilities side of the Balance Sheet*. The net accounting result is 0.1 million higher than the actual figure for 1991 (+ 3.2 million).

### Overall Budget Implementation Statement

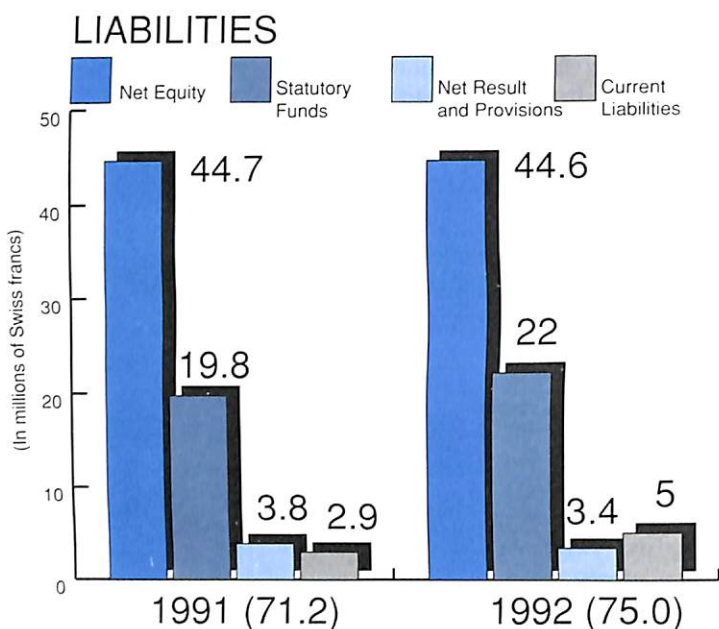
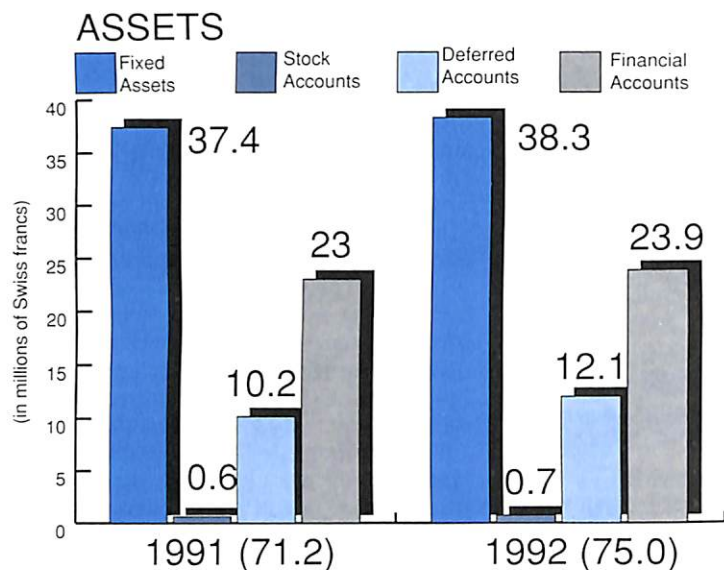
Total actual income was 32.2 million compared with the budget

*The Honduran Delegate*





CHART No. 1: BALANCE SHEET



estimate of 28.2, i.e. a surplus of + 4 million. This was due to the following factors:

- An increase in the volume of contributions called up (+ 2.1 million);
- An increase in financial income (+ 1 million);
- An increase in the figure for other income (+ 0.9 million); this heading does not in fact correspond to "exceptional income" in the income and expense statement.

Total actual expenditure was 30.3 million, which was 2.1 million more than the budget estimate of 28.2 million. This was due to:

- Overspending (- 1 million) under "Assets subject to depreciation" (capital investment) following the inclusion in the 1992 accounts of long-term financial commitments entered into earlier for goods or services, acceptance of which was deferred or extended over a period of time;
- Slight overspending (- 0.5 million) under "Other Expenses" (excluding personnel expenses, transport and travel expenses, the acquisition of assets subject to depreciation and withdrawals from funds);
- A very slight reduction (- 0.1 million) in the figure for "Transport and travel";

- A slight increase in "Personnel expenses" (budget and implementation + 0.7 million).

A comparison of income and expenses shows an actual positive budget balance of + 1.9 million.

When the figure for arrears in contributions called up at 31st December 1992 (4 million) is taken into account, the actual budget result is negative: - 2.1 million (- 4 + 1.9).

## Implementation of the Budget by Programme

Examination of implementation of the budget by programme showed that nearly all the programmes — with just a few exceptions — were implemented within budget limits. One of the exceptions was the General Administration Programme which showed actual overspending of CHF 0.3 million. This was due to high recruitment costs, underestimated financial expenses and overspending on experts' fees relating to computerization of the fixed asset management file. The Special Programme also overspent by CHF 0.8 million. The Assets Subject to Depreciation Programme showed actual overspending of CHF 1 million, which was due to the decision to close the accounts for the long-term financial commitments entered into earlier so that from 1st January 1993 onwards, the situation reflected in the accounts would coincide with the budget situation.

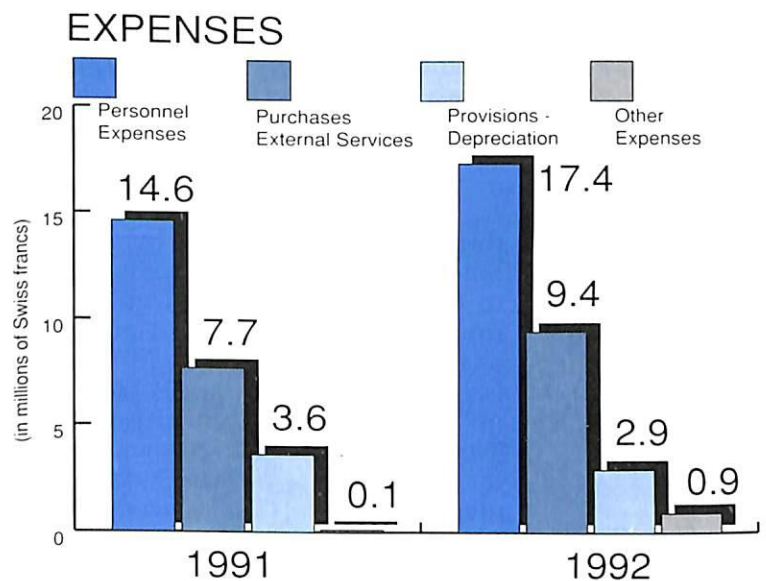
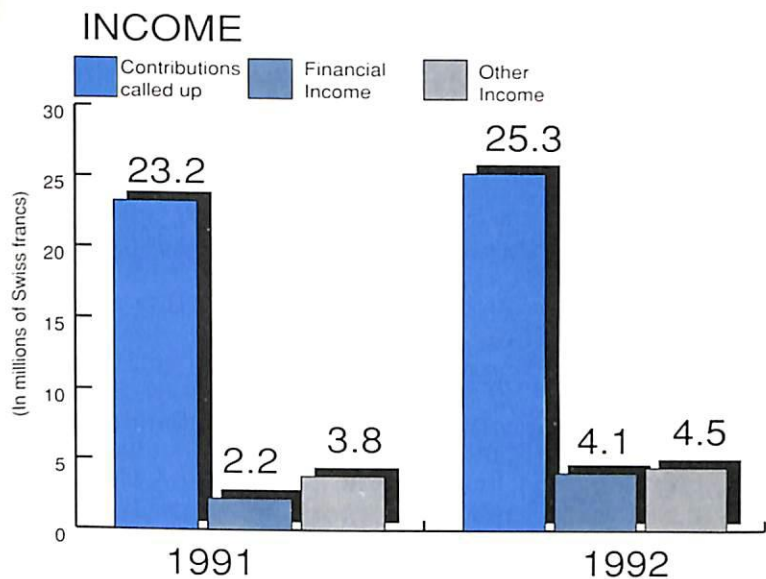
The General Services Programme (+ 0.2 million) and the Technical Support Programme (+ 0.1 million) were, to all intents and purposes, implemented within budget limits.

## External Auditors' Report on the Administrative and Financial Management of the ICPO-Interpol for the 1992 Financial Year

The Representative of the *Chambre des Comptes* of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Organization's External Auditors, presented his Report on the administrative and financial management of the ICPO-Interpol for the 1992 financial year.



CHART No. 2: INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT



In the introduction, the Auditors mentioned the problems — mainly time restrictions — which they had encountered when preparing their report. Several points were then discussed, for example auditing strategy in the light of Article 25(1) of the Financial Regulations which defines the Auditors' mission. The latter considered that it was up to the Organization to institute an internal control system. Another point concerned an analysis of internal auditing and the role of the Financial Controller. The Auditors recommended drawing up a set of rules covering all the procedures for applying the Financial Regulations

which could be supplemented, if necessary, by a compendium of all the Organization's management decisions and procedures.

The Auditors had concluded that the accounts presented to them were accurate and faithful and could be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

Draft Resolution AGN/62/P.RES/7, "Approval of the Balance Sheet and Accounts for 1992: Allocation of surpluses" was put to the vote and unanimously adopted by the 96 Delegations voting.

## Finance Committee

### Draft Budget for 1994 and Ongoing Plan for 1995-1998

The Financial Controller presented the draft budget for 1994, which aimed to meet a number of objectives:

- Consolidation of the Regional Modernization Plan.
- Continuation of training and promotion of greater understanding of the Organization among the NCBs: in the 1994 budget CHF 575,000 was allocated for training in general, CHF 372,000 of which was for training outside the Headquarters. Direct investment for the benefit of the member countries increased from 48% of the Training Budget in 1993 to 65% in 1994.
- Developing new approaches in public relations in order to increase awareness of the Organization among police and institutional bodies.
- Ensuring that the Organization's Headquarters continue to provide high quality services. In that connection, it was planned to implement the AFIS project for computerization of the fingerprint files in 1998 (cost: over CHF 3 million).
- Minimizing costs by choosing the best possible budget options. It would not be wise to undertake an investment policy leading to very onerous recurrent expenses which would sign away the Organization's financial future.
- With regard to the Ongoing Plan, it was proposed to increase the value of the budget unit as from 1995. The number of budget units called up had deliberately been maintained at 1,700, in conformity with reasonable hopes for the payment of called-up contributions based on the Van Hove Plan. However, taking into account expenditure resulting from investments to be made, the Executive Committee had decided at its previous session to increase the value of the budget unit progressively. The figures given for that section of the draft budget were only provided as an indication and would be revised when the 1995 budget was being prepared. However, it was certain that Interpol would only be able to maintain its programme of upgrading the quality of its equipment and development of the Regional Modernization Plan if it found the required resources.

After adoption by the Committee in its preliminary form, Draft Resolution AGN/62/P.RES/8, "Approval of the 1994 Budget" was submitted in plenary session and unanimously adopted by the 97 Delegations voting.



# INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC

## Evolution of the traffic

During 1992, the production of heroin, cocaine, cannabis and psychotropic substances was at a record high. The drug trade continued to be a profitable international business in which traffickers aggressively developed new markets for their products.

Increased shipments of morphine and heroin were transported to Europe from source countries in South-West Asia via land and sea routes, while South-East Asian heroin continued to dominate the North American market. There was increased movement of Colombian heroin by commercial air to North American airports. Increased availability of cocaine was evident throughout 1992, with record seizures being effected by drug law enforcement agencies in South, Central, and North America and in Europe. In developing trends, Central and Eastern European countries were used by South American cartels to transit cocaine into the West European market, and West African nationals emerged as cocaine couriers from South America to Europe via West African airports. Cannabis supplies were in abundance in numerous countries. Multi-ton shipments of cannabis products were transported between continents in merchant vessels and inside container trucks intermingled with legitimate cargo. The popularity of cannabis coupled with enormous profits has encouraged entrepreneurs to embark on new techniques of cultivation, especially in the United States and the Netherlands.

Large quantities of amphetamine were seized in several countries. In Europe, the Netherlands and Poland continued to be source countries for the European market. As in past years, methamphetamine continued to be manufactured in clandestine laboratories in the United States. In African countries the abuse of stimulants continued to be a major problem. There was large-scale smuggling of methaqualone from India to African countries and Indian law enforcement agencies made record seizures at exit ports. In the Asia/Pacific region, methamphetamine abuse was a major concern to the Japanese authorities. In other Asian countries — South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and Australia — there were significant seizures of various psychotropic substances, indicating increasing abuse in the entire region.

## Opiates

During 1992, the Near East, South-West Asia, South-East Asia, Mexico and Colombia remained the principal regions of illicit poppy cultivation. In spite of eradication and crop substitution programmes carried out in these regions, the total illegal production of opium is estimated to exceed 4,000 tons. There was regular transnational opium trade between Afghanistan and Iran in South-West Asia and between China and Myanmar in the South-East Asian region. There were increasing reports of the conversion of opium into morphine and heroin in clandestine laboratories in and around the production areas. Principal source and transit countries reporting significant opium seizures were: Iran (38 tons), Pakistan (3.4

tons), India (2 tons), China (3 tons), Myanmar (2.2 tons), Thailand (1.1 ton) and Vietnam (1 ton). In the western hemisphere, Mexico and Colombia were the principal producers of opium. The Mexican authorities estimate the annual production at 40 tons. Colombia's opium production for 1992 was estimated at 200 tons.

