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OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The 64th session of the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly was held in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995. Mr Eriksson, President of Interpol, chaired the Opening Ceremony which was held in the presence of Mr Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China. The texts of the speeches they gave are given below in full.

Speech by the President of the ICPO-Interpol

Mr President, Mr Minister, Honourable Delegates, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

The People's Republic of China has, since it became a member of the ICPO-Interpol in 1984, supported Interpol's law enforcement efforts. The People's Republic of China has also contributed to the Organization by Mr Zhu En Tao being a Member of the Executive Committee during 1985-1987 and as acting as Vice-President for Asia on the Executive Committee during 1987-1990.

Organizing this General Assembly, the People's Republic of China has further emphasized how important it considers our Organization to be.

It is an honour for me to address all of you at the opening ceremony of this the 64th General Assembly. We represent an impressive assembly. Not only because we are 135 countries represented here, but also because most of us are police officers who fight crime on a professional basis, and by that fact,

represent professional experience. The most important thing is that we all are dedicated and committed to fighting crime. Furthermore we have chosen to combat international crime within the framework of the ICPO-Interpol. One important reason for our choice is that the ICPO-Interpol Constitution has enabled the member countries to co-



Mr. Eriksson, President of Interpol, making the opening speech.

operate in the fight against crime in a most flexible way with due respect for the national laws of each country.

In this first year as your President I have had the great privilege of seeing and participating in Interpol work throughout the world by attending the Regional Conferences

in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. I have also been able, in my capacity as President, to visit some other specific countries in South America, Europe and Southern Africa.

These conferences and meetings with police officials have given me an insight into the increasing crime problems that each region faces. The problems differ of course from region to region. But I would still like to characterize the similarities that the regions have.

The traditional types of crimes remain. Law enforcement authorities are also obliged to develop and use new strategies to fight crimes like environmental crime and sexual abuse against women and children.

We also notice that sophisticated communication and transportation systems for people, goods, money, news and computer messages are being developed and used.

Technical development is of course positive for mankind, but we must be aware that the criminals are using this in order to expand their markets and to increase their profits.

Because of this development, it is very positive that the member countries have taken initiatives, under the Interpol umbrella, to strengthen police co-operation within the regions in different parts of the world. Extended use of the technical facilities is, in my opinion, necessary and important and offers enhanced possibilities to law enforcement within Interpol.



A view of the official rostrum during the opening ceremony.

This has created a need not only for national and international police co-operation but also for initiatives to establish co-operation with the Regions.

There has been another Regional initiative in Europe outside Interpol, by the European Union. The European Union, which consists of fifteen of Europe's forty-five countries, has chosen to establish co-operation between law enforcement authorities outside the Interpol entity by the Europol, Schengen and K4 Committee initiatives.

Of course, there might sometimes be a need for an organization like the European Union to co-operate even more closely than is possible through an already existing organization such as Interpol. The European Union has accordingly taken the initiatives I just referred to, aiming at such close co-operation. Consequently, the next natural step for Europol and Interpol is then to avoid duplication of effort and ensure that these initiatives will be complementary to our work in order to improve the fight against crime.

This complicated situation can, in my opinion, only be solved in a constructive way if we focus on the users' need for efficient law enforcement in the European region.

Professional users of Interpol and the new entities mentioned are, of course, the best ones to decide on how they should co-ordinate and divide tasks and projects in the European region.

Ladies and gentlemen, the ICPO-Interpol is indeed a productive organization which during this last year has accomplished a lot. But, please remember that these achievements are the results of a long time of planning. This year's results derive from decisions taken by the General Assembly many

years ago, such as the Regional Modernization Plan that was adopted by the General Assembly in Punta del Este in 1991.

These wise and constructive decisions have been taken by you and your predecessors, who have been and are working with police issues on a professional basis and therefore are the best decision-makers. Time will not allow me to mention all that has been achieved this last year, but I would like to mention some things.

- Regional initiatives: To enhance closer co-operation between member countries, regional initiatives have been taken in Africa, South America, and Eastern and Central Europe. Here in Asia, the liaison office in Bangkok is one example of progress, and another is the Asian Contact Officers programme that has developed rapidly. This emphasizes the regionalization of our worldwide Organization. Rapidly developing regional co-operation was foreseen by the Organization and the Regional Co-ordination Bureau was created to guide and support these initiatives. With the support from this Bureau and from the Secretary General, preparations have been

The conference hall during the opening ceremony. Insert, the facade of the Beijing International Convention Center.



undertaken to establish Sub-Regional Bureaus in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and in Harare, Zimbabwe. It is a great pleasure for me to notice that several of the regional initiatives are items on the agenda for this session either for adoption or presentation.

- **Modernization:** The Regional Modernization Plan has successfully been implemented in South America by the inauguration of the Sub-Regional Bureau in Buenos Aires, and is well under way in Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern and Central Europe and the Middle East. It is now important for the Organization to continue the Regional Modernization Plan by including Asia.

- **Service Standards:** Important and essential efforts have been made in the Organization to implement the Interpol Service Standards, a subject to which I will return later in my speech.

- Interpol continues to develop co-operation and knowledge by training, studies, analyses and conferences on a whole variety of crimes. Each year I am impressed by the achievements that have been accomplished. I know that this year's Progress Report which will be presented here will prove that once again.

- Skilful and important work has been done at the General Secretariat under the skilful leadership of the Secretary General, to create new databases and functions concerning stolen works of art, counterfeit currency and false documents. The creation of a database concerning stolen vehicles in Europe is also an impressive and important result of the General Secretariat's efforts.

- This General Assembly will also deal with other important issues for the future development of Interpol, ranging from administrative and financial questions to law enforcement matters like the budget, amendment of the Constitution, appointment of the Secretary General, the

replacement and merging of the CIS and ASF system, training for NCB officials, monitoring of resolutions, illicit drug trafficking, fingerprint transmission, computer-related crime.

My hope is that this Assembly will vote for constructive resolutions on each and every subject.

- We are all aware of the fact that ICPO-Interpol will not, in the future, be able to finance its activities if the member countries fail to pay their contributions. The Executive Committee has therefore worked hard to follow Resolution No. 3 adopted by the 63rd General Assembly, putting forward suggestions on how to strengthen sanctions against member countries which are not paying their contributions to the Organization. It is therefore now my hope that we will reach constructive solutions for this problem at this General Assembly.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate on my vision regarding the future of our Organization. But, when talking about the future of the ICPO-Interpol we must bear in mind history to be able to draw constructive conclusions on how to meet the challenges of the future. We must remember that the Organization has, due to the construction of the Constitution, provided a forum for police authorities throughout the world to assist each other and to be assisted by the General Secretariat.

This ability is of course built on each and every person who works within the framework of Interpol. But the ability is also founded on know-how. Know-how concerning buying, building and using technical equipment. Know-how concerning how to give and receive police information and intelligence. Know-how concerning sharing important conclusions about the structure of criminal activities. Know-how concerning trust between police officers. All these factors, and many more, have made Interpol into an



Mr. Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China, making his welcome speech.

organization which stands second to none when compared with other international organizations.

My first point as regards the future of Interpol is therefore that we must consolidate the know-how we have developed within Interpol by respecting the Constitution and by implementing the Service Standards and the Interpol 2000 concept. This will become even more important when the Organization gets a more regional approach.

My second point concerns human communication: we must all take greater responsibility in communicating Interpol's know-how.

This must be done by the NCBs, when communicating with the management level in the police forces and in contacts with the ministerial level in their own countries, to gain understanding for Interpol's work. It is of the utmost importance that Ministers are fully informed of Interpol's

activities and the Organization's possibilities of combating crime.

The Organization must, through the Secretary General and the President, improve relations with other international organizations like the UN. This will be the subject of a proposed resolution during this General Assembly. Interpol is indeed already involved in co-operation with the UN. An example of this is the support to the International Tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Using its know-how Interpol should be able to play a more important role in a global strategy to combat crime. In many countries, increasing criminality has become a security threat to healthy economic development and the establishment and preservation of democracy. In this respect it is very important for confidence in Interpol, that every member country implements Resolution No. 16 adopted by the 63rd General Assembly on "Training in Human Rights in Police Colleges".