Illicit traffic in morphine base escalated during 1992. Information received by Interpol indicates that enormous quantities of morphine base, produced in clandestine laboratories in the Afghanistan/Pakistan border region, were transported overland through Iran/Turkey and by sea from the Pakistan coast via the Suez Canal to Europe. The Iranian authorities intercepted over 7 tons of morphine base along the country's eastern borders with Afghanistan/Pakistan and on its western border with Turkey. The Turkish authorities made two major seizures of morphine base totalling 3.5 tons. They seized 1.5 tons of morphine base on the Turkish/Georgian border, an indication that drug traffickers are using this route through the Central Asian Republics to transport morphine base to Europe. In addition, the Turkish authorities intercepted a merchant vessel in the Mediterranean Sea transporting 2 tons of morphine base which originated in Pakistan. These seizures are evidence that increased quantities of morphine base are being transported to Europe, presumably for conversion into heroin in clandestine laboratories.

During 1992 there was a significant increase in heroin production and its transnational transportation in spite of improved international law-



enforcement co-operation. South-West Asian heroin production and traffic were more prevalent than in previous years. This was ostensibly to meet the great demand by consumers in South-West Asia as well as in Europe and North America.

The heroin trail from South-West Asia to the Western European market starts at the Afghanistan/Pakistan border and transits through Iran, entering collection centres in South-East Turkey for onward shipment to Istanbul. It is estimated that during 1992, between 70% and 80% of the 7 tons of heroin seized in Europe transited along the Balkan Route via Turkey. The heroin was mostly transported in secret compartments in TIR trucks, buses or private cars from Turkey to seven main recipient countries: Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, France and the United Kingdom. The war in Yugoslavia disrupted the traditional Balkan Route, and drug trafficking groups are now transporting the drug in vehicles north through Hungary and the Czech Republic to Germany for onward shipment to other parts of Europe, and via Greek ports where the drug, concealed inside TIR trucks, is ferried across to Italian ports.

The "opening up" of Central and Eastern European countries proved advantageous to drug trafficking organizations who are utilizing the countries in the region for storage and transit. Turkish crime syndicates continue to be active transporting heroin and working in close collaboration with organized crime groups based in several European countries.

With the bulk of the heroin from South-West Asia transiting along the Balkan Route to Europe, there were fewer heroin seizures at European airports. Asian and African nationals were among the main groups arrested at European airports when seizures did occur.

In the Near East, Lebanon remained a major source country for illicit narcotics despite efforts in the spring of 1992 by the Lebanese and Syrian security forces to eradicate poppy and cannabis cultivation at some sites in

the Bekaa Valley. Harsh winter weather probably destroyed much of the 1992 crop and the eradication campaign destroyed what remained. Intelligence received indicates that the Bekaa Valley continued to be the site of many operational hashish- and heroin-processing laboratories. Lebanese trafficking groups have also forged alliances with South American traffickers, resulting in heroin-cocaine exchanges and a proliferation of cocaine-processing laboratories in Lebanon. Much of the cocaine appears to be destined for Middle East and European markets. During 1992, officials seized heroin, cocaine and hashish at Beirut International Airport as well as at sites in the Bekaa Valley.

In South-East Asia, the heroin scene did not undergo any dramatic change. Heroin processing continued unabated in the border areas of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos, popularly known as the Golden Triangle. Thailand, with its geographical location, modern transportation, developed coastline and well-connected air and sea ports at Bangkok, remained the principal transit country for these operations. Thailand also continued to be the main conduit for heroin shipments from the region to the international market. During 1992, the Thai authorities seized a total of 379 kg of heroin at Bangkok Airport, mainly found in the possession of East Asian and African nationals, travelling to Africa, Europe and North America.

In a developing trend, China emerged as an alternative route for opium and heroin smuggled from Myanmar to Hong Kong. China's Yunnan Province is at the heart of the trafficking route. During 1992, the Chinese authorities seized 4 tons of heroin, the bulk of it in Yunnan Province. Because of its strategically located border in close proximity to mainland China, Hong Kong continues to be a staging area in the Far East region. China Taiwan emerged as a major transit area for heroin shipments bound for North America. Based on reports received from US drug law enforcement agencies, approximately 56% of the heroin seized in the United States originated from South-East Asia. Countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia, where

there is domestic heroin consumption, are also utilized as transit countries. Australia is also a major recipient of South-East Asian heroin where organized criminal groups (of Chinese descent) play a major role in the heroin trade.

North America remains the principal heroin market in the world. As noted above, heroin in the United States arrives mainly from South-East Asian countries which have well-knit networks in the United States. Mexican heroin traffic to the United States continues to be controlled by Mexican criminal groups. Colombian heroin is increasingly transported by Colombian nationals using commercial airlines that fly to New York and Miami. Intelligence reports also suggest that South American cocaine cartels may be using existing cocaine-smuggling networks to facilitate the shipment of Colombian heroin to North America and Europe.

## Cocaine

According to drug seizure information reported to Interpol, four times as much cocaine as heroin was seized worldwide during 1992. While much of this increased activity can be attributed to aggressive antidrug efforts, it is also the result of record high levels of cocaine production. Although there is no adequate means to measure the magnitude of the drug problem, a few figures may illustrate the possible seriousness of the threat. According to international sources, during 1992, 300 metric tons of cocaine were seized globally whereas the potential maximum coca yield was 1,000-2,000 metric tons.

Nearly two-thirds of the world's supply of cocaine comes from coca grown in Peru. Estimates of Peru's coca cultivation in 1992 are reported to range from 129,000 hectares to as high as 350,000 hectares. Although there is no consensus on the amount of coca grown in Peru, officials agree that coca cultivation is rising. While the Government of Peru pursued a comprehensive programme to eliminate cocaine production and provide alternative development, its



efforts are limited by insurgent activity in coca-producing regions.

Colombia is the world's leading supplier of cocaine HCL. Most of the cocaine base is imported from Peru and Bolivia and processed into cocaine by Colombian traffickers. Official Colombian statistics indicate that cocaine HCL seizures dropped to 32 metric tons from approximately 77 metric tons last year. This was largely the result of shifting enforcement resources to the destruction of the country's rapidly expanding opium poppy crop and the search for Pablo Escobar.

Bolivia is a major producer of coca leaf and coca derivatives. It is the world's second largest producer of coca leaf and the second largest producer of cocaine HCL. The Chapare is Bolivia's primary coca leaf production region. With the success of a number of interdiction operations, most notably "Ghost Zone", traffickers have increased their activities in the Yungas region of Bolivia.

Brazil and Venezuela are major hubs for cocaine trafficking activities. Brazil is a significant transit country for cocaine destined for the United States and Europe and a major producer of precursor and essential chemicals. Venezuela is a transit country for Colombian cocaine. Information received by Interpol indicates that seizures abroad of drugs transhipped through Venezuela totalled more than 30 metric tons.

North America, specifically the United States, remains the principal market for cocaine. United States agencies seized approximately 120 tons of cocaine during 1992. Successful law enforcement operations against Cali Cartel bases, combined with the capture or surrender of several cartel leaders, disrupted the flow of cocaine which led to a sharp price increase in the United States during the second quarter of 1992. Colombian groups continued to dominate the traffic and are expected to further consolidate their control. Cocaine is transported to the United States primarily by vessel along the south-eastern seaboard, by aircraft using international air corridors over

Cuba, and land routes through Mexico. During 1992, the Mexican authorities seized almost 40 tons of South American cocaine destined for the United States.

Canada reported record seizures of cocaine in 1992. South American cocaine cartels view Canada both as a transit point for cocaine bound for the United States and as a new market. One of the most striking features in the area of Canadian-related cocaine seizures is the increase in the number of seizures effected by foreign countries of cocaine destined for the Canadian market.

Central America and the Caribbean observed an increase in cocaine trafficking by private aircraft and private and commercial vessels. While sizeable quantities of cocaine are airdropped in the Caribbean to waiting vessels, drug traffickers are making greater use of commercial maritime vessels to transport cocaine concealed within containerized cargo. Pleasure yachts and fishing boats in the Atlantic and Caribbean seas are also attractive to drug traffickers as they provide excellent cover for their illicit activities.

Europe is being flooded with cocaine in an effort to develop a market to compensate for lower profits derived from the United States. During 1992 European law enforcement agencies seized 17 tons of cocaine, with record seizures reported in France, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The importation of cocaine to Europe is predominantly controlled by the Cali Cartel. While smaller in size than the more notorious Medellin Cartel, the Cali-based group has benefited from maintaining a low profile. South American cocaine cartels have forged alliances with organized crime groups in Europe, such as Galician smugglers in Spain and the Mafia in Italy, to transport cocaine to Europe.

Large shipments of cocaine, smuggled by sea from Colombia or Venezuela, often transit via the Canary Islands, the Azores, Cape Verde or Madeira, all situated in strategic

locations on the North Atlantic route from South America to Western Europe. Large ports such as Rotterdam and Rostock are being used by drug traffickers to convey shipments of drugs inside legitimate cargo being sent to Europe.

An alarming trend is the increase in the number of cocaine-processing laboratories in Europe. Germany, Italy and Spain reported dismantling illicit laboratories in 1992. Both France and the United Kingdom reported seizing cocaine base transhipped through Brazil for conversion in cocaine-processing laboratories in Europe.

Drug traffickers are taking full advantage of the revolutionary changes that are taking place throughout Europe from the collapse of Communism to the emergence of a single European Market. South American cocaine cartels are specifically targeting Eastern Europe as a transshipment point.

Africa is a major transit region for cocaine intended for Europe. Africa's strategic location, coupled with the desperately low standards of living over much of the continent, create an ideal climate for drug trafficking. Nigeria is the focal point for cocaine trafficking in Africa. Cocaine comes to Nigeria from South America, primarily by commercial air routes from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to Lagos, Nigeria, for re-export to Europe. Nigerian and Ghanaian groups control drug trafficking activities. These groups continue to find new routes, methods and couriers to evade arrest and detection.

The Middle East is emerging as a transshipment point for cocaine destined for Europe and the United States. Lebanese traffickers are collaborating with South American traffickers resulting in heroin-cocaine exchanges and the proliferation of cocaine-processing laboratories in Lebanon. During 1992, the French authorities reported to Interpol the existence of a Lebanese-Brazilian cocaine connection based on several significant seizures involving Lebanese nationals and cocaine shipments confiscated in France.



Cocaine trafficking and consumption are growing problems in Australia. Information indicates that Australia is being targeted by South American cocaine trafficking organizations as a transit point for cocaine intended for the Asian market and also as a new market in itself. Japanese prosperity is attracting traffickers looking to expand their markets. The increase in recent years of travel by South American nationals to Japan, including known members of Colombian cartels, as well as the number of Japanese nationals arrested for cocaine trafficking, support this premise. With enormous profits to be accrued from the cocaine trade in Japan, the involvement of Japanese organized crime (Yakuza) in domestic cocaine trafficking is expected to increase.

Increased trafficking in crack cocaine is a growing concern to drug law enforcement agencies, with nearly every continent reporting seizures. During 1992, Côte d'Ivoire reported its first seizure of crack. Crack is readily available in large metropolitan areas throughout the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. Distribution networks are believed to be supplied and controlled by Jamaican gangs.

## **Cannabis**

During 1992, cannabis in its various forms was extensively cultivated and traded in various parts of the world. Cannabis reaps tremendous profits for the grower and trafficker, especially the indoor hydroponic operations which are gaining popularity in the West, notably the United States and the Netherlands. These operations reportedly produce four full growing cycles per year, quadrupling the potential of production by other traditional methods. These indoor operations can range from several plants grown in a closet to hundreds or thousands of plants grown in subterranean specially constructed sites capable of producing sinsemilla worth millions. A pound of sinsemilla is sold from US\$ 3,000 to US\$ 9,000.

Because of its weight, the bulk of cannabis is smuggled by land or by

ship across the continents and within them. Of the total seizures of this drug concerning Europe for the period under review, transport accounted for 65% and freight for 28%.

In 1992, 15 African countries seized 112 tons (53 tons in 1991) of cannabis, including 50 tons in Morocco. In Europe, 402 tons were seized in 1992 compared to 221 tons last year. Spain seized 122 tons, the Netherlands 94 tons, the United Kingdom 49 tons and France 42 tons of cannabis. All these seizure figures are substantially higher than those for 1991. Other significant worldwide seizures were in Sri Lanka: 49 tons (10 tons in 1991); Pakistan: 188 tons; India: 60 tons (52 tons in 1991); Thailand: 126 tons (55 tons in 1991); Mexico: 19 tons; Lebanon: 20 tons; United States: 346 tons. In two other important producer countries, 11,601,412 million cannabis seedlings were eradicated in the Philippines, and over 800 hectares of cannabis were eradicated in Jamaica.

Some of the more significant worldwide seizures included:

- 7,740 kg of cannabis in Barcelona, Spain, in March 1992. The drug had arrived by sea from Lebanon for Spain, hidden inside rubber wheels packed in sacks.