My third point concerns crime prevention. This, in a way, actually ties all the other issues together. Having the technical equipment to communicate messages, an advanced information technology, and the Interpol structure to communicate know-how, makes it possible for us to break the increasing crime trend by always trying to be one step ahead of the criminals.

This will be hard to achieve if we don't put a lot more emphasis on crime prevention. This is being done today, but I have the firm belief that we can do even better by drawing crime prevention conclusions from every analysis we make on certain criminal structures. We must also improve our abilities to share our professional conclusions with colleagues in our own countries and with other international organizations, to enable us to take the necessary measures to prevent crime.

My fourth point deals with the financing of the Organization. This subject refers back to what I mentioned earlier in my speech about commitment, dedication and communication. The Organization depends on the work you all are fulfilling. But not only this, we also need sufficient financial support to uphold the activities of the Organization. It is important, from a solidarity point of view, that each member country pays its contribution. Even more important is the fact that payment of contributions within the time limits is an obligation inherent in membership of the ICPO-Interpol. We must all voice this fact to the decision-makers in every country to make them understand that the work being carried out is essential in the global fight against crime and that the Organization needs financial support from each member country for its important task.

Before expressing our gratitude to those who have contributed to this General Assembly session, I would like to share with you a reflection I made during the preparation for this General Assembly. During this session there will, no doubt, be serious discussions about important administrative questions. But ladies and gentlemen, let us all, before making up our minds on these issues, recall our Constitution and remember that our primary goal is to fight against criminality by ensuring and promoting the widest possible assistance between all criminal police authorities, within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

Ladies and gentlemen, I have very much enjoyed my first year as President of the ICPO-Interpol. It has been a pleasure to co-operate with the members on the Executive Committee and to note their dedication to our work. I have also been very fortunate to work closely with the Secretary General and his excellent staff — all doing outstanding work.

I would also like to mention the contacts I have had when attending the Regional Conferences and other meetings with colleagues. I feel that I have established many friendly relations. Therefore, I am looking forward to meeting all of you at this Conference not only on a professional basis but also on a personal level, finishing my first year as President by tying our friendship closer.

Mr President, I would like to extend the ICPO-Interpol's deepest gratitude to you and your country for hosting and organizing this General Assembly session. Thanks to your excellent preparation we have the means and facilities to hold a successful session.

I would also like to extend my own and the Executive Committee's appreciation to all the employees at the General Secretariat and to the NCBs for the great work you have accomplished and the dedication you have shown this year.

Thank you.

Speech by Mr President Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China

President Eriksson, Secretary General Kendall, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends.

In the golden season of autumn with warm breeze and good sunshine, we have just bid farewell to the distinguished guests and women delegates participating in the 4th World Conference on Women. We are welcoming today friends from the police institutions of more than 130 countries and regions. I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese government and people and in my own name, our warm welcome to you all to attend the 64th General Assembly Session of ICPO-Interpol in Beijing.

The issue of crime is of common concern to governments and people all over the world. Social stability and order depend on the active and



The President, Secretary General and members of the ICPO-Interpol Executive Committee with Mr Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China (centre), accompanied by dignitaries of the host country.

effective prevention and curbing of various kinds of criminal activities. The ICPO-Interpol, with the aim of co-ordinating, preventing and combating against international criminal activities, is playing an increasingly important role in the global efforts of combating crime and maintaining social stability and world peace. At present, Interpol is growing with more member countries and more extensive international co-operation against crime. This is in conformity with the purpose of "ensuring and promoting the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities" enshrined in the Interpol's Constitution. The development of Interpol also reflects the common aspirations for peace, stability, development and prosperity cherished by people around the world.

At present, China is at an important stage in its efforts of reform, opening-up and modernization. China enjoys political stability and sustained economic growth. The Chinese people are living and working in peace and contentment. However, like many other places in the world, international crime has appeared in China, seriously endangering the safety of the Chinese people and hindering a sound social

development. In order to deal with crime, the Chinese government gives high priority to the comprehensive improvement of public order and the international co-operation and exchanges in the field of law enforcement. Ever since its accession to the Interpol in 1984, China has actively participated in international law enforcement. With Interpol's assistance and co-ordination, we have effectively countered various kinds of international criminal activities, and remarkable success has been achieved in the process. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Interpol and the police authorities of the relevant countries and regions for their valuable support and co-operation.

It should be noted that in the process when world economy and social contacts are getting closer every day, organized crime is also coming to the fore and becoming increasingly international. In order to prevent and stop international crimes more effectively, to maintain security and stability of different countries and to promote their development and prosperity, it is up to the governments and peoples of all countries to combine their efforts and strengthen law enforcement and international co-operation. We are glad to see that thanks to the

work of Interpol, these joint efforts are becoming more extensive and effective. As ever before, the Chinese government will give full support to the Chinese police in international exchanges and co-operation in the enforcement of the law.

I wish the 64th Interpol Assembly every success!

Thank you.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Report for 1994

The Financial Report for 1994, presented as Assembly Report No. 2, was first submitted to the Finance Committee.

It contained three distinct parts: the balance sheet, the income and expense statement, and the appendices. The tables had been converted into French francs to allow for comparison in the future since, at its 63rd session, the General Assembly had decided that the Swiss franc should no longer be used as the Organization's reference currency from 31st December 1994 onwards. The exchange rate applied for compiling the 1994 budget was 1 Swiss franc = 3.9053 French francs, which was almost the same as the rate for the 1993 financial year.

Commenting on the balance sheet, it was pointed out that the net fixed assets had fallen by 552,000 Swiss francs as a result of the disposal of fixed assets at the St Martin d'Abbat radio station and of radio equipment at Headquarters, following the cessation of radio communications. "Accounts Receivable" showed a substantial rise in contribution arrears - up by 1,029,802 Swiss francs on the 1993 figure. That rise was partly offset by the sharp fall in "VAT to be reimbursed", due to the more rapid rate of reimbursement on the part of the French tax authorities in 1994.

The financial accounts figure rose by 4,117,425 Swiss francs, because of the non-implementation of various Regional Modernization projects. The sums concerned had been invested very prudently.

Under "Liabilities", the Organization's equity had fallen in correlation with the fall in net fixed assets recorded on the balance sheet. The sums in the statutory funds

had increased. Short-term debts had fallen slightly, owing to a drop in "Contributions paid in advance".

The accounting result was a positive balance of 5,359,491 Swiss francs.

The report on the income and expense statement at 31st December 1994 emphasized, as far as income was concerned, the fact that the value of the budget unit had been kept at 17,300 Swiss francs for the fifth consecutive year. The increase in income was due to the increase in the number of budget units called up, *inter alia* because nine countries had agreed to increase the number of budget units they paid.

Financial income fell slightly owing to a sharp drop in interest rates, although that had been partly offset by an increase in liquid assets and in Keesing royalties. Exceptional profits included the grant of 300,000 dollars from the United States to finance Regional Modernization in South America. Total income amounted to 38,245,330.03 Swiss francs.

There was a slight reduction in total expenses, which stood at 32,885,838.58 Swiss francs. That

reduction was artificial, however, in that exchange rate losses of 1,665,169.13 Swiss francs had been recorded at the close of the 1993 financial year to take account of the difference in the French franc/Swiss franc exchange rate.

Personnel expenses, which accounted for two-thirds of the Organization's operating costs, rose by 6.5%. Salary increases were limited to 2%, and at the end of the financial year the staffing levels were the same as those budgeted for; there was nevertheless an increase of 10.5% in the total figure for monthly allowances paid to seconded officials since the number of such officials had risen. Other operating costs fell slightly compared with 1993, which showed the considerable efforts made by the General Secretariat to keep expenses under control. However, it should be emphasized that the General Secretariat has no control over telecommunications costs: they increased by 17%, since the volume of messages exchanged by NCBs rose substantially. Interpretation costs were kept under control, despite the increased number of meetings. On the other



hand, there was a rise in mission costs.