- 6,400 kg of cannabis in Istanbul in August 1992. It was concealed in a TIR truck using the Balkan Route for reaching various destinations in Western Europe including the Netherlands.

- 3,000 kg of cannabis resin originating from Afghanistan, in Sydney in August 1992. One yacht and a light private aircraft used in the smuggling were also seized.

- 4,040 kg of cannabis resin at the port of Casablanca, Morocco, in March 1992. It was hidden in a Volvo truck on its way to the Netherlands.

- 2,300 kg of cannabis in Maghria/Akid Lotfi, Algeria, in November 1992. It was hidden in a camping car and had been obtained in Morocco.

- 10,000 kg of cannabis resin in Dunkirk, France, in September 1992 from the ship "Rossinant" loaded at the port of Jiwani, Pakistan.

According to data available at the Interpol General Secretariat for 1992, the largest quantities of cannabis seized in Europe in various forms originated in Morocco, Pakistan and Lebanon.

A total of 11 tons of cannabis was seized in Russia for the period under review. Cannabis also grows wild in the five newly independent Central Asian countries, which formerly made up a part of the USSR. The strategic importance of this area in the context of cannabis traffic lies in its proximity to the well-recognized cannabis sources in South-West Asia on the one hand, and its geopolitical and ethnic proximity to countries such as Turkey, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, etc. on the other hand. Trafficking organizations are already exploiting the location of these countries to move hashish in sizeable quantities to Russia and other Western destinations. This is confirmed by a record seizure of 14 tons of Afghan hashish destined for the Netherlands in February 1993, and another seizure of 13 tons in 1992 in Uzbekistan.

## **Psychotropic substances**

Unlike other drugs, psychotropic substances have no "minimal criteria" concerning quantities when seizures are reported to the General Secretariat. Logically, it should follow that the General Secretariat's database for psycho-tropic substances should be an accurate reflection of what has occurred around the world as far as these substances are concerned. However, when the drug seizure report (DRST) database is compared with national statistics on illicit drug production, traffic and use, it is evident that the DRST database contains only a fraction of the total seizures made by individual states.

This report on psychotropic substances is therefore based largely on the national statistics so far received for 1992 by the General Secretariat.

The overall picture shows that there were increases in the amounts of illicitly produced amphetamine and methamphetamine, LSD, MDA and its



analogue MDMA. 1992 also saw the appearance of a new MDA analogue, methylene dioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA). With the exception of methaqualone, the picture was much the same in 1992 for other stimulants, depressants and hallucinogens as it was in 1991. A greatly increased number of clandestine laboratories — 876 — were reported dismantled, the increase being caused largely as a result of the Polish authorities seizing 518 laboratories producing *compot*, a narcotic drug brewed from poppy straw.

## Opioid analgesics

Although no seizures of buprenorphine were reported during the year by way of the DRST, it is known that some European countries — the United Kingdom for example — have made some seizures. The same is true of South-East Asia. In its annual statistical return, New Zealand reported seizing 69 tablets of buprenorphine (Termgesic), together with small quantities of Paradeine and Doloxene. Thirteen countries reported seizing preparations containing codeine, morphine and pethidine.

Thirteen countries representing all regions of the world reported seizing 19,500 dosage units, 152 grams and 2,078 ml of methadone. The individual seizures were all of very small quantities, involving a very large number of offenders. European sources of the drug seemed to be mainly the Netherlands and Switzerland and, in South-East Asia, Thailand and Vietnam. The majority of seizures took place in Germany, Switzerland, Greece and Singapore.

## Depressants

According to information so far received, butalbital, a Schedule III barbiturate which can be used as both a hypnotic and a sedative, was seized in only one country: Jordan. The authorities there removed over 35,000 dosage units from circulation in seven cases, all of which were said to be sourced to Syria. Four other countries reported seizing 77,400 other unidentified barbiturates, 5,434 of which were located in Greece and

71,290 in the United States. The United States authorities also seized 589,997 unidentified tranquillizers.

The large family of benzodiazepines was introduced as a "safer" alternative to, for example, the barbiturates as they have less potential for creating dependence. However, these drugs soon became popular on the illicit markets, particularly in West African countries. Diazepam, known most commonly as Valium, was seized in 14 countries. In all, 710,422 dosage units were seized, including 575,910 in the United States, 62,641 in Côte d'Ivoire and 31,306 in Spain. Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol) proved to be the next most popular with 189,690 dosage units being seized, 170,317 of them in Lebanon. Norway also made a large single seizure of 17,445 dosage units smuggled from Thailand in champagne bottles and cosmetics boxes.

There were also seizures of smaller quantities of alprazolam, clonazepam, flurazepam, clorazepam, midazolam, nitrazepam (70,188 dosage units in Indonesia), oxazepam, temazepam (12,238 dosage units in the United Kingdom) and triazolam, in addition to another 54,300 dosage units of unidentified benzodiazepines. Once again, no geographical location was left untouched by these drugs.

Secobarbital, another drug which was once very popular among the West African drug abuse population and replaced largely by the benzodiazepines, was seized in only three countries: Côte d'Ivoire (1,400) Sudan (1,038) and Saudi Arabia (1,361,776 dosage units). The tightening of controls by producing countries, and the placing of this substance in Schedule II of the 1971 United Nations Convention seems to have had a considerable effect on the availability of the drug.

There were two reported seizures of phenobarbital made by the United Arab Emirates. One was an unknown quantity found with heroin smuggled from Pakistan, and the other was 100 kg sent by a British national working in a United Kingdom laboratory. The final destination of the two barrels in which it was concealed was given as Pakistan.

In December 1992, an international conference on the trafficking of methaqualone, a Schedule II central nervous system depressant, was jointly organized by the Indian authorities and the General Secretariat and held in New Delhi. A "Methaqualone Overview" based on information gained from this meeting will be published in the 4th Quarter Quest for 1992. During last year, India alone seized over 7.5 tons of methaqualone, the illicit production of which has had such a devastating effect on Eastern and Southern Africa that in some areas it has replaced local currencies.

During 1992 six African countries — Botswana, Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe — seized approximately 1.66 million dosage units of methaqualone. Another 15,384 and 149,238 were seized respectively by Greece (plus 23 kg 139) and the United States. South Africa, which had observer status at the New Delhi Meeting, informed delegates that authorities there had seized 2.8 million dosage units in 1992. The increase in the amount being produced, as indicated by seizure figures, has continued into 1993 with Indian authorities removing 3 tons of methaqualone from the illicit trade in one single case. The drug is mostly produced illicitly in India, although there is also production in South Africa and its neighbouring countries.

Laboratories dismantled under this section included 518 producing *compot* in Poland where 1,761,200 ml of *compot* were also seized. A methaqualone producing laboratory was seized in Luxembourg, together with 35 kg of the finished drug, 50 kg of anthranilic acid and 90 litres of acetic anhydride. Interestingly, it was reported that the laboratory had been operating in an hotel room. The operator had been sending the drug to South Africa concealed in tins of 5 or 10 litre capacity.

## Stimulants

Worldwide seizures of illicitly produced amphetamine increased considerably in 1992 with 24 countries seizing a total of 1,571 kg 096. Judging

by the large quantities seized in a number of countries, amphetamine abuse is a rapidly developing problem. The following 10 countries seized the amounts shown in brackets: the United Kingdom (601 kg 795), the Netherlands (267 kg), Sweden (119 kg 050), Germany (105 kg 470), Belgium (96 kg 217), Australia (90 kg 467), Denmark (73 kg 600), Hungary (54 kg 150), Spain (22 kg 785) and Nigeria (18 kg 672).

Nigeria was not the only African country to seize amphetamine. Six other African countries reported seizing a total of 304,387 dosage units, 250,313 of which were seized in Côte d'Ivoire. Eight other countries reported seizing 794,422 dosage units of amphetamine of which the United States and Lebanon seized 507,240 and 170,317 respectively. The source countries for amphetamine are the Netherlands, which is the major producer for European countries, together with Poland and the United Kingdom, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Australia and the United States, all of which in the main produce the drug for consumption within their own respective countries. In all, there were 36 amphetamine-producing laboratories dismantled worldwide.

The total picture for methamphetamine seizures is not as clear, as some of the reports have included ephedrine as part of the overall seizure figure, i.e. China Taiwan with a total of 1 ton given as the combined figure. Japan seized 163 kg, China 576 kg, plus 10 laboratories and 2,779 kg of ephedrine, and the Philippines 129 kg, 12 kg of which were "ice", the crystallized, more potent form of methamphetamine. The United States also reported one seizure of 12 kg of "ice", together with 47.5 million dosage units of methamphetamine and the dismantling of 287 laboratories.

Norway seized 280 g of methamphetamine and while this figure may not seem important when compared with worldwide figures, what is significant is that 200 g of this drug was sourced to Russia and is the first of its kind recorded in Norway. Russia reported having seized only 12 kg 435 of methamphetamine; how-

ever, it is possible that with the availability of precursor chemicals in that country, the Norwegian experience may prove to be an insight into what other European countries may expect in the future.

Sweden dismantled one methamphetamine laboratory and the United Kingdom, three. China Taiwan and China are the two biggest sources for illicit methamphetamine in South-East Asia. Korea, formerly another major source, is now no longer considered to be a major producer thanks to the intensified efforts of law enforcement in that country.

Fenetylline, a Schedule II substance, is still proving to be a problem for Middle Eastern countries. Qatar seized 84 dosage units, Jordan 33,553, and Turkey 560,000, all of which were destined for Saudi Arabia, where an additional 2.3 million tablets were seized. The only other Schedule II stimulant to be seized was 2 kg of phenmetrazine reported by Sweden. One Schedule IV substance was seized by Austria: phendimetrazine, as the principal active agent of 25,000 tablets of antapentan.

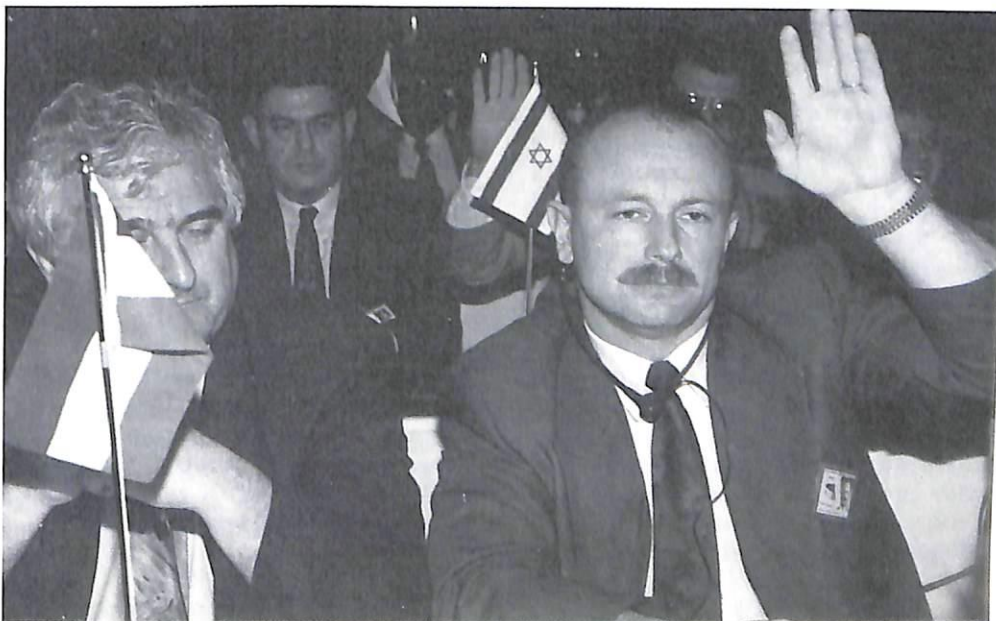
Almost 2 tons of khat leaves, a mild stimulant classified under "other natural drugs", were seized in Europe. In the main, the traffickers included Danish, German, Netherlands,

Norwegian, Swedish and United Kingdom nationals engaged by Somali and Ethiopian users of this substance. The majority of seizures took place in Sweden (1,699 kg), with Switzerland, Italy and Finland accounting for the remainder.

## Hallucinogens

Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) is currently enjoying a new wave of popularity, particularly in Europe with the United Kingdom the centre of activity. The latter seized 312,114 dosage units, followed by France with 128,359 and the Netherlands, the principal source country for Europe, with 50,002. The other major source is of course the United States which seized 3.9 million dosage units. Despite the world seizure total of 4.5 million dosage units, only one laboratory was reported dismantled and that was in Germany where 29,500 units were seized. LSD is trafficked in much the same way as all other drugs, with similar methods of concealment being used. However, the postal services remain a favourite method of distribution due to the light weight of the product and the reduced risk of detection. In Europe, the "Strawberry" and "Om" designs are among those most often seized. In Oceania, the drug's popularity has increased dramatically. Australia seized 30,173

### *The Hungarian Delegation*





dosage units, (four times as many as in 1991), and New Zealand 22,284 units. The drug is cheap and has a "cleaner" image than it had in the sixties. It is also less potent, with each dosage unit containing about 40-50 micrograms of LSD.