“Adjustments to Funds” did not call for any particular comment. There was a sharp fall in “Exchange rate losses”, but that had no particular economic significance.

The result for the year showed a surplus of 5,359,491.45 Swiss francs. That surplus was due to the fact that expenses had been kept under control and to the non-implementation of some Regional Modernization projects; it would be allocated to the General Reserve Fund to cover the effects of contribution arrears and the investments required to implement the Regional Modernization Programme in Asia and various other projects.

Report by the Financial Controller on the 1994 financial year

The Financial Controller asked the Committee to refer to his Report on the 1994 financial year (Report No. 4). The Report described the significant aspects of financial control during 1994, showed the Organization’s accounting situation at 31st December 1994 and summed up the financial implementation of the budget. The Financial Controller had called each Programme Manager’s attention to the need to cut down on the Organization’s present and future expenditure because there were limits to the income which could be obtained from contributions and other sources, whereas expenditure was increasing in line with the targets Interpol had been set. Contracts had been renegotiated in order to maximize use of resources and the savings thus made would reduce future budget expenditure.

The surpluses recorded constituted important reserves which, while they still existed, would enable the Organization to finance its projects in whole or in

part without raising statutory contributions more than a minimal amount. As for the Assistance and Technical Support Fund for Developing Countries (ATSFDC), which the General Assembly had decided to create during its 63rd session, it would cover all projects implemented outside the Headquarters and, in particular, the Regional Modernization projects, thus giving the Organization more financial management flexibility. It would also allow the Organization to apply to other institutions for total or partial financing of its projects.

Report by the External Auditors on the Administrative and Financial Management of the ICPO-Interpol during the 1994 financial year

The President of the Cour des Comptes du Luxembourg, Interpol’s External Auditor, recalled that the External Auditors’ Report usually devoted to an examination of the implementation of the budget for the previous financial year. The present Report being submitted to the Committee (Report No. 3) was no exception to that rule. It did, however, contain a section relating to two aspects of management: the Financial Regulations and their application, and the conclusion of contracts. That section of the Report, Chapter IV of the text, was not intended to criticize anomalies or irregularities, because none had been found, but to contribute to the General Secretariat’s consideration of the rules being prepared on the application of the Financial Regulations by recalling management principles. The chapter should therefore be interpreted as constituting as full a reminder as possible of the main basic principles of administrative and financial management, some of which were already applied, while others were going to be applied and yet others were still being discussed at the General Secretariat.

The principles already applied included the separation of the powers of managers and those of the Financial Controller. Significant progress had been made in that direction under the influence of the External Auditors and the Financial Controller. Those principles also included: the methods of granting expenditure approval; a posteriori examination by the Financial Controller of management operations and satisfactory use of credits; complementarity of internal control and external auditing, which would be strengthened by introducing “commitment cards”; competitive tendering, which could be restricted if there was only one supplier able to meet the technical requirements.

One of the principles that was going to be applied was that a written document should be produced, giving the reason for any refusal of budgetary approval. The principle of free access by the External Auditors while carrying out their task had been accepted, but such access would be facilitated by the introduction of the commitment cards and by subsequent computerization of their processing.

Another principle being discussed was the improvement or better adaptation of Interpol’s texts to the specific nature of the Organization.

The External Auditor then went on to examine implementation of the 1994 Budget, basing his comments on Report No. 3, which the delegates had received.

Paragraph 3.12 of the Report stated that “the External Auditors wish to express their concern about Interpol’s ability to balance its budget in future years following the “zero growth” policy adopted by the General Assembly during its 63rd session, held in Rome. This implies that expenditure will increase only to keep pace with the inflation rate in the host country and not for any other reason. It also

implies that the value of the budget unit will only rise to keep pace with the inflation rate. At the moment, Interpol's ability to balance its budget derives to some degree from the effects of the failure to implement the Regional Modernization projects. In a few years' time, if there are no prospects of a substantial increase in income, the Organization's financial managers will probably find it extremely difficult to produce balanced budgets".

The External Auditor also stressed the extremely worrying increase in member countries' arrears which amounted to some CHF 4,426,000 at 31st December 1994. The External Auditors could only plead for rigorous application of Article 52, and even for more severe sanctions to be taken against countries which did not pay their statutory contributions.

He then read out the conclusion to the report: "Bearing in mind the developments and recommendations mentioned in the present Report which, it should be made clear, are merely suggestions and should not in any way be taken as reflections on the General Secretariat's administrative and financial management of the Organization, the External Auditors conclude that the accounts for the 1994 financial year faithfully reflect Interpol's financial situation and may be submitted to the General Assembly for approval."

The General Secretariat had noted with satisfaction that the External Auditors had expressed no adverse criticisms about the accuracy or reliability of the accounts for the 1994 financial year. Having read the recommendations contained in the Report, the General Secretariat would make every effort to take account of the observations made in order to improve the Organization's administrative and financial management, in so far as those observations met with the approval of Interpol's governing bodies.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Finance Committee decided to add a new paragraph to Draft Resolution AGN/64/RES/17 approving the balance sheet and accounts for 1994, noting "the concerns expressed regarding the Organization's capacity to meet its commitments".

The Finance Committee also decided to amend Draft Resolution AGN/64/RES/17 by deciding that, from the balance of the surplus (CHF 4,072,237.82) allocated to the ATSFDC, "the sum of FRF 3,000,000 will be set aside to finance capital investments for the Asian Regional Modernization Project".

Appointment of the External Auditors for the period 1995-1998

The Head of Division I informed the meeting that the Executive Committee was in favour of renewing the term of office of the External Auditors from the Luxembourg Chambre des Comptes.

The Committee decided (by unanimous approval on the part of the 35 delegations voting) to recommend that the term of office of the External Auditors be renewed.

1996 Draft Budget and ongoing plan for 1997-2000

The draft budget was also submitted to the Finance Committee with a reference to the fact that it had been discussed at length by the Executive Committee's Finance Sub-Committee, which had been set up by the General Assembly at its 63rd session, especially to study that document.

The Secretary General stressed some of the conditions under which the budget was actually prepared: thus, the existing draft had to be considered from the viewpoint of the strategic priorities adopted, and in the light of costs both at the General Secretariat and outside the General Secretariat.

He went on to emphasize that the General Secretariat was made up of services shared by all the members. Any measures affecting the General Secretariat obviously had an effect on the functioning of the Organization as a whole. It had been ensured that personnel costs would be stabilized. Recruitment had been frozen. Actual personnel costs had been kept at the same level as in 1995. Normal salary increases would be assured without any additional appropriations.

Efforts had been made to keep maintenance costs stable — the highest costs were for computer and telecommunications equipment. The Telecommunications Committee had agreed to the proposal to merge the ASF and the CIS, which would make for considerable savings in operating costs.

The cost of missions had been kept at more or less the 1995 level, but provision had been made to develop training for NCB officers. The Executive Committee had agreed to award grants for training courses outside the General Secretariat, such as the course due to be held in Buenos Aires. Such an approach would make it possible to train far more people and to offer training which was more adapted to the needs of the various regions.

The General Secretariat's telecommunication costs could be reduced by using the X.400 and the SITA X.25 systems.

Regional Modernization accounted for approximately 12% of the budget, but that item would be reviewed in the future in the light of telecommunications costs.

Some of the General Secretariat's activities would be rationalized in the ongoing search to make savings. Priority would be given to developing the role of analysis (ACIU).

Obviously the search for outside sources of funding would continue, but the Organization would probably soon reach the limit of

possibilities still open in that area, and of members' willingness to implement the Van Hove Plan.

Attempts would of course be made to keep any increase in the value of the budget unit to a minimum, since the members which paid regularly were reluctant to see their costs rise to offset the non-payment of contributions by other members.

The Secretary General said that he had been particularly disappointed at the negative decision on public relations activities taken in Rome, and he had nevertheless appointed one of the General Secretariat's officials responsible for that essential task. Interpol had to learn how to "sell its image". Moreover, it was planned to hold a meeting with public relations specialists in order to work out an appropriate strategy.

The Secretary General considered that the Finance Sub-Committee had become indispensable to the work of the Executive Committee and that it should be made an official body.

He added that all the costs relating to the regional modernization programmes for each region had been clearly specified

taking into account both investment and operating costs.

The Executive Committee had decided to apply the decision taken by the General Assembly in Rome and observe the principle of a zero-growth budget, allowance being made for a 2% increase in the rate of inflation in the Headquarters country, which the Organization needed merely to maintain its existing level of activity.

At the request of the Canadian Delegate, the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee reminded delegates that it had been given a three-fold mission:

- to prepare a "zero growth" budget for 1996;
- to consider the possibility of engaging a consultant to draw up a "zero growth" budget;
- to strengthen the sanctions provided for in Article 52 of the General Regulations.

He described how it had carried out those tasks.

The Sub-Committee had first examined the draft budget for 1996 in the light of the strict instructions given by the General Assembly at its Rome session, bearing in mind certain facts: the reference currency was now the French franc; the number of budget units called up

should remain stable in 1996, both overall and for each of the structures; it was impossible to examine the 1996 budget without taking the Organization's future into consideration, particularly for the years 1997 - 2000.

The Organization's income came primarily from statutory contributions, which would rise only very slightly in 1996 (1,735 budget units instead of 1,730) and there again, they would have to be actually paid.

The Finance Sub-Committee had considered that its room for manoeuvre was extremely restricted, since four-fifths of the Organization's costs could not be cut. The largest item was salaries which, for several years, had not kept pace with the usual increases in the Headquarters country (the aim was to align salary increases on those in the French civil service).

It had noted that 16% of the Organization's income was unlikely to rise (sales to staff, internal tax, sales of brochures) and that any rise in income from other sources would depend on the economic situation (income from investments would most likely fall in view of the international situation).

It had noted that a spectacular effort had been made to reduce the Organization's expenses, since savings of 2% had been made in the 1996 budget.

It had also taken note of the general wish to implement the Regional Modernization Plan, despite everything, at least for the projects which were already scheduled.

The number of meetings and missions was increasing and yet the figure for that budget item had been kept stable. Similarly, despite strong pressure, the number of interpretation days and the number of languages used at certain meetings had been limited. The Executive Committee had asked the Secretary General to have a study made of the cost of the



systematic use of all four languages at all meetings.

Savings had been made as a result of renegotiation of maintenance contracts, the elimination of Teletext, and the efforts made to rationalize document production.

The working assumption had been that, in the light of the unanimous approval expressed by the SCIT and the Regional Conferences, the General Assembly would adopt Option 1 of the project submitted by Division IV to update the computer equipment at Headquarters, since the introduction of the ICIS should result in considerable savings.

The Eastern European part of the Regional Modernization Plan was incorporated in the budget at a cost of 5 million, 30% of which would be paid from the ATSFDC.

In all, the budget was marked by rigour and wisdom. It was an attempt, despite all the odds, to maintain the Organization's capacity, taking account of the General Assembly's decisions in Rome and the instructions given by the Executive Committee. However, consideration had to be given to the operating costs which would result from the essential capital investments made, and to the possible results of the search for external financing.

The Sub-Committee had also discussed the possibility of engaging a consultant to prepare a "zero growth" budget. In the light of the reports submitted and the explanations given, it had decided against the idea.

Finally, the Sub-Committee had noted that steps could be taken to combat delay in the payment of contributions and to obtain the payment of arrears but that, in any case, those steps would not affect the 1996 Budget.

The Executive Committee had asked the Secretary General to have a study made of the financial

implications of the Regional Modernization Plan. The result was that, even if its implementation posed no major investment problems, the problem of financing recurrent operational costs would undoubtedly be encountered by the year 2000. Continuation of the zero-growth principle would certainly force the Executive Committee and the General Assembly to envisage draconian measures to find the funds which current contributions could certainly not provide. At that point, consideration would have to be given to increasing the number of budget units called up, or to increasing the value of the budget unit, or to allocating costs (particularly telecommunications costs) differently.

Preliminary draft resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/2, with the amendment read out by the Chairman, was adopted unanimously by the 36 delegations voting (Resolution AGN/64/RES/18).

Proposal to establish a compensation fund for loss of employment

The Head of Division I commented on Report No. 24. The French authorities' decision that Interpol could no longer benefit from the French unemployment insurance scheme (ASSEDIC) with effect from 1st January 1995 had made it all the more necessary to set up an independent scheme (legal proceedings had in fact been taken to contest that decision). The scheme that had been prepared would provide benefits at least as favorable as those offered by the French general unemployment insurance scheme, and would considerably reduce the rate of contributions. The saving for the Organization would be in the region of 1 million French francs per full year. A preliminary draft resolution on the creation of the fund required for the application of the scheme was submitted to the Committee for approval.

Preliminary draft resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/16 was adopted with 33 votes in favour, 1 against and no abstentions (Resolution AGN/64/RES/19, see page 47)

Contributions in arrears and application of the plan for reassessing statutory contributions

The Head of Division I commented on Report No. 10. He said that the Executive Committee would be kept informed of the ongoing efforts being made to implement the plan for reassessing statutory contributions.

The table giving the situation at 31st August 1995 showed that contributions paid were 9% down on the situation at the same date in 1994, although payments received in September had almost made up the difference. That showed, once again, how difficult it was to draw any meaningful comparisons during the year.

The third main point of the Rome resolution had been to urge countries fulfilling the conditions laid down in Article 3A of the Financial Regulations to enter into debt rescheduling agreements. It was gratifying to note that several countries had expressed the wish to take advantage of that possibility at the present General Assembly session. The countries concerned were mainly those affected by the Regional Modernization Programme and those in regions where it was planned to establish Sub-Regional Bureaus. Once again, it could be seen that the imminence of the General Assembly often acted as an incentive for countries to pay their contributions.

Organization of conferences, symposia and working party meetings at the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat

The Head of the Administration Division presented Report No. 9.

which had several objectives: to rationalize the activities of the working parties which already existed and to propose either modifying their terms of reference, abolishing them or merging them with other working parties; to define a more rigorous procedure for creating new working parties; to lay down conditions in respect of meetings held outside the Headquarters. The General Assembly sessions and the Regional Conferences were not concerned by the study as they had their own rules, nor were the working parties which might meet at the initiative of the Secretary General and which, by definition, could not be planned in advance.

It was clear that there had been a regular and substantial increase in the number of meetings held under the auspices of the Organization: up from 35 in 1987 to 60 in 1994. As for the working parties, their number had increased without any time-limit being set on their activities, so that they tended to become standing

working parties - a fact which had significant administrative and financial implications. It should be added that some countries had complained that the quality of interpreting was sometimes not up to standard when interpreters were recruited locally.

The General Secretariat had therefore felt it appropriate to define rules and procedures for setting up working parties. The only rule which could be referred to on the subject was Article 31(3) of the General Regulations relating to the conduct of discussions during General Assembly sessions: it stated that the Executive Committee should be requested to give its opinion, and discussion postponed, when a draft resolution had financial consequences. However, that rule had very seldom been applied where the establishment of working parties was concerned. A draft resolution was therefore being submitted for the General Assembly's approval. The aim was to assess and revise the terms of

reference of the existing working parties, define the exact terms of reference of the committees proposed and share the cost of meetings held outside the Headquarters. After consulting the Delegates of Belgium and the United Kingdom and the General Secretariat representatives, the Head of Division I read out a proposed amendment to the draft resolution: at the end of the first paragraph of the resolution (DECIDES to ask ... to ask ..."), add: "the terms of reference must give the aims of the proposal, the desired outcome and the likely benefits for the police, and must take into account the work being done by committees of other organizations, in order to avoid duplication of effort and overlapping:".

The amendment was put to the vote by a show of hands and was adopted.

Resolution AGN/64/RES/1 was adopted by the General Assembly in plenary session.

AMENDMENTS TO INTERPOL'S CONSTITUTION

Funding the attendance of participants at Interpol meetings

The General Secretariat had drawn up a preliminary draft resolution, the aim of which was to provide financial assistance for countries with limited resources to enable them to participate in Interpol meetings.