MDA (methylenedioxyamphetamine) and its analogues MDMA and MDEA (methylenedioxymethylamphetamine) and the relatively new (methylenedioxyethylamphetamine) have all been marketed to young people as "clean" drugs, in contrast to other "hard" drugs. Given the common street name of "ecstasy", they do not have a "dirty needle" image and are extremely popular with young people attending "acid" or "rave" parties. If the quantities being seized can be used as an indicator as to the amounts available, then this should be a cause for alarm.

Most of the seizures in 1992 took place in Europe and were recorded both by weight and by dosage units. Ten European countries reported seizing 406,000 units of MDMA, 512,000 units of MDEA and 2,700,000 units of MDA. In terms of weight, Germany reported the seizure of 3,097 kg of MDA in a single operation, where the drugs had been produced in Latvia. The Netherlands also seized 776 kg of MDA. Gramme quantities were seized by Finland (MDMA), Germany (MDMA and MDEA), Sweden (MDMA) and Australia (MDMA and MDA). MDA laboratories were dismantled by the United States (2), Germany (1), the Netherlands (1); MDMA laboratories by the USA (9), the Netherlands (1) and the United Kingdom (2); and MDEA laboratories by Hungary (2) and the Netherlands (2). The Netherlands is the principal source country for Europe and 2.7 million dosage units were seized there. These, combined with the kilo seizures previously mentioned, prove that law enforcement in that country is working hard to eliminate this problem. The United Kingdom is the second largest ecstasy centre in Europe and a combined total of just over

825,000 dosage units were seized there.

Small quantities of the Schedule I hallucinogenic drug psilocybine were seized in Germany and the Netherlands.

Two countries only mentioned phencyclidine (PCP), a Schedule II substance: Germany in connection with the dismantling of an amphetamine/MDA laboratory, and the United States where four laboratories were dismantled and 47,807 dosage units of PCP seized.

### **Anabolic steroids**

Anabolic steroids are a growing problem in a number of countries and will continue to be so as long as people in sporting circles see them as a way of achieving fame and fortune.

Reports of seizures of these substances have been received from Austria, Canada, Finland and, in particular, Sweden where many seizures were made during 1992. The source for European countries seems to be Russia and other Eastern European countries. The United States also reported seizing 244,207 dosage units.

The current dangers with these substances are firstly that they are often injected, thereby increasing the risk of spreading disease, and secondly that they are being counterfeited in a number of South-East Asian centres. Consequently, the users are totally unaware of what it is that they are taking.

### **Precursors and essential chemicals**

There were very few reports of precursors and essential chemicals having been seized in 1992. In Europe, there were reports of small quantities of chemicals seized in connection with the dismantling of laboratories in Denmark, Germany,

Spain and the United Kingdom. There were only six reports of chemicals seizures from countries in production or transit areas. These were made by Argentina and Colombia (cocaine laboratory chemicals), Pakistan, Thailand and Turkey (heroin-producing chemicals), and China Taiwan (ephedrine for methamphetamine production).

## **Meeting of the Drugs Committee**

The Committee was chaired by Mr Mery Figueroa, Chile.

Following a presentation by Mr Ward, Head of the Drugs Sub-Division at the General Secretariat, on the activities of his Sub-Division and the worldwide drug situation in 1993, the Committee learned about new cocaine-trafficking routes and the increase in cocaine seizures in Europe.

Heroin traffic had taken on new proportions in some parts of the world, and the Balkan Route had been modified as a result of recent events in former Yugoslavia. Record cannabis seizures had been made in Eastern Europe and Western Asia. Amphetamine and methamphetamine seizures had more than doubled in Europe during the first six months of 1993.

The Representative of the Drugs Sub-Division asked member countries to provide seizure information on anabolic steroids so that studies on trends and trafficking could be initiated.

The Colombian Delegate then gave a long and detailed report on the eventful history of drug traffic in his country. The Delegates of 17 countries spoke during the discussion and 20 countries provided written presentations. Mr Ward said that the latter would be reproduced in the Drugs Sub-Division's periodical publications such as the "Quest" wherever possible.



# CURRENCY COUNTERFEITING AND ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIME

## Currency counterfeiting

In the plenary session chaired by Mr Inkster (Canada), President of the Organization, the Head of the Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Division reported on the activities of the General Secretariat's Counterfeit Currency Group. The counterfeiting situation was particularly alarming, mainly because of technological progress in the colourcopier industry. Currently, it was perfectly possible for someone with no technical knowledge whatsoever to produce very deceptive counterfeit banknotes. Equally remarkable results were being achieved with the new offset machines. It had also been noted that there were growing links between counterfeiting and other forms of organized crime such as trafficking in drugs and weapons, and it was now quite common for counterfeit currency produced in one country to be circulated in other countries by highly organized networks, following a certain number of illegal transactions. The Counterfeit Currency Group had also noted an increase in the number of counterfeit passports, driving licences and cheques.

To deal with such challenges, the General Secretariat had decided to organize meetings and training courses, and to ensure permanent sharing of information on currency counterfeiting trends and on technological innovations. Forgeries were mainly the work of groups with very specific objectives and which had support in various parts of the world. 80% of reported counterfeits concerned the United States dollar — the \$100 note in particular. British, Dutch, French and Italian currencies were also targeted. Most of the passers were young men.

Every year, the FBI trained new agents in techniques for detecting counterfeits. In 1992, a training seminar had been held in Guatemala and it had been attended by representatives of many Latin American countries. Another seminar was scheduled to be held in Tokyo in December 1993.

In conclusion, the speaker thanked those NCBs which enabled the General Secretariat to compile reliable, up-to-date statistics on currency counterfeiting by regularly sending it information. Unfortunately, little information was received from Latin America, Africa and Asia, and the Head of Division II appealed to member countries there to take the appropriate measures to remedy the situation.

The Delegates of Paraguay, Guatemala, Armenia, Romania, China, Pakistan, Japan and Togo, and the Vice-President for Africa described the situations in their countries, and appealed for closer international co-operation to ensure that the fight against counterfeit currency was more effective.

## Economic and financial crime

This includes not only economic and financial offences as such, but also environmental crime, computer crime and money laundering.

Mr Reyes Calderon, Guatemala, was elected to chair the Committee on International Economic Crime.

## Trends in economic and financial crime

Mr Ribeiro, General Secretariat, described trends in economic and financial crime in broad terms.

He stressed the fact that bank fraud was on the increase. In 1992, the General Secretariat had received reports of 1,648 cases of various economic offences, 621 of which were banking frauds — including cheque and credit card fraud — representing 37.7% of the overall total. Several delegates then described the difficulties they had encountered, both in gathering evidence and as a result of differences between the laws in various countries. Some delegates emphasized the fact that large-scale

frauds were endangering their national economies.

## Environmental crime

Mr Ribeiro said that since the resolution which had been adopted at the General Assembly session in Dakar, environmental crime had been a constant cause of concern to the General Secretariat. An important meeting on the subject would be held in 1994, and a full report would be submitted to the next General Assembly session. It had been decided that a training course on environmental crime in the American Region would be held in the United States in 1994. The Delegates of Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates described the problem of toxic waste taken into their countries by foreign companies.

Draft resolution AGN/62/P.RES/4, "Environmental Crime" was submitted to the General Assembly and adopted unanimously by the 111 Delegations voting.

Another draft resolution — AGN/62/P.RES/5, "Illicit trade in species of wild fauna and flora", — was unanimously adopted by the 96 Delegations voting.

## Computer crime

Mr Ribeiro reported on the activities of the European Working Party on Computer Crime which had been set up by the European Regional Conference in 1991. The Working Party, comprising sixteen delegates representing eight countries, had prepared a Manual which had been approved by the European Regional Conference in Berne in April 1993 and which would shortly be sent to NCBs. It was also preparing another Manual giving information on legislation, prevention methods and training courses. NCBs were asked to provide more information on such cases: they should make better use of Interpol's resources. The Italian Delegate described a major case which had occurred recently in his country. It



was agreed that the Working Party would pay particular attention to that case when it met in October 1993.

## Money laundering

The General Secretariat's representative described the activities of the FOPAC Group, which took part

in all meetings held on the subject, updated the Encyclopaedia giving information on national legislation, and published a Bulletin giving full details about money-laundering techniques. It was contributing to Project Eastwash (dealing with money laundering in Europe, particularly in Eastern European countries), as well as

to Project MA.LE (Mafia Laundering in Europe). Several meetings had been held, and a proposal to hold an international meeting on financial investigation techniques every year was submitted to the General Assembly: resolution AGN/62/P.RES/6 was unanimously adopted by the 100 Delegations voting.

# INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME

## International terrorism

This subject was discussed in a plenary session chaired by the President, Mr Inkster (Canada). The Head of the Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Division said that the Organization was interested in all information about offences committed by terrorists. A special Group had been set up at the General Secretariat in 1987; until May 1993 it had been led by an officer from the United States FBI, and it currently comprised three officers, from France, Italy and Japan respectively. The Group could be used by Members as a means of sharing information about terrorist crimes as defined in the Guide. Information about people, groups, evidence and modus operandi could be sent to the Group. The General Secretariat could clearly not be of help to member countries unless it had the necessary information at its disposal.

With regard to terrorist acts in general, 21 warnings had been broadcast in 1992, and 6 in 1993. The list of international notices for 1993 had been distributed. Terrorists' favourite weapons were still bombs.

With regard to more specific activities, the measures taken in connection with air traffic safety should be noted. The General Secretariat continued to have close relations with ICAO and IATA in particular. In September 1992, the Secretary General had given a speech at an IATA meeting in London and, at about the same time, the Anti-Terrorism Group and the NCB in Bucharest had been represented at the 3rd Seminar on Air Traffic Safety organized by ICAO in Romania.

In October 1992, following a proposal from Interpol's Secretary General, ICAO had approved a project for training instructors in air traffic safety. The project had been finalized at the 2nd Regional Seminar on Aviation Security held in Cairo in April 1993. The General Secretariat had sent out a circular to all NCBs on 6th May 1993, explaining the main points of the project. Five member countries had applied for places on the first course being organized by ICAO, and others had asked for further information. Since the previous General Assembly session, about a dozen major cases of interference with civil aviation had been reported to the General Secretariat.

## Organized crime

The Head of the Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Division commented briefly on the Organized Crime Group's report. As stated in the Report, the Group was working on Project OCSA (organized crime in South America), Project Macandra (Italian organized crime), Project Rockers (gangs of motorcyclists involved in criminal activities) and Project Eastwind (Asian organized crime).

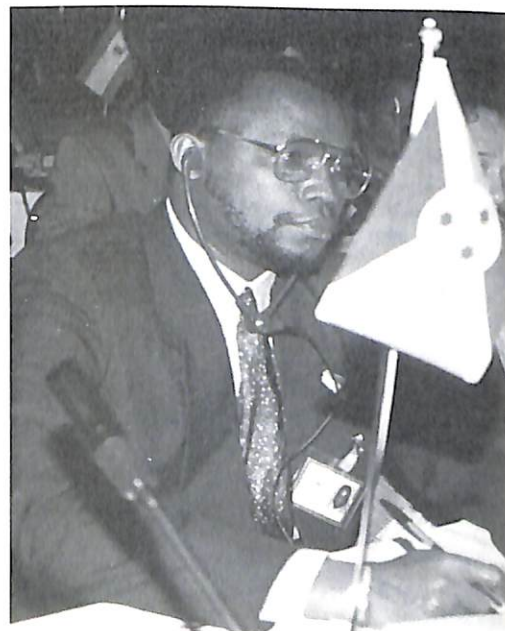
A meeting on organized crime had been held in Lyons in October 1992. Participants had come from 27 countries and had formulated various recommendations on the basis of which the General Secretariat had prepared a draft resolution which was appended to the Report and which would be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

The Nigerian Delegate reported that his country had to deal with large numbers of cases of weapons trafficking and theft of luxury cars. The criminals were usually unemployed youths with no qualifications.

The Indian Delegate submitted an amendment to the draft resolution, intended to supplement the text by adding the following paragraph at the end: "3. to plan, involve and help common operations to effectively dismantle organized criminal groups".

Draft resolution AGN/62/P.RES/1, relating to international co-operation and the fight against organized crime, thus amended, was put to the vote and unanimously adopted by the 94 Delegations voting.

### *The Delegate from Burundi*





# COMPUTERIZATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr Machira, Kenya, was elected to chair the Committee on Computerization and Telecommunications.

Mr Silva, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology, reported on the SCIT's activities, explaining that the Committee was currently composed of representatives from the Regional Stations in Abidjan, San Juan, Nairobi, Buenos Aires, Tokyo and Canberra, and delegates from the United States and Canada in the Americas, and Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany in Europe.

He then reviewed the following topics:

- Recommendation that the X.400 system be used as the main means of communication for images as well as text and data.

- Recommendation that the Sita network bid be accepted for communications over the South American network.

- Situation of the telecommunications network; operation and development of the message-handling system in Tokyo.