Resolution AGN/64/RES/12 was adopted by the General Assembly.

Strengthening of sanctions for countries in arrears with their contributions (Report No. 20)

It was pointed out that the problem of the considerable number

of Members of the Organization which failed to fulfil their financial obligations by not paying their contributions had been discussed by the General Assembly on several occasions:

- at the 52nd General Assembly session (Cannes, 1983), when Resolution AGN/52/RES/7 had been adopted;
- at the 56th General Assembly session (Nice, 1987), when Resolution AGN/56/RES/13 had been adopted;
- at the 57th General Assembly session (Bangkok, 1988), when Resolution AGN/57/RES/1 had been adopted, adding the current paragraph (4) at the end of Article 52 of the General Regulations which made it impossible for Members with arrears to nominate candidates

for seats on the Executive Committee.

The fact remained that, in spite of all these discussions at General Assembly sessions and in spite of all the attempts made to halt the constant growth of arrears, the desired effect had not been achieved.

Consequently, at its 63rd session (Rome, 1994), the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly had adopted Resolution AGN/63/RES/3 in which it asked the Executive Committee to:

- "apply Article 52 of the General Regulations in all its force";
- "consider a strengthening of sanctions that must be taken against countries which have not paid their statutory contributions";
- "propose a strategy to ensure that



all Members are up to date with their contributions”.

That General Assembly resolution identified two main tasks. The first was to apply the current Article 52 in all its force and to strengthen sanctions, while the second was to propose a strategy to ensure that member countries were up to date with their contributions.

If more stringent sanctions were to be applied, Article 52 of the General Regulations would have to be amended. Maintaining the current wording restricted the possibilities available and, more important still, made it impossible to apply the provision in the first paragraph of the Article before a Member had built up three years' arrears.

The Executive Committee considered that the aim of any new wording of the Article should be to declare very clearly that membership of Interpol was based on the principle of equal rights, benefits and responsibilities so that the objectives agreed on by all Members could be achieved. As all activities were conditioned by the financial resources available, member countries' arrears had a direct negative effect on the Organization's activities. That had been made very clear during the 63rd General Assembly session where certain very important development projects had had to be postponed for financial reasons.

The principle underlying any new form of wording for Article

52 should be that a primary obligation, incumbent on each Member, was to contribute to Interpol's activities by fulfilling its financial obligations as laid down in the Financial Regulations.

In any new form of Article 52, it should no longer be left to anyone's discretion to take decisions on a case-by-case basis, or to take account of factors which might have made a Member unable to pay its contributions. The reason for that approach was that it was becoming increasingly difficult to be aware of all the various circumstances that might exist in the different member countries. It was obvious that Interpol, with its 176 Members, could not possibly consider relieving individual countries of their financial obligations.

Furthermore, in situations where discretion could be exercised in the taking of decisions, it might appear that the decisions taken were influenced by considerations other than those defined in the Constitution as the Organization's objectives. That kind of situation should be avoided at all cost.

Finally, Members often stated that their national budget procedures prevent them from fulfilling their financial obligations on time. That might well be the case, but it would be absolutely impossible to make Interpol's Financial Regulations fit in with all the specific conditions imposed by member countries' different

budgetary systems. The only solution was for Members themselves to take the steps needed to solve any problems that might arise in that connection.

The report also contained sections on the timing of sanctions, the appeals procedure, and the types of sanctions and restriction of benefits involved.

The sanctions proposed included suspension of eligibility, voting rights, and the right to second and detach officials. Restriction of benefits included the withdrawal of the right to participate in meetings, the withdrawal of General Secretariat services such as documents and services provided by the General Reference Department and the Meetings and Missions Office and the distribution of notices, and - finally and most important of all - the cutting off of telecommunications facilities which would prevent the country concerned from taking advantage of Regional Modernization projects, the ASF or the Help Desk.

Also, the countries concerned would not be able to host Interpol meetings or other events.

Other non-regulatory measures included restriction on the number of delegates to the General Assembly sessions and presentation of country profile reports to the General Assembly.

Implementing the new provisions

The Executive Committee proposed that Article 52 be amended to make several significant changes. Essentially the changes would consist of imposing more stringent sanctions automatically, once a Member had accumulated arrears for two financial years. Every effort should therefore be made to ensure that Members did not find themselves in an unpleasant situation and, to that end, it would be necessary to adopt an "implementation policy" providing opportunities for the Members

concerned to take appropriate action.

Implementation of the new provisions should therefore proceed gradually, along the following lines.

The first step would be to submit a draft resolution containing the new provisions to the General Assembly. Provisions for implementation should be submitted for adoption at the same time as the draft resolution. Otherwise the new version of Article 52 would become effective immediately, and that would undoubtedly cause practical problems. The draft resolution should therefore contain a sentence stating that "The amendments adopted will come into force on 1st July 19.. and, on that date, Article 52 as adopted by General Assembly Resolutions AGN/52/RES/7 and AGN/57/RES/1 will be abrogated". All other relevant amendments to regulations would naturally come into force on the same date. Immediately after the General Assembly session at which the amendments were adopted, the General Secretariat would inform the member countries concerned of the practical consequences, for each of them, of implementation of the amended version of Article 52 of the General Regulations.

At its first meeting after that General Assembly session, the Executive Committee would inform the appropriate authorities in those countries of the consequences of failing to settle their debts.

Prior to the Executive Committee's second meeting, the Secretary General would inform the countries concerned of the measures taken in conformity with the amended version of Article 52 of the General Regulations. At the Executive Committee's second meeting, he would inform the Committee of the measures taken.

At the General Assembly session held a year after its adoption of the amendments to Article 52, the Executive Committee would report on implementation of the new article.

The Report was very full but did not put forward a proposal for a resolution. The Finance Subcommittee had preferred that the General Assembly be able to comment on the contents of the Report and the various options, and to say whether it agreed with the proposals.

The President asked that discussion of Article 52 be continued in conjunction with those on amendments to Article 42 of the Constitution.

Amendment of Article 42 of the Constitution

The ICPO-Interpol President, Mr Eriksson, presented the agenda item referring to Report No. 8 on amendment of Article 42 of the Constitution.

He explained that amendments to the Constitution currently had to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Organization (Article 42(3) of the Constitution).

Consequently, in the results of a ballot on a proposed amendment to the Constitution:

- Members of the Organization not present during the voting, and
- Members of the Organization attending the General Assembly session but disqualified from voting in application of Article 52 of the General Regulations, counted as if they had voted against the proposed amendment even though they did not vote at all.

Under these circumstances, a small number of abstentions and/or votes against a proposed amendment to the Constitution

could make it impossible to attain the required two-thirds majority of the Organization's Members¹. In other words absent Members, or those disqualified from voting because of substantial arrears, affected the Organization's ability to amend its Constitution. That situation was of particular concern at a time when, on the one hand, the volume of unpaid contributions was tending to rise (in turn leading to the application of Article 52 of the General Regulations²) and, on the other hand, Interpol's Programme of Activities included a review of its General Regulations which might well lead to the texts in question being partially revised.

Adoption by the General Assembly of the amendment to Article 42 of the Constitution, as proposed in the draft resolution appended to Report No. 8, would have the following consequences.

A two-thirds majority of Members entitled to vote would be required to adopt amendments to the Constitution. Consequently, the number of Members not entitled to vote would not affect calculation of the majority.

That provision would make it impossible to have amendments to the Constitution adopted by a minority of Members of the Organization.

In conformity with Article 21(1) of the General Regulations, a second vote would be taken, if necessary, on proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Lengthy discussions followed the President's explanations, and it became clear that there were many differences of opinion on the matter.

At the end of the discussions, the General Assembly failed to adopt Draft Resolution AGN/64/P.RES/1.