- Study of the development plans, in particular the one for South America, which would serve as a pilot plan for the other regions. The study had been carried out with the assistance of the Working Party for Regional Modernization chaired by Mr Saphos from the United States, Vice-Chairman of the SCIT, and including members from Germany, France, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Japan, Canada, Puerto Rico and Australia.

- ASF situation and projects, with the participation of the Working Party on the ASF which had been chaired by Mr Lind and including members from the United States, Germany, France, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Australia.

- Standardization of NCB procedures in Europe and then in other regions.

- Study of the Edison system for travel documents and its inclusion in the ASF.

- Analysis of the implementation of an automated fingerprint identification system at the General Secretariat.

- Current situation of the AMSS and provisional measures to be adopted in the Regional Stations.

Mr Silva finished his report by thanking those Governments whose delegates had participated in the SCIT and urged all the delegates present to attend the forthcoming 13th Interpol Telecommunications Conference, to be held at the General Secretariat from 17th to 19th May 1994, and to play their part in the Interpol modernization process.

## Technical objectives — Five-year Plan 1993-1997

Mr McQuillan, *General Secretariat*, outlined the main objectives of the Technical Support Division over the next five years: to maintain and upgrade the current computer systems, and to implement the ASF, X.400 and

### *The Icelandic Delegate*



Regional Modernization programmes, the latter to include technical assistance for the NCBs.

## Regional Modernization

The General Secretariat thanked the United States, France, Japan, and the United Nations for their donations to assist with Regional Modernization.

The tender procedure for Regional Modernization was outlined to the delegates and the advantages of selecting the Sita network, established by the airline companies, were explained.

The bilateral aid being offered by Japan was described. NCBs in Asia requesting technical and financial assistance should send their requests to the Japanese Embassies in their countries. Requests for bilateral aid to improve communications in Asia would then *be considered by the* Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Various delegates then commented on the Regional Modernization Plan.



## Automated Search Facility (ASF)

The two new developments introduced on the ASF were discussed.

- Use of the 1A option to send a search request to the ASF using an X.400 formatted message instead of an interactive connection. The ASF would be developed to send a reply via the X.400 communication system automatically.

- Downloading the complete authorized ASF database to NCBs which had purchased ASF Options 3 or 5. This was in conformity with Resolution AGN/60/RES/7 adopted by the General Assembly at its 1991 session in Punta del Este.

These new developments would be available to NCBs early in 1994.

Delegates were informed that the ASF final acceptance tests had been completed in June 1993 and that the system was ready for use by the NCBs.

In relation to the current system, the transmission of one million messages a year on the Interpol network meant that if member countries fed the information from the messages into their national computers the national data privacy laws would apply. The same was applicable to the ASF, and national data privacy laws would apply to the ASF records. With Options 3 and 5, version 2, NCBs could choose to receive the whole ASF authorized database or the notices only. Data privacy regulations varied from country to country but it was recognized that some of the data protection regulations provided subject access under certain conditions: that should not cause concern if the information was up-to-date and accurate. The United States Delegation was thanked for drawing those facts to the attention of member countries.

Mr McQuillan then described the Edison travel documents project. He explained that it was a computerized system using a CD-ROM, which had been demonstrated at the General Assembly session in Dakar in 1992. Resolution AGN/61/RES/7 (which was read out) had recommended creating a Working Party on the standards for retrieval systems, and the SCIT had carried out that study. It was difficult to recommend a standard when image

technology was developing so rapidly. However, the Edison system, which had originated in the Netherlands, was a very good system and the price was reasonable. The system was used in the Netherlands to check documents at borders. The possibility of integrating it in the Interpol catalogue for NCB equipment would be examined. The Netherlands Delegate confirmed the qualities of the system: the cost varied between US\$ 13,000 and 18,000, depending on whether Apple or Windows was used and the software cost about US\$ 15,000.

## Telecommunications

### Image transmission

A General Secretariat Representative briefly reported on the integration of digitized image transmission in the X.400 communications system, as had been decided in agreement with the SCIT.

In fact, it was possible to transfer not only "text"-type messages via X.400, but also any type of file, whether binary, executable or image, thanks to the "enclosures" option offered by the X.400 standard.

Thus, by adapting Open Image software and the standardized ASF

scanner and laser printer equipment provided by Wang to an X.400 workstation, an NCB could produce digitized images which could be transmitted via X.400.

He pointed out that "black-and-white" image technology was relatively stable but the same could not be said for "colour" imaging. Compression techniques, which were essential for reasonable transmission times, were constantly developing, particularly with the use of so-called "fractal" compression. The General Secretariat's "Research and Development" Section paid very close attention to such developments, but as things stood, could not recommend any particular standard.

The General Secretariat Representative reported briefly on how the AMSS had been installed in Lyons and recalled that in less than 100 days' time, that telecommunications server would be finally closed down. There were currently only three NCBs in the Europe/Middle East Region which were still being reminded that they must adapt their installations to conform to the X.400 standard before 1st January 1994. Finally, he recalled the main steps involved in bringing the General Secretariat's X.400 server into service.

### The Jordanian Delegation





# MEETING OF HEADS OF NCBs

Mr Mahundi, Tanzania, was elected Chairman. Several matters were discussed during the meeting.

## Interpol 2000 (Organizational Renewal)

The Chairman presented the report which was being submitted by the Executive Committee as a general policy document to indicate the future orientation of the Organization. After recalling the innovations of the previous eight years (regional modernization, computerization, improving the telecommunications network, improving control and management procedures, implementation of a criminal intelligence analysis capability, amendment of the Constitution), the report proposed establishing a plan of action to be centred around the answers to a certain number of preliminary questions. It would probably be appropriate to concentrate more on management auditing, as provided for in the Financial Regulations, in order to assess the efficacy of the various measures which had been adopted as far as they related to internal organizational structures, delegation and the decision-making process. The External Auditors who had this kind of expertise would be given a defined management auditing task.

The criminal intelligence capability of the Secretariat should be developed and the possibility of a full 24-hour service examined.

The development of liaison schemes on a geographical or regional basis should be more actively pursued.

The issue of public relations should be more seriously addressed, by the creation of a special service with adequate professional qualifications. A public relations strategy was being prepared with the assistance of a specialist from a member country.

The training requirements of NCB and General Secretariat staff should be examined with a view to providing the

necessary levels of training and ensuring the suitability and adequacy of the personnel selected.

The Organization's representative in the Member States, the National Central Bureau, was the key element in international police co-operation. The document on NCB policy dated from the establishment of the current Constitution in 1956. It was in need of review and updating to correspond to the present needs of police co-operation.

The responsibilities of National Central Bureaus and the minimum standards required of Member States had to be established. Much of the criticism directed against the Organization stemmed from inadequacy of NCBs rather than any inadequacy in the General Secretariat. The European Committee was currently preparing a document on the minimum standards to be expected from NCBs.

The Report should become a general document to be accepted by the General Assembly and applied in all Member States. An inspection role should be given to the General Secretariat to allow it to intervene and give advice when responsibilities and minimum standards were not respected.

The Organization was perceived to be essentially European in its action. Whilst the European region, and more especially the European Community sub-region, was important to the future development of Interpol, the importance of the Organization's universality should not be neglected.

Continental Executive Committee members, under the direction of their respective Vice-Presidents and working in close co-operation with the regional working groups already created, should be given mandates to prepare action plans for their regions on similar lines to the one prepared by the European Committee. Each action plan should be presented to regional and continental meetings, and followed up by the Executive

Committee with a view to encouraging regional activity and its development.

Following the Chairman's presentation, many delegates thanked the members of the Executive Committee for the remarkable document they had produced and highlighted the overriding need to give serious thought to the matter.

## Reports on the activities of the Working Parties set up by the General Assembly

The Head of Division II reported on the proceedings of the 5th Meeting of the Standing Committee on Disaster Victim Identification, which had taken place in Lyons on 9th and 10th March 1993. Twenty-eight delegates from 15 countries had attended the meeting, during which four speakers had described the observations made at different disaster scenes. Attention had been drawn to the post-traumatic stress from which police officers suffered after being involved in victim identification operations. It had been suggested that Interpol tackle the subject with as broad an approach as possible, if necessary by setting up a sub-group to work jointly with other organizations. The meeting had also discussed in detail the possible identification of victims by genetic (DNA) "fingerprinting". No specific recommendation had been adopted on the technique. In fact it had been agreed that the technique was certainly useful, but it raised potential problems of cost and time, since it meant that databases would have to be searched. In addition, the use of such a technique might come up against different religious and cultural practices relating to death. It had therefore been decided to study that possibility further.

Various air disasters and one disaster at sea had been discussed at length. The role of private companies in victim identification had also been considered: it seemed inevitable that such companies would intervene in certain countries where the public



services did not have the resources needed to identify a large number of victims. It appeared that it would be a good idea to delegate a liaison officer when a major disaster occurred.

The Standing Working Party, which supervised the work of three sub-groups, had expressed the desire to meet every year and not simply every two or three years. It would therefore hold its next meeting from 25th to 27th January 1994.

The Head of Division II then reported on the activities of the Standing Working Party on Crimes against Children, which had been set up in accordance with a resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its session in Dakar. It had met for the first time in Lyons from 23rd to 25th March 1993. Twenty-four delegates had attended the meeting and two sub-groups had been set up: one to look into legislation and law enforcement, and the other to deal with prevention and more general problems such as victim assistance and statistical research.

The Standing Working Party had decided to create a network of specialized liaison officers who would act as intermediaries between national and international institutions, thereby making it possible to increase awareness of the problems of offences committed against children. It had also been decided to circulate a letter describing the different computer-aided means which criminals used to transmit pornographic material involving children.

The Standing Working Party had decided to meet twice a year, and would hold its next meeting from 5th to 7th October 1993.

## Authentication of documentary evidence

The Head of the Legal Division reminded delegates that, at its Dakar session, the General Assembly had decided to set up a Working Group to consider the authentication of documentary evidence. Its aim had been to "study legal means of accomplishing a uniform regime for the authentication, certification and transmittal of certain documentary evidence through the Interpol system".

A questionnaire had been sent to NCBs and the 35 replies received had been summarized in a working document. The Working Group, comprising twelve participants representing nine countries, had met under the chairmanship of Mr Saphos (United States). During its discussions, the Working Group had noted the wide variety of provisions applicable, and had come to the conclusion that it would be pointless to continue further for the time being since it was unlikely that all the different national procedures could be rapidly integrated into a uniform regime. The Working Group had nevertheless decided to submit a resolution to the General Assembly.

Mr Saphos, United States, then took the floor in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group, and commented briefly on the preliminary draft resolution.

The Chairman read out the preliminary draft resolution on the authentication of documentary evidence and asked the meeting to vote on it. It was approved unanimously.

When subsequently submitted to the General Assembly in plenary session, draft resolution AGN/62/P.RES/10, "Authentication of documentary evidence", was adopted unanimously by the 96 Delegations voting.

## 1992 Annual Report of the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives

The Head of Division III explained that the Executive Committee had decided that the 1992 Annual Report of the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives should be submitted to the General Assembly for information.

As in previous years, the Board had been able to carry out its checks with the complete freedom essential for any such exercise. It had found that the files were managed with scrupulous observance of the relevant rules. The Board had considered the problem of indirect access, and had once again deplored the fact that people who



*The Delegate from Nicaragua*

could benefit from it were not sufficiently aware of the right of indirect access allowed by the Exchange of Letters between the Government of the French Republic and Interpol. The Board had noted with satisfaction the references to its attributions made in press releases, in certain legal works and in commentaries on the laws of certain countries. It considered that as the number of such references increased, its own role and mission and those of Interpol would be better understood.

## Data protection

The Head of Division III reminded the meeting that the 1991 European Regional Conference had set up a European Working Party on Data Protection, a matter of particular interest to European countries and to certain other countries with data protection legislation. The Working Party had met in 1991, 1992 and 1993, and had submitted a report to the 1993 European Regional Conference which was reproduced in General Assembly Report No. 9. The Working Party's report had ended with a series of recommendations. The European Regional Conference had discussed



those recommendations and submitted a draft recommendation which was given in Appendix 2 to Report No. 9. The Executive Committee had adopted a slightly modified text in the form of a draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly.

One of the aims of the draft resolution was to inform NCBs of provisions governing data protection in various countries. Another was to ensure that as far as possible any restrictions imposed by the countries from which information originated should be complied with by the countries receiving the information — that was an important prerequisite to avoid jeopardizing the communication of information between countries with data protection legislation and those without such legislation. Finally, the General Secretariat was asked to elaborate a set of definitions of terminology which could be used by NCBs sending information, since some of the restrictions currently used in messages were not always absolutely clear.

When subsequently discussed by the General Assembly in plenary session, draft resolution AGN/62/P.RES/9, "Restrictions on the use of police information", was adopted unanimously by the 102 Delegations voting.

## Travel Documents

Mr Ribeiro (General Secretariat) said that, in application of Resolution No. 7 adopted by the General Assembly at its session in Dakar, a working group had met at the General Secretariat to draw up standards for image storage and retrieval systems. The working group was continuing to examine that extremely technical and complex subject. It was preparing a report which would be submitted to the 2nd International Conference on Travel Documents, due to be held in Zimbabwe.

In reply to a question from the Zimbabwean Delegate, the Head of Division IV said that the Netherlands NCB had developed a highly sophisticated system for examining travel documents and was prepared to put the software — which it owned — at the disposal of the other NCBs. Division IV would endeavour to

integrate the system into the ASF. Whether that attempt succeeded or not, NCBs could purchase the system — which was fully independent — from the Netherlands. In any event, steps would be taken to enhance the ASF, which already made it possible to carry out searches simply on the basis of a passport number.

## Illegal adoption of children

The Head of Division II presented the General Assembly report on this matter, and said that the General Secretariat was co-operating more closely with the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Although the objectives of the Conference and those of Interpol were quite different, they came together on the specific subject of abduction by parents and intercountry adoption.

Depending on the country, abduction by a parent could be a matter for civil law only, for criminal law only, or for both. Steps had to be taken to prevent illegal adoption and traffic in children. It was with that in mind that a draft resolution, which encouraged Members to sign and ratify the Hague Convention and to adopt complementary penal provisions, was being submitted to the General Assembly.

The German Delegate recalled that the subject had first been raised by President Mitterrand of France during

the inauguration of Interpol's new Headquarters in 1989. Interpol tried to protect all the weaker members of society who were liable to be exploited. The General Assembly session in Dakar had adopted a resolution asking States to take steps to protect children. Police rules relating to such cases — which were essentially of a civil nature — had to be explained, and traffickers had to be prevented from taking advantage of weak links in international police co-operation. In particular, selective border checks had to be intensified and training had to be developed to that effect. Once the draft resolution was adopted, the following recommendations should be made: greater co-operation with the countries from which the children came; greater sharing of experience among member countries; selective checks at borders and airports; special training for border staff; development of documents which could not be forged.

A discussion then ensued on proposed amendments with regard to the religious aspects of the problem of adoption, particularly in Islamic law countries where adoption was illegal under any circumstances. Amendments proposed by the Algerian Delegate were accepted when draft resolution AGN/62/P.RES/11 on illegal adoption was discussed in plenary session, and the text was then adopted unanimously by the 100 Delegations voting.

### The Kenyan Delegation





# CONTINENTAL MEETINGS

## African Continental Meeting

Mr Seudié, Cameroon, Interpol Vice-President for Africa, chaired the meeting. He began by expressing his pleasure at welcoming South Africa as a new Interpol member country.

The following topics were discussed during the meeting.

### Regional activities

The Chairman reported briefly on the work of the last African Regional Conference which had been held in Harare from 10th to 14th May 1993. The Conference had adopted nine recommendations, one of them relating to the institution of "AFRICASTUP" meetings which would be held at the same time as the African Regional Conferences. The Conference in Harare had again asked the General Secretariat to help the African Continent to operate the Sub-Regional Bureau in Abidjan for an interim period of two years. The General Secretariat had replied that it was quite prepared to help the 24 countries which would be served by the Sub-Regional Bureau on condition that they applied the proverb "God helps those who help themselves". The Harare Conference had unfortunately shown, yet again, that the African countries had difficulty in paying their contributions. It should be noted that the total amount of contributions called up from the African countries represented only 5% of the total called up from all Member States, and that in fact only half of that 5% was paid. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Chairman congratulated those countries which had recently paid off their contribution arrears and appealed to those which had not yet done so to follow suit.

The Regional Conference had also decided to envisage setting up other Sub-Regional Bureaus in Africa, and the Chairman said he believed

Zimbabwe was considering such a possibility. South Africa — which had been present at the Harare Conference as an observer — had offered to train African police officers in its police colleges.

Mr McQuillan, Head of the Technical Support Division, reported on progress with regard to regional modernization of the telecommunications systems. As delegates would have seen in the report on computerization and telecommunications, the General Secretariat would be providing NCBs with two microcomputers, a fax machine and software, all free of charge. Integration of the hardware and software would be carried out by ITS, a subsidiary of SITA, an international organization serving the communications needs of 375 airline companies. SITA was prepared to allow Interpol to use its network, provided that an agreement was signed to that effect. Operating expenses for the network would be quite high, since maintenance costs had to be included.

### The Libyan Delegate



The schedule for implementing regional modernization was subject to receipt of a donation from France and the settlement of the legal aspects of the operation. Access to the SITA network would be via a confidential access code which should not of course be divulged to anyone. Legal documents would be sent to the various NCBs concerned, and Mr McQuillan asked them to return them to the General Secretariat as quickly as possible, since nothing could be done until the contracts had been signed.

A discussion then ensued on the problems of the Sub-Regional Bureau in Abidjan, the creation of further Sub-Regional Bureaus, training for officers by South Africa, and various telecommunications matters. Mr McQuillan replied to the various speakers who had expressed concern about costs, the type of equipment to acquire and the schedule for implementation of the system.

He again called delegates' attention to the contents of the report and its appendices, which described in detail the items of equipment the NCBs would receive free of charge and the way in which the various items worked. He said that training courses would be held in Lyons.

### Day-to-day co-operation

Discussions showed that traffic in stolen vehicles, which was becoming a real scourge in Africa, required a special meeting. The subject would be raised at the Regional Conference on economic crimes and offences to be held in Dar es Salaam. The Chairman then took the floor, noting that bilateral police co-operation suffered from certain procedural difficulties. He drew attention to the fact that no police force had the right of pursuit on the territory of another State, and if officers of an NCB wished to continue their investigations in another country, they had to abide by the rules which had been strictly laid down. He emphasized that the procedure for returning stolen vehicles was not



merely the responsibility of the police, but also of the judicial authorities. He thought it would be appropriate for all the authorities concerned to be made aware of co-operation problems which still persisted, and of the need to share information. He mentioned that the theft of vehicles was carried out in various ways, including "cannibalization", which involved selling stolen vehicles in the form of spare parts. It was particularly difficult to put a stop to that type of traffic and unstinting police co-operation in the region would be required.

### **Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference**

The Algerian Delegate said that his country's government was considering the possibility of hosting the next Regional Conference.

### **American Continental Meeting**

Mr Romeu Tuma, Brazil, Interpol's Vice-President for the Americas, chaired the meeting.

### **Regional activities**

Mr Alvarez, from the Sub-Regional Bureau in Buenos Aires, reported on the Bureau's activities and the difficulties encountered. He urged member countries in South America to respond more effectively to the Bureau's requests for information and to assign liaison officers to it.

The Chilean Delegate had requested a meeting on extradition problems, and a meeting had been scheduled for 17th October 1993.

Some Delegations reported on the problems certain small countries in the Caribbean zone were encountering in paying their contributions (the matter would be discussed during the Finance Committee meeting).

The United States financing for the telecommunications modernization plan was considered to be insufficient, and it had been proposed that a video cassette be produced for training operators and that basic computer



*The Laotian Delegation*

training be provided, in an attempt to make the system more operational.

### **Day-to-day co-operation**

The Chilean Delegate thanked the United States and Paraguay for their assistance in arresting Chilean nationals.

### **Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference**

The 14th American Regional Conference would be held in the United States (the exact venue would be decided within the next few months).

### **Asian Continental Meeting**

Mr Kawada, Japan, Interpol Vice-President for Asia, chaired the meeting.

### **Regional activities**

The Chairman submitted the report from the Working Party on Regionalization in Asia which had met on 28th September 1993 in Aruba, under his chairmanship. He recalled that the Working Party had been set up in 1986 by the Asian Regional

Conference meeting in Tonga. Of the member countries, only Saudi Arabia had been delayed and unable to attend, and the Indonesian Delegate had attended as an observer.

He recalled that at the Working Party's last meeting in Beijing, the discussions on the question of sub-regionalization within Asia had not come to any conclusions. The Working Party had therefore continued to study that point in the light of the information received on the situation of the Sub-Regional Bureaus in Abidjan and Buenos Aires. The Working Party had realized that there did not, as yet, seem to be very much enthusiasm in Asia for setting up a Sub-Regional Bureau. It had therefore come to the conclusions given on page 2 of the report.

- The General Secretariat should set up its own team of officials whose task would be to liaise with members in the region and support them until further initiatives were taken by certain countries or groups of Asian countries.
- The NCBs should be encouraged to provide the General Secretariat — and the liaison team — with more information.

- Telecommunications for Asian NCBs should be modernized to take account of progress at the Regional Station in Tokyo.





**The Guinean Delegation**

The Head of Division II informed delegates that the drugs liaison officers who were stationed at the General Secretariat, and who were also competent to deal with other forms of crime, had recently been assigned to specific geographical sectors in the interests of efficiency. The re-organization of the Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Division was continuing and an analysis unit had been set up. Officers from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States would be staffing the unit and it would be able to offer the General Secretariat's "customers" a better operational service. The General Secretariat had already asked members to second more officials with operational qualifications, and it had received some very encouraging replies. Such a strengthening of the General Secretariat's services would contribute in particular to solving language problems.

Sub-regionalization within Asia was then discussed. It was agreed to approve the Working Party's conclusions, and it was considered that the General Secretariat should set up a team of liaison officers at Headquarters while awaiting any initiatives which groups of Asian countries might take. The Meeting asked member countries to send the Working Party more information, and reminded NCBs that they should modernize their equipment and finance regionalization projects.

### **Day-to-day co-operation**

NCBs were reminded that they should reply — at least with an interim message — as quickly as possible to any information requests they received. The Chairman urged the Asian Delegates to take advantage of the General Assembly session to discuss problems of day-to-day co-operation among themselves.

### **Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference**

The Indian Delegate said that his country would be pleased to host the 13th Asian Regional Conference on a date which had yet to be decided.

### **European Continental Meeting**

Mr Eriksson, Sweden, Interpol Vice-President for Europe, chaired the meeting.

He began by welcoming the delegations from Belarus, the Czech Republic, Georgia and Slovakia which had joined Interpol during the current General Assembly session.

### **Regional activities**

As the Chairman of the Interpol European Committee was unable to be present, Mr Barry Taylor, Head of the

United Kingdom NCB, reminded the delegates of the five priorities identified within the European Business Plan.

Within regard to relations with other organizations, Mr Taylor briefly summarized the progress made in establishing the Europol Drugs Unit and reminded delegates of the proposal made by Switzerland for linking the various national units set up to handle the international exchange of information (e.g. for Europol and Schengen). The issue would be discussed by the Interpol European Committee during its next meeting.

Referring to the development of key operational activities, he stated that the study on motor vehicle crime being led by Mr Nyholm, Finland, would be presented to the Interpol European Committee for discussion in November. He added that the United Kingdom was shortly to second an officer to the General Secretariat to work on the subject of traffic in stolen motor vehicles. Mr Taylor then reported on progress made to develop the analytical unit at the General Secretariat and described the assistance given by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. He also discussed a paper which had been distributed by the European Secretariat at the request of the Interpol European Committee on crime investigation techniques.

He recalled the "Quality of service" priority. A paper proposing service standards, prepared following discussion of the Burbeck Report, had recently been circulated; delegates were reminded of the need to submit their comments at their earliest opportunity. Mr Taylor also reported that work was in hand to develop a media and marketing strategy for Interpol. That would relate both to NCBs and to the General Secretariat.

He stated that the Standing Committee on Information Technology had been asked to develop a model for the handling of data within NCBs in pursuance of priority D of the Business Plan.

As for the need to "manage the significance of a wider Europe", Mr Taylor pointed out that a number of countries needed support to help them establish effective NCBs. He added



that bilateral aid should reach further than the NCBs if effective policing systems were to be developed.

He emphasized the need for all NCBs in Europe to commit themselves to the Business Plan and contribute to its success by positive action. He thanked those countries that had provided the Chairman of the Interpol European Committee with an update of the progress they had made under the Plan. He asked those countries that had not responded to the request for information to do so, and also invited countries to notify the European Secretariat or the Chairman of the IEC of new items they would like to see included in the Plan.

In conclusion, Mr Taylor drew attention to the Interpol 2000 initiative, emphasizing its link with the Business Plan: he urged delegates to endorse it.

Before any questions on Mr Taylor's report, the floor was given to Mr Cameron-Waller, Head of the European Secretariat, as the issues contained in the European Secretariat Activity Report were closely linked with the activities of the Interpol European Committee.

Mr Cameron-Waller said that one of the significant tasks carried out by the European Secretariat/European Liaison Bureau since the 22nd European Regional Conference had been to review its own role in the light of the decision to extend the European Liaison Bureau so as to include the former European Drug Liaison Officers. A circular on the European Liaison Bureau had subsequently been distributed. Mr Cameron-Waller also reported on recent and anticipated postings of officers to the European Secretariat from Poland, Austria, Belgium and France.

He stated that the abstract of decisions taken during the 22nd European Regional Conference had been distributed on 28th June 1993 and that the final report had been distributed in September.

Following the request of the Netherlands during the 22nd European Regional Conference, the European Secretariat had assisted in the preparation of a proposal to ensure that action taken in pursuance of resolutions and recommendations of

the General Assembly and Regional Conferences was monitored and reported upon. The proposal had been considered by the Executive Committee during its July meeting and further work was to be done at the General Secretariat to pursue the initiative.