1. At the 63rd General Assembly session held in Rome in 1994, only 139 of the Organization's 176 Members were represented. Nine of those 139 Members were disqualified from voting. If, at that session, a two-thirds majority of the Organization's Members (i.e. a minimum of 118 votes) had been required, it would have been impossible to obtain that majority if 16 Members had abstained. Although, in theory, the minimum required to block a vote of this kind is 33 %, in practice, the abstention of 7 % of the Organization's Members would have been enough to prevent adoption of any proposed constitutional amendment.

2. When this report was being prepared, Article 52 of the General Regulations had been applied to 27 Members.

INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC

Drugs Committee

The Drugs Committee was chaired by Mr Michael Palmer from Australia.

Mr Ian Bain, Head of the Drugs Sub-Division, presented a comprehensive report on the international illicit drug trafficking situation in 1994 (Report No. 16), comprising four parts:

- a section describing drug trafficking trends (Part 1), extracts from which are given below under the heading "Evolution of the traffic";
- a summary of international illicit drug traffic during 1994 (Part 2);
- an account of the activities of the Drugs Sub-Division during 1994 (Part 3);
- seizure figures, set out in tables by drug type and by region, allowing for quantitative comparisons from year to year (Part 4).

During his presentation to the Committee, the Head of the Drugs Sub-Division said that the Sub-Division's activities were not confined to what was described in the report. Since the ACIU had started operating, in-depth analysis of data supplied by member countries for intelligence projects had become possible. One of the projects initiated by the Drugs Sub-Division - the Dilek Project - had already been mentioned and it was planned to hold a meeting at the beginning of 1996 on the Transal Project relating to West African cocaine traffickers. The Sub-Division was also particularly committed to the Balkan Route Programme which involved

permanent monitoring of all heroine seizures made on that route. A meeting on the subject was held every year, and particularly close co-operation had been built up with the World Customs Organization. It was also planned to hold joint police/customs training sessions for the Eastern European countries. Such co-operation was obviously essential for the detection and seizure of heroin coming from South-West Asia. The members of the "Cocaine Group" continued to collect intelligence, in co-operation with the appropriate North American and United Kingdom departments.

Mr Bain emphasized the fact that all the studies he had mentioned were based on data supplied by member countries and on replies sent in response to the General Secretariat's requests for additional information. He therefore urged delegates not to let that flow of essential information dry up: the central database was what member countries made of it! In addition, the Sub-Division had recently noticed a tendency on the part of various small groups of countries to try to set up regional databases. Such initiatives could be valuable if the information in those databases was disseminated widely. However, there was a risk of costly duplication and fragmentation of the information.

The speaker went on to deplore the fact that the number of drug seizure reports sent to the General Secretariat had fallen considerably in 1995. He knew that some member countries did not have the

necessary infrastructure, but that was not true of all of them; he appealed to them to get back into the habit of sending the General Secretariat as much information as possible.

Close co-operation had been maintained with the United Nations throughout the year. In particular, Interpol representatives had taken part in discussions on Article 17 of the United Nations 1988 Convention on the boarding of vessels at sea. Interpol had also participated in the work of many other international organizations.

Finally, the Sub-Division had been pleased to welcome two new analysts as part of its team. Delegates would also have noted changes in the weekly messages they received from the Sub-Division. Copies of all the reports and studies produced by the Sub-Division during the previous year would be distributed to each delegation.

A general discussion took place after Mr Bain's presentation.

After the Belgian Delegate's remarks on cannabis trafficking in Lebanon and Papua New Guinea, the Chairman stressed the need to circulate the information available in each member country as widely as possible. Sharing contributed greatly to increasing the effectiveness of the strategies for combating drug traffic. As far as Papua New Guinea was concerned, for example, all the departments involved were particularly unhappy about the quality of information provided on a growing problem which was difficult to tackle

because of the geographical features of the country.

The Lebanese Delegate said that hashish growing had begun in his country in 1915 and had been tolerated for a long time. Opium growing had begun at the beginning of the civil war. When the war ended, the Lebanese authorities, in close co-operation with the Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon, had begun a merciless campaign against hashish production, which was now banned. As international observers had been able to note during their various visits to the Bekaa Valley, and as confirmed by satellite photographs, the plantations as such no longer existed: only a few small pockets had survived. Opium growing had also ceased. Lebanon had therefore fulfilled its obligations as far as the fight against drugs was concerned.

Mr R. Sundaralingam (General Secretariat) then used slides to present the information about international heroin trafficking contained in the document produced by the General Secretariat's Drugs Sub-Division and available to the delegates.

The Indonesian Delegate reported that his country's police had had considerable success in combating cannabis production. However, there was a danger of Indonesia moving on from being a transit country to becoming a country of drug abuse.

The Iranian Delegate said that the Iranian Government had made considerable investments in tightening controls along its Eastern land borders and along its coasts: fortifications had been constructed along the 2,000 km border with Afghanistan, 1,100 km of roads, 70 police stations and 140 watch towers had been built, caravans were kept under surveillance, large concrete obstacles had been put up, and so on. Such surveillance activities had made it possible to seize vast quantities of opium, morphine, heroin and hashish. However, 70 police officers had

been killed in the course of those operations.

The drug-enforcement activities in Iran had led traffickers to use other routes, passing through Pakistani ports, for instance. The Iranian Government called on Interpol and other international organizations to assist it in its fight. He expressed the hope that the Organization's member countries would co-operate wholeheartedly in a campaign which was of vital importance to public health and welfare.

The Delegate of Pakistan pointed out that drug trafficking was basically an economic activity which responded to the law of supply and demand: as long as there was demand, there would be supply. Pakistan had traditionally been an opium-growing and exporting country, but had become a consumer country since the Iran-Iraq war and currently had 3 million drug addicts. The Pakistani authorities were fighting the problem by strengthening legislation by imposing the death penalty for traffickers and making it possible to seize the assets of traffickers, even of those convicted abroad. The Government was also very willing to extradite foreign criminals arrested in Pakistan.

The Delegate of the United Arab Emirates praised Lebanon and Syria for having put a stop to the illicit cultivation of cannabis, which had been flooding the Gulf countries. He also praised Saudi Arabia for making trafficking very difficult by strengthening customs controls.

The Nigerian Delegate reported that his country had set up a general drug law enforcement department, the Head of which had prepared a document which would be distributed to the delegations and would give them a good idea of the efforts being made by the Nigerian Government, particularly with regard to strengthening law-enforcement powers against money laundering and trafficking, and the establishment of special courts.

The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire regretted that the report often gave overall figures for seizures in African countries: he would have liked more detailed country-by-country statistics.

The Italian Delegate said that the figures for seizures in his country had all risen in 1994 compared with 1993. 1994 had seen record seizures (500 kg of cocaine in Genoa, 25 kg of heroin in Trieste and, more recently, over a tonne of cocaine in Florence). Those seizures showed the persistence of large-scale traffic. However, heroin addiction seemed to be decreasing. Young people were consuming less heroin but more amphetamines and hallucinogens. The cocaine market in particular was booming. There was considerable involvement of foreigners: Albanians or former Yugoslavs from Macedonia in liaison with Turkish, mainly Kurdish, traffickers. Traffic by the Italian Mafia with assistance from Central and Eastern European "Mafias" justified the establishment of liaison bureaus in Eastern Europe.

The speaker also gave information about centres where drug trafficking profits were laundered, about investments made in Eastern Europe in partnership with the traffickers, and about traffic along the Balkan Route in chemical precursors used to make heroin. He would be pleased to give any interested delegates copies of a summary report on the situation in his country.

The Indian Delegate expressed concern about the increased consumption of drugs in his country, particularly in the regions on the Myanmar border and in the large cities (Bombay, Bangalore, Delhi, Calcutta). He therefore recommended that as well as studying drug routes' arrival points, research should be conducted on transit countries where demand was increasing, and on levels of consumption throughout the world.

The UNDCP Observer pointed out that his Organization's

programme had given particular emphasis to police action, especially at the recent meeting in Jakarta. He reported on the development of UNDCP's sub-regional activities, particularly for South-East Asia. Six countries in that region had adhered to the Memorandum of Understanding for co-operation in combating drug trafficking.