Mr Cameron-Waller reported that a paper had been sent to the Norwegian authorities on *the role Interpol could play in the context of major sporting events* (it would be distributed to all European countries). A document describing the facilities available and methods used to trace wanted persons and stolen property had also recently been circulated to European NCBs.

He said that cases where the European Liaison Bureau was called upon to assist member countries included both requests for information of a general nature and requests connected with ongoing enquiries. He noted that a number of cases in which assistance had been given involved non-European countries.

Looking to the future, the Activity Plan for the European Liaison Bureau, which included a schedule of visits to all European NCBs, was discussed.

### Day-to-day co-operation

The Swiss Delegate drew attention to the need for links between NCBs

and the police departments that would be working with the Europol Drug Unit and the Schengen Information System. That point had been raised by Switzerland during the 22nd European Regional Conference and a report on any progress achieved had been requested.

As well as the subject of links between NCBs and departments that *would deal with the Europol Drug Unit and the Schengen Information System*, several other topics were raised during the ensuing discussion.

- The "minimum requirements" paper.
- Training for Eastern and Central European countries.
- Delays in transmission and mail encountered by some NCBs (all NCBs were asked to apply the recommendations made in the Burbeck Report).
- The problem of traffic in stolen vehicles.
- The possibility of "tutor" countries providing assistance to other countries attempting to adapt to the needs of international police co-operation.

### Date and meeting place for the next Regional Conference

It was decided that the 23rd European Regional Conference would be held in Sinaia, Romania, in May 1994.

#### *The Delegate from Grenada*





# 1994 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

The Programme of Activities that was submitted listed only those undertakings likely to have a significant influence on the future development of the Organization. In addition, there would be the meetings of any Working Parties the General Assembly decided to establish, and another 20 to 25 meetings of Working Parties on subjects of topical interest for international police co-operation.

The numerous tasks connected with day-to-day co-operation and the Organization's normal business — a major part of the General Secretariat's activities — were not included in the list presented, nor were many activities which had been decided on by the Organization's governing bodies and which extended over several years.

The 1994 Programme of Activities was adopted unanimously by the 102 Delegations voting.

## General Administration

- Monitoring "Interpol 2000".
- Study and implementation of a new departmental layout at the General Secretariat to take account of technological developments and changes since the move to Lyons.
- Study and implementation of a computerized document management system within the Document Production Sub-Division, in liaison with Division IV.
- Feasibility study on the installation of a computer-assisted translation system at the General Secretariat.
- Review of the maintenance and operating contracts covering installations in the Headquarters building.
- Study of the post classifications and salary scales, in liaison with Division III.
- Revision of the Staff Rules, in liaison with Division III (ongoing project)
- Management of the debt rescheduling agreements in accordance with Resolution AGN/61/RES/2 adopted by the General Assembly at its 61st session.

- Review and updating of internal administrative and financial procedures, in liaison with the Financial Controller and Division III.

## Liaison and Criminal Intelligence

### Conferences, Symposia and Meetings

- 23rd European Regional Conference
- 8th Symposium on international terrorism
- 4th International Symposium on organized crime
- Working Party Meeting on organized crime / drug trafficking
- 3rd International Symposium on firearms and explosives
- European Regional Meeting on motor vehicle crime
- Meetings of the Standing Committee for offences against minors, the handicapped, and old people
- Standing Committee Meeting on disaster victim identification
- International Symposium on maritime piracy

- Working Party on money laundering activities
- 2nd International Conference on fraudulent travel documents
- 16th European Meeting on counterfeit currency
- Working Party Meeting on colour copier counterfeiting
- International Fraud Symposium
- Working Party Meeting on computer crime
- Working Party Meeting on environmental crime
- International Meeting on credit cards
- Meeting on economic crime in Africa
- 20th European Meeting for Heads of National Drugs Services
- 4th Meeting on psychotropic substances
- Meeting on cocaine trafficking
- Meeting on heroin
- Meeting on the Balkan Route
- Meetings of the Interpol European Committee
- 6th Meeting of European Contact Officers
- Meeting on traffic in stolen vehicles in Africa
- Meeting on drug trafficking and organized crime in the Gulf countries.

### The United States Delegation





## Projects and in-depth studies

- Creation of an "identification manual" pertaining to motorcycle club colours
- Drawing up of a study on the "European perspective 93-94" relating to the evolution of motorcycle club criminal activity in Europe
- Publication of a report on the European chapters of "Hell's Angels", describing their developments, evolution and structure, and a breakdown of the criminal activity involving their members worldwide
- Production of the stolen works of art notices in Spanish
- Transfer of data from the PROPERTY and CASE files to the stolen art file for future use with the ASF, with the assistance of Division IV and SD4
- Production of a brochure dealing specifically with stolen art and cultural property and other property for which international circulations are requested
- Feasibility study on the possibility of designing a system for money-laundering link analysis and identification of trends, patterns and changes in money laundering
- Study of problems regarding piracy, especially in South-East Asia
- Project for an anti-virus programme and an emergency alarm network, and study on methods of combating computer crime
- Study on crime connected with intellectual property
- Study on the Baltic States as transit countries
- Study of drug trafficking routes between Poland, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and possible developments
- Based on an Italian report, study of the drug situation in Lebanon
- Implementation of the plan to set up a Crime Analysis Group at the General Secretariat
- Study to analyse investigation techniques with a view to improving practice in this area
- Study of minimum criteria for the efficient operation of European National Central Bureaus

## Training

- Training seminar on the Chinese Commercial Code



*The Spanish Delegation*

- Training on economic crime
- Courses on the manufacture of paper for security documents and security printing
- Training cycle for Latin American counterfeit currency experts
- Course in strategic analytical techniques sponsored by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

## Legal Matters and Training

- Meetings of the Supervisory Board for the internal control of Interpol's archives
- 11th Symposium for Heads of Police Colleges
- Working Party on the amendment of the Constitution
- 20th Training Seminar for NCB officials
- Work connected with the Organization's Constitution and General Regulations
- Legal monitoring of the Agreements concluded in respect of departments located outside the Organization's Headquarters
- Revision of the Staff Rules
- Monitoring of resolutions

## Computerization and Telecommunications

- 13th Interpol Telecommunications Conference
- Meetings of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (SCIT)

- 3rd Training Course for telecommunications technicians at NCBs
- Setting up of the telecommunications system for the General Assembly session
- Regional modernization: bringing into service of the X.400/ASF communications network in the Caribbean / Central America and West Africa, and continuation of the plan for South America and Eastern Europe
- Initial installation of a formatted message system
- Image transmission over the X.400 network: installation and definition of the standard
- Studies on the development of the X.400 network
- Development of information on the CIS system for loading onto the ASF database
- Development of the ASF system with the addition of new NCBs connected to the system
- Installation of ASF database transmission for NCBs with a view to independent management
- Study on integrating an application for stolen works of art into the ASF system
- Development scheme for the ASF server to take account of new technology
- Feasibility study on automating the circulation of DPS forms at the General Secretariat
- Study and installation of a criminal information analysis system at the General Secretariat.



# ELECTIONS AND CHOICE OF MEETING PLACE FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

## Notification of the appointment of an Adviser to the Organization

The President informed the General Assembly that the term of office of Mr Seudié (Cameroon) as Vice-President for Africa was coming to an end and that the Executive Committee had decided, at its 104th session, to appoint him as the Adviser on the revision of the Constitution to replace Mr Akelé.

Mr Seudié expressed his gratitude to the Executive Committee and said he would do his utmost to carry out the new duties which had been entrusted to him.

The President then announced that the elections for vacant seats on the Executive Committee would take place.

## Executive Committee elections

Mr Wajahat Latif, Pakistan, was elected Vice-President for Asia.

Mr Harun Guido Mahundi, Tanzania, was elected Vice-President for Africa.

## Elections for Delegates to the Executive Committee

Mr Serag El-Din El-Rooby, Egypt, was elected Delegate for Africa.

Mr Bernard K. Bonamy, Bahamas, was elected Delegate for the Americas (one-year term of office).

Mr Nelson Mery Figueroa, Chile, was elected Delegate for the Americas (three-year term of office).

Mr Hans Ludwig Zachert, Germany, was elected Delegate for Europe.

Mrs Etty Yevnin, Israel, was elected Delegate for Asia (one-year term of office).

## Choice of meeting place for the 63rd General Assembly session

The President said that the Secretary General had been informed that Italy would like to host the 63rd General Assembly session. There were no other candidates.

Mr Portaccio, Italy, confirmed the invitation on behalf of his country's Ministry of the Interior, and said that the session could be held either from 28th September to 4th October or from 5th to 11th October 1994.

Italy's offer was accepted by acclamation.



*Below Mr Latif and then Mr Mahundi; on the right from top to bottom: Mr El-Rooby, Mr Bonamy, Mr Mery Figueroa, Mr Zachert, Mrs Yevnin*







**Mr Alberto Elías Hernández, *comisario principal*, Head of the Central Drugs Office at the Spanish Police Headquarters and a member of the Spanish Delegation in Aruba, died during the General Assembly session.**

**The Interpol General Secretariat wishes to associate itself with the sentiments expressed below by Mr Prieto, Head of the Spanish NCB.**

## Dear Alberto,

It was your first trip as a Delegate to an Interpol General Assembly session, and it turned out to be the last trip the three of us would ever make together: Miguel Pulido, you and I.

"See you at 11 o'clock sharp at Barajas, at the Iberia counter" we had agreed. And you were late, which was so unlike you as you were always so punctual. A premonition? Probably not - just problems in Madrid that had held you up. But when you arrived I said, as a joke, "I'll mention this in my final report", do you remember? There were many more things I had to put in that report, some of which I would never have wanted to write, but today Alberto I want to write of joy and memories. How can we forget your lively and questioning turn of mind, your courage and your quickness of thought, your gift for correcting mistakes with an ironic laugh, while firmly defending your point of view. I remember how, talking about your personal view of international co-operation, you said you felt we would have to start again from scratch, on new foundations, because of the implications in terms of the responsibilities of other, higher institutions. You were never unwilling to accept other arguments, provided they were logical.

After a long, fifteen-hour flight and the uncertainty of the unknown, where was Aruba? In the darkness we began to make out a small plot of land from the air. As we approached, we could see small boats cutting peacefully through the Atlantic. "I would love to sail a little boat", you said, and now

you are sailing through waters unknown to us. You are one step ahead of us in investigating new horizons, and it is hard to imagine you have not found some way of using your energy. Because after all, Elias, how could you leave us in Aruba on Spain's National Police Day, in front of 170 police delegations from all over the world? The only possible explanation is that you were needed for other duties (no doubt involving some form of investigation) over there, on those other beats you are already walking.

Our last conversation about drugs is still fresh in my mind. It may be professional conditioning, but police officers often end up saying the same thing ... increased seizures ... money laundering ... greater depth ... reorganization ... extension ... more motivation. But how? You were totally committed to tackling major problems which you could not always solve because we are only one segment

of the whole of society which have to attack the evil at its roots. All these problems with which you struggled so vigorously were undoubtedly a source of stress. But you were not overcome by the tension. On the contrary, I can still hear "Hey, Manolo, introduce me to people, from Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia, Turkey ... to all of them", and you swapped calling cards and badges. All this to provide you with more contacts and, in the final analysis, more work, more tension, more responsibility: to make you more of a policeman. Of course, Interpol's Secretary General pinned on the Spanish police badge you had given him on condition he wore it throughout the General Assembly session; I can testify that he did so.

Although you left without warning Chamorro, Pulido or anybody else, the whole police community had been aware of your presence during those few days of the General Assembly, which explains the warm and well-deserved homage paid to you.

I shall end there for the moment, Alberto, except to send you a message of hope. We are all making an effort to bring your projects to fruition. You are now well placed to watch over us so do please, from time to time, send us some information about the sort of "little case" which you managed to handle so well down here. Once a policeman, always a policeman, eh?







## States, Territories and Observers attending the 62nd General Assembly session

### States and Territories

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands\*, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong\*, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao\*\*\*, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto-Rico\*\*, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

\* United Kingdom NCB Sub-Bureaus

\*\* United States NCB Sub-Bureaus

\*\*\* Portuguese NCB Sub-Bureau

### Observers

International Air Transport Association  
International Banking Security Association  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
Customs Co-operation Council  
International Civil Aviation Organization  
Technical Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council



## CONFERENCE SIDELIGHTS

by Miguel Chamorro  
General Secretariat

At the invitation of the Aruban Government, 436 delegates from police forces throughout the world and representing 174 countries, from four Sub-Regional Bureaus and from six international organizations, gathered from 29th September to 5th October on the Caribbean's "Happy Island" for the 62nd General Assembly session.

Let us straight away welcome Interpol's seven new member countries: we are the largest international organization after the United Nations.

Curiosity is part and parcel of police work and is one thing we all have in common so, wishing to know more about Aruba, we investigated a little.