He noted a new trend in South-East Asia: the production and use of injectable heroin and methamphetamines. The rapid economic development of that region had naturally resulted in an increase in such forms of traffic.

The South African Delegate regretted the fact that the report did not give a better picture of the important work being done in his country to eradicate cannabis crops by ecological spraying with "Round-up". He thanked the neighbouring countries which had participated in those campaigns, and said that a report on the subject would be sent to the General Secretariat. He felt the time had come to lay down international norms for spraying in order to protect the environment.

The Nigerian Delegate stressed the fact that his country had been a major transit country in the past, but that drug trafficking had declined sharply on its territory. Those who

claimed otherwise had false or outdated information. The gangs of traffickers had international ramifications and were not composed of nationals of a single country. To accuse one particular State was to miss the target just when increased international co-operation should be the object. For the moment, Nigeria was in control of the situation and of its borders. He maintained that drug trafficking had been greatly reduced, in particular because it was very dangerous for anyone to try to import drugs into Nigeria. The Nigerian political authorities gave the competent police authorities all the support they needed. They had also received the support of the international community. Nigeria was currently encouraging prevention because it felt it particularly important to reduce demand. A new strategy against drug trafficking had been developed and health education measures had been taken.

The Chairman said that, having listened to the reports and various observations, he was convinced that a great deal had already been done and that major investments had been made in the fight against drug trafficking. However, despite those efforts, the "industry" was still flourishing. Only international

co-operation could make for more effective results. As different members of the General Secretariat had rightly stressed, there should be much more sharing and circulation of all the information available. The battle being fought required integrity and real political determination. All governments should improve their laws if that was necessary. Nothing was gained by covering things up: much remained to be done, and closer international police and customs co-operation was essential. Finally, all pressures had to be resisted and any attempts to politicize the problem had to be dismissed. Reflecting and planning together should make it possible to act together.

Evolution of the traffic

During 1994, the production of heroin, cocaine, cannabis and psychotropic substances reached record heights. 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 transport to North American airports. Increased availability of cocaine was evident throughout 1994, with record seizures being effected by drug law-enforcement agencies in South, Central and North America and Europe. Central and East European countries were used by South American cartels as transit points for smuggling cocaine onto the West European market, and West African nationals emerged as cocaine couriers from South America to Europe via West African airports. Cannabis supplies were abundant in numerous countries. Multi-ton shipments of cannabis

The Italian Delegation



products were transported between continents in merchant vessels and inside container trucks intermingled with legitimate cargo. The popularity of cannabis coupled with enormous profits, had encouraged entrepreneurs to embark on new techniques of cultivation, especially in the United States and the Netherlands.

Large quantities of amphetamines had been seized in several countries. In Europe, the Netherlands and Poland continued to be source countries for the European market. As in past years, methamphetamine was still being 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 had made record seizures at exit ports. In the Asia/Pacific region, methamphetamine abuse was a subject of major concern to the Japanese authorities. In other Asian countries, particularly South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines and Australia, there had been significant seizures of various psychotropic substances, indicating increasing abuse in the entire region.

Opiates

Opium

During 1994, the Near East, South-West Asia, South-East Asia, Mexico and Colombia remained the principal regions of illicit poppy cultivation. However, eradication and crop substitution programmes had been carried out in these regions.

Morphine

Illicit traffic in morphine base continued during 1994. Information received by Interpol indicated that enormous quantities of morphine base, produced in laboratories in the



Afghanistan/Pakistan border region, were being transported overland, through Iran to Turkey, for conversion into heroin. The Iranian authorities had intercepted over 13 tons of morphine base along the country's eastern borders with Afghanistan/Pakistan and on its western border with Turkey, and the Turkish authorities had made record seizures of acetic anhydride and other essential chemicals. Those seizures apparently attested to the existence of clandestine heroin laboratories located in Southern Europe. During 1994, five such laboratories had been dismantled in Turkey.

Heroin

During 1994 there had been a significant escalation in heroin production and its transnational transportation in spite of improved international law-enforcement cooperation. South-West Asian heroin production and traffic had been more prevalent than in previous years, ostensibly to meet the great demand by consumers in South-West Asia as well as in Europe and North America.

The "opening up" of Central and East European countries had proved advantageous to drug trafficking organizations which were using

those countries for storage and transit.

With the bulk of the heroin from South-West Asia transiting via the Balkan Route to Europe, there had been fewer heroin seizures at European airports. The principal embarkation airports were Karachi, New Delhi and Bombay.

Not much activity had been reported on the new heroin route involving Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics. However, following the extension of drug legislation to the tribal areas of Pakistan and the vigorous law-enforcement action taken by the Government of Pakistan, the heroin laboratories were reported to have been moved from the South to the North of Afghanistan from where it was safe and economical to send their products to Russia and Western Europe through the Central Asian Republics.

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

In South-East Asia, the heroin scene had not undergone any dramatic change. Heroin processing continued unabated in the border areas of Thailand, Myanmar and

Laos, popularly known as the Golden Triangle.

Based on reports received from United States drug law-enforcement agencies, approximately 68% of the heroin seized in the United States during 1994 originated from South-East Asia. Countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia, where there was domestic heroin consumption, were utilized as transit countries. Australia was another major recipient of South-East Asian heroin, and organized criminal groups of Chinese descent played a major role in the heroin trade.

Cocaine

The amount of cocaine seized worldwide, as reported to Interpol, exceeded 275 tons. Keeping in mind that this figure only represented seizures that were reported, it was clear that cocaine traffic continued to be a major criminal threat.

Bolivia and Peru were still the major producers of coca leaf. The Colombian authorities reported sizeable coca production in the Amazonas region of Colombia and Brazil, consistent with the previously cited trend to move away from various traditional sources of supply affected by the loss of approximately 16% of the Peruvian coca crop in 1992 to fungus infestation, and increased efforts by Peruvian authorities to stop shipments of coca leaf. Manufacturing trends shifted somewhat, with Peru, Bolivia and Brazil increasingly becoming involved in the manufacture of cocaine hydrochloride. However, Colombia remained far and away the major producer of the final product.

Eradication efforts by the governments of coca-producing countries notwithstanding, supplies of coca leaf were reportedly rising due to shifts in growing and harvesting. Source countries faced continued resistance to elimination of coca cultivation because of their

inability to provide profitable agricultural substitutes for impoverished farmers and the terroristic tactics of cartel suppliers.

Methods of shipment continued to be as diverse as the possibilities. The increase in shipments via commercial maritime containerized cargo suggested that was the best method of transporting the largest amount of cocaine with the lowest possibility of detection, mainly because of the sheer volume of legitimate cargo using sea lanes.

The use of old commercial jet aircraft to move cocaine from source countries was a growing threat, with several confirmed cases occurring over the last year in North America. The range and payload of such aircraft made them a viable threat not only in that region but also to Europe and Africa.

The worldwide cocaine situation reached epidemic proportions. The insidious nature of criminal organizations frustrated law-enforcement efforts. In spite of attempts to increase surveillance, establish inspection barriers, and identify drug kingpins, the flood of cocaine continued to grow, and the same trend is forecast for 1995: increased demand and new markets will continue to create the attractive profits that drive drug trafficking. Demand-reduction efforts currently under way in some countries will have little effect on the flow of cocaine into the global market. Supply reduction efforts will take some time to produce any results, because of current stockpiles of coca leaf, cocaine base, and cocaine HCl.

Law-enforcement authorities should make themselves aware of the increased threat of both courier activity (principally by West African national trafficking organizations) and commercial cargo shipments by sea and air. The latter will become more evident as international trade loosens market barriers. The possibility of trafficking organizations' using surplus commercial jets has become

a reality and demonstrates the degree of sophistication displayed by these organizations in their efforts to meet their distribution goals.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the drug which continued to give rise to most traffic and abuse worldwide. It continued to be the first choice of drug in a large number of countries spread over the Far, Near and Middle East, over Central, South and North America and over South Asia and Africa.

Interpol seizure statistics revealed that 70% of the cannabis resin seized during the year was found in Western Europe and Asia, with almost another 10% seized in North Africa. The major seizures of herbal cannabis were made in North and South America, Western Europe, Asia and the West Indies. Estimates for the year put the total quantity seized at 1,947 tons.