The etymological origins of the name Aruba are uncertain but research has come up with some possibilities, including the presence of Arawak Indians, a tribe of the Caiquetio nation, who gave its name to the island. Another possibility is that the name derived from the merging of the two Indian words "ora" and "ubao" meaning "island of shells". This theory is equally acceptable, considering that the beautiful white beaches have been formed by the gradual pulverization of millions of seashells. The island of Aruba lies some 30 km off the coast of Venezuela. It has a surface area of 193 square kilometres and a population of 70,000. Its favourable location outside the hurricane belt and under the trade winds, mean that it has a constant



**A Caribbean beach**

temperature of around 27° C throughout the year.

It was discovered in 1499 by a Spaniard, Alonso de Ojeda, and remained under Spanish rule until 1634, when it was acquired by the Dutch East India Company.

At the beginning of the 19th century, a third of the population was still of Indian stock, despite the vicissitudes of the island's history.

Around 1780, just as the East India Company's authority was beginning to weaken, the influx of European traders gave a new boost to the Aruban economy. For many years, horses, aloe plants and gold were the basis of Aruba's exports and wealth, until in 1928 the Lago Oil and Transport Company established the refinery for the oil from the Lake Maracaibo oilfields. What began as a modest enterprise reached a daily production of almost half a million barrels.



putting it among the world's largest refineries. However, from 1985 onwards, because of unstable prices on the oil market, the refinery lost its place as the island's main source of income and the tourist industry took over.

In 1954, a statute was proclaimed stating that the Netherlands, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles wished to continue co-operating with each other voluntarily, as equal partners and as autonomous countries. As from 1st January 1986, on obtaining constitutional separation, Aruba became an autonomous entity within the kingdom of the Netherlands.

As an independent country, Aruba has adopted a Western-style system of parliamentary democracy with a Governor appointed by the Netherlands' crown, a Parliament elected by popular suffrage, and a Council of Ministers appointed by Parliament.

Over the years, communities of more than forty different nationalities have settled in Aruba with the naturally ensuing cultural, economic, social and religious consequences.

The peaceful coexistence of these communities created an international melting pot in which the new nation developed. And there are clear benefits: today, most Arubans are fluent in English, Dutch, Spanish and, above all Papiamentu (an amalgam of the three other languages).

The Arubans' tolerance and affability, and the incredible ease with which they make contact with people from other parts of the world, can undoubtedly be assumed to derive from their multicultural society.

The Assembly working sessions were held in the sumptuous Hotel Americana and, as the days went by, we had many opportunities of appreciating the wisdom of Mr Peterson's choice of hotel complex and its installations. In fact, having all the delegates a few minutes away from the conference hall avoided problems with transport, traffic and security. Also it must be said that the hotel and restaurant services were of the highest level of quality and professionalism.



*The gardens and swimming pool of the Americana Hotel*

Social life was, in fact, particularly active because, in addition to the various events planned by the host country, there were spontaneous ones which came about as a result of more contact between the delegates' families who were staying in the same hotels and, above all, the general enjoyment of the lovely swimming pools running straight into the palm-fringed beaches of fine, white sand which can only be seen under Caribbean skies.

The first event to highlight was the dinner offered in honour of the Executive Committee at the "Escale" restaurant. It was attended by Acting Governor Max Croes and his wife. Music was provided by a string orchestra which played selections typical of each country represented on the Executive Committee and ended with Mendelssohn's Wedding March and Schubert's Ave Maria specially requested by Mr Kendall for his wife, on the occasion of their wedding anniversary.

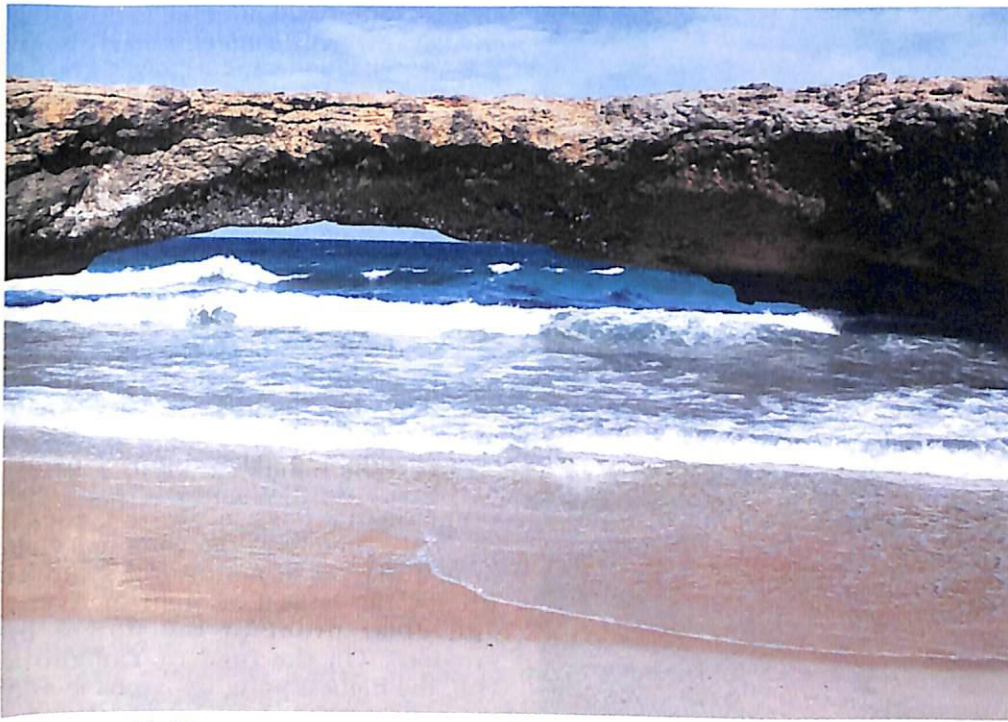
On Wednesday, 29th September, the Government of Aruba gave a cocktail party for all the delegates in the incomparable setting of the Hotel Americana's gardens and terraces where, once the official reception had ended, some couples stayed on to

enjoy the melodious rhythms of the Caribbean. The next day, there was the traditional party given by Interpol's President and Secretary General on the Hotel Radisson terraces around the brightly lit Olympic-sized swimming pool, reflecting the turquoise of its waters off the surrounding palm trees and on the white beach beyond the gardens, with the calm ocean a silver mirror in the moonlight.

The United States delegation had its usual "Hospitality Suite", this time at the Flamboyant Suite of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the most elegant in the area, which enabled us to stroll, just like the other wealthy residents, through the luxuriant vegetation of the gardens, with their small waterfalls and lakes in which the colourful fish appeared somewhat suspicious of the newcomers, and on its beaches with their different species of wading birds. There is no doubt that the aim of this facility — making new friends and renewing existing friendships — was successfully achieved in a completely relaxed atmosphere.

An "Aruban Night" had been promised. It was held on 4th October, the final evening for most of the delegates in Aruba, and it seemed as if the awareness that we would all soon





**The natural bridge**

be leaving made everyone even more friendly and open. The result was an unforgettable evening at the Aruba Entertainment Center.

A ravishing "Miss Aruba" welcomed us at the entrance to the Center and, together with the beautiful girls from the Aruban NCB's public relations team, handed out flowers to all the ladies present.

The copious and tasty dishes we were served gave us the energy we needed to keep up with the rhythm of the group which played Latin American music far into the night.

The delegates took advantage of the free weekend to make a variety of excursions and the most intrepid adventurers went in search of the ocean bed aboard the submarine "Atlantis". From the dock of the Seaport Village Marina in Oranjestad, we boarded the catamaran which took us out to the high seas where we transferred to the submarine. When we reached the chosen spot in the open sea, the catamaran's engines were cut and, from the upper deck, we gazed around us trying to spot the "Atlantis". Minutes later, it surfaced

**The divi-divi tree, blown into shape by the prevailing trade wind**

in front of the catamaran's bow like a gigantic, 65-foot white dolphin and came alongside the starboard side of the catamaran. 46 delegates boarded through the submarine's hatchway, went down the ladder and sat at the windows which would serve as privileged observatories through which, for an hour at a depth of 150 feet, we could contemplate marine life in all its shapes and sizes. The forms and colours of the fishes were so

unexpected that they seemed unreal. We were captivated by the coral reefs among which the sea horses played and where predators would lie in wait for the smallest fish to pass. Finally, the captain of the "Atlantis" wanted us to experience something quite unique: he stopped the submarine's engines and let it settle smoothly on the bed of the Caribbean, on a stretch of pure white sand, so that the more daring fishes could approach and look at us through the portholes on either side of the "Atlantis".

Our astonishment knew no bounds when we saw two extremely strange fish approaching, each one was as big as a man and they were pulling a streamer. As they came nearer, so that their "fins" touched the submarine, we could read "Welcome to Interpol General Assembly" on the streamer. It was a surprise arranged for us by Mr Peterson and the "fish" were, of course, two divers.

Before the trip began, some of us privately feared that they might suffer from claustrophobia, but in the end nobody did. The light which the crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean allowed to filter down to us, the spectacle of the aquatic ballet before us, and our contemplation of the exotic marine life relieved us of our fears and, following the advice of a tourist brochure, we let ourselves enjoy the rich colours and sensations of the sea.



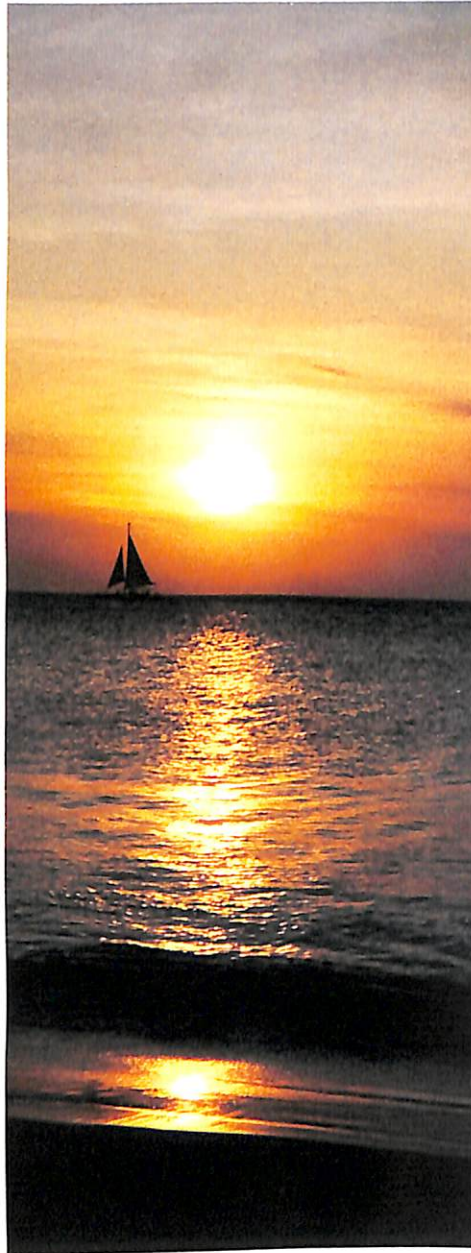


The more romantic among us chose the trip to the island of Sonesta, a 4,000-square metre private beach on a private island only a few minutes away by the speedboat shuttle leaving from the lobby of the Hotel Sonesta itself - a luxury we do not come across every day. There were all types of facilities for water sports and the two beaches of fine white sand were a permanent invitation to bask in the warm waves gently breaking at the foot of the restaurant-terrace from which the fortunate delegates could relive the old dream of Robinson Crusoe.

Lying on the beach or sitting comfortably on the terrace, we were all captivated by the spectacular way in which the pelicans practised the art of fishing.

Although pelicans look ungainly and heavy, once in flight they are as elegant as seagulls or golden eagles. We could watch them hovering some 15 metres above us with their wings fully spread and rigid, patrolling the length of the beach. Suddenly they would fold their wings, shape up and dive in a tremendously fast, sheer free-fall onto their invisible prey. They would emerge seconds later with a half-swallowed fish and clumsily take flight again, making a full circle to come round and land on the roof of the restaurant. It is very rare for them to fail at the first attempt.

While we were admiring this spectacle the day came to an end. In Aruba, the transition is very brief and in a few minutes the sky changed from



intense light to the unique, captivating pinks and golds of the Caribbean sunset.

Every day, almost all of us would explore the island once the working day was over, and we were able to visit the Aruban capital of Oranjestad, where fine specimens of colonial architecture can still be admired.

Those with less time to spend took a guided tour to discover special places such as the Spanish Lagoon, an old pirates' refuge which is now a desalination and electric power plant, or the historic battlefield of Frenchman's Pass, a narrow, rocky canyon. There was the essential visit to that marvel of nature, the Natural Bridge, the largest of eight in Aruba and clear proof of the power of erosion. On the road to Yamanota Hill, the highest point on Aruba at 188 metres, we photographed the characteristic dividivi or watapana trees, shaped by the constant action of the trade winds so that all their branches point West. Although we were unable to see it with our own eyes, they say there is only one dividivi which has grown upright and it can be found in the Arikok National Park.

Thanks to this General Assembly session, we all experienced unforgettable and deeply emotional moments as we discovered a dream country. Our very sincere thanks to Mr Peterson and his team, who organized our stay in Aruba or, as they say in Papiamentu, "Masha Danki".