During the year, 64 countries and territories were the source of supply/seizures worldwide. This includes 19 in Africa, 8 in Central America, 8 in North and South America, 18 in Europe and 11 in the Near and Middle East and Asia. Because of the high profits cannabis cultivation produces for cultivators, it is displacing essential local crops in countries in Africa, Central America and other parts of the world.

During 1994, while a resurgence of interest in cannabis consumption was observed in the United States, more attention was paid to its production and trafficking in Colombia. The Caribbean and Central American countries, given their geographical location and limited interception capabilities, were increasingly used as transit areas for smuggling large quantities of cannabis to Europe and North America.

50-60% of marijuana available in the United States was imported from Mexico and 24% of all

traffickers arrested were Mexicans, 70% being from the United States. 65% of the hashish seized in Canada had originated from Pakistan/Afghanistan. For hashish oil, Jamaica was the source of 90% of seizures. British Columbia was increasingly used as a trans-shipment point for cannabis, mostly from Asia and South America, for internal consumption and onward overland smuggling to the United States.

In Jamaica, an increase in container shipments through seaports was observed. Small boats with concealed storage areas were used for smaller quantities. Small aircraft were also used for cannabis trafficking and illegal landing of aircraft on clandestine airstrips was observed. Major trafficking took place by sea (45%) followed by air (35%); the remainder was by road (20%).

Europe seized over 567 tons of cannabis resin and 230 tons of herbal cannabis. Morocco remained the largest single source of all cannabis seized in Europe, but significant quantities originating from countries in Asia, West Africa and South America were also seized. The seizure figures were Morocco (290 tons), Colombia (38 tons), Nigeria (24 tons), and Pakistan (16 tons). Practically 60% of the cannabis seized in Europe came from North Africa. Seizure data showed that major drug trafficking groups in the cannabis trade were still West European criminal groups from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Germany, Spain and Belgium. These groups control the transport and distribution networks in Europe. Moroccans and Algerians appeared mainly as intermediaries or suppliers based in North Africa. As far as road transport was concerned, the largest quantity of cannabis seized in Europe came from lorries, followed by seizures made from vehicles such as caravans, minibuses and caravanettes. The third largest seizures came from cars. In a developing trend, traffickers were

also diverting large shipments of cannabis from Morocco to West African countries and then shipping the drug to Europe.

With the strong links between traffic in cannabis and other drugs and other forms of economic, organized and violent crime, there is an urgent need to give control measures against cannabis traffic a high priority, evolve a common and comprehensive drug strategy and utilize the international organizations in the fight against the rapidly escalating illicit traffic in and abuse of drugs.

Psychotropic substances

Psychotropic substances include stimulants, depressants and hallucinogens.

They constitute a category of drug totally separate from the other drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and heroin, for which seizures and traffic increase regularly from year to year.

The term "psychotropic substances" can mean one of a number of different products, and traffic in these substances is more specific to particular regions than for other types of drugs.

Seizures communicated to the General Secretariat cannot be compared with the quantities of traditional drugs seized for the three main reasons given below:

- Firstly, traffic in these substances does not involve the same quantities as with other drugs, one consideration being that the amounts required to have an effect are much lower than in the case of other drugs.
- A second factor noted in several countries is the lack of knowledge of, or interest in, these products.
- The third reason, which stems partly from the second, is that many countries still hesitate to report very small seizures to the General Secretariat.

In order to come as close as possible to the reality of worldwide

traffic in these substances, the report takes as a basis both the seizures reported to the General Secretariat and the relevant countries' annual national reports available for 1994.

Overall, the total quantities of psychotropic substances seized in 1994 did not increase much.

This is because certain substances are becoming less popular while others are becoming more so. For example, some amphetamine analogs such as MDA (methylenedioxyamphetamine) or MDEA (methylenedioxyethylamphetamine) have practically disappeared from the market, whereas MDMA (methylenedioxy-methylamphetamine), universally known as ecstasy, is flourishing.

Anabolic steroids

There was a substantial increase in traffic which, nevertheless remained very profitable. There is great potential for misappropriation and great demand for these substances.

Although high-level athletic circles were the first to be affected by abuse of these substances, all levels of society can now become targets, particularly the amateur athletic world whose members attend fitness and body building clubs, and school and university students.

International conferences have been organized to study the problem posed by these substances which many countries feel present a serious danger. For the moment, however, the only international controls on anabolic steroids are imposed in some athletic events such as the Olympic Games. Very few countries have adopted specific legislation, but the countries concerned are gradually doing so.

Two regions of the world were particularly affected, as shown by the seizures: North America (the United States and Canada) and Europe (the United Kingdom, Finland and Sweden). Eastern

European countries, particularly Russia, Estonia and Poland, have been shown to be the main sources of supplies for the illicit market.

Mexico for North America, and the United Kingdom for Europe, are considered to be transit countries or focal points for the traffic.

Precursors and essential chemicals

Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention covers the international control of precursors and essential chemicals which are classified in two tables: precursors in Table I and essential chemicals in Table II. 22 substances have been placed under control. In order to meet the international requirements for such control and to assist the member countries in applying the regulations, the General Secretariat has included about 100 precursors and essential chemicals in its database, and the list is not exhaustive. Since 1993, the Secretariat has also been asking that all seizures of these substances be reported on the special PECS form, which makes it possible to standardize the particulars of seizures. An increasing number of countries are using this form and reporting seizures.

It has been noted that seizures are almost always reported when they stem from the dismantling of clandestine laboratories or when chemicals are seized at the same time as traditional drugs. However, few seizures of essential chemicals are reported to us in connection with illegal commercial operations or cases of misappropriation.

Since 1995, the international organizations involved in the fight against drug trafficking have concentrated on checking the activities of businessmen who might be involved in diverting or misappropriating precursors and essential chemicals. There is much work to be done in this area and experts are consulted at



international and European level to study all the aspects of the problem.

Some conclusions can already be drawn:

- The diversion of precursors and essential chemicals is an international problem;
- It is clear that certain types of product required for the production of drugs tend to be diverted in certain specific regions;
- Extraordinary amounts - several hundreds of thousands of litres or several hundreds of tonnes - are misappropriated;
- Ephedrine is the precursor most often diverted from the legal market and the most often produced illegally;
- All the industrialized countries are potential suppliers of these products.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIME

The International Economic and Financial Crime Committee met on 6th October 1995, with Mr Morris, United States, in the chair.

Universal classification system for counterfeit payment cards

The General Secretariat Representative introduced Report No. 12 on payment card fraud.

He reported that on 18th and 19th October 1994, the General Secretariat had organized the First International Conference on Credit Card Fraud. Two preliminary draft resolutions, based on the recommendations adopted by that Conference, were being submitted to the Committee for approval. The first recommended that the Working Party on credit card fraud, set up by the Conference, should continue its work on a universal classification system for counterfeit payment cards. The second asked Interpol Member States to ensure that their legislation made adequate provision to counter all types of payment card fraud.

The Chairman said that the preliminary draft resolution on a universal classification system for counterfeit payment cards did not call for any particular comments, and opened the floor to general discussion on the preliminary draft resolution on fraud involving payment cards.

Several delegates expressed concern that the wording of the recommendation could lead to the prosecution of innocent victims of fraud who did not realize they were in possession of counterfeit payment cards.

The Canadian Delegate proposed an amendment to the preliminary

draft resolution given at Appendix 2 to Report No. 12: the addition, on line 6 of the last paragraph, of the word "knowingly" between "and/or" and "possess counterfeit payment cards".

The Chairman pointed out to the Committee that the preliminary draft resolution was intended to urge member countries to adopt more stringent legislation with respect to counterfeit payment cards. The aim was to provide general guidelines which the legal experts in each country could define more closely.

Preliminary Draft Resolutions AGN/64/A.P.RES/3 and AGN/64/A.P.RES/4 were adopted.

Computer-related Crime

The General Secretariat Representative commented briefly on Report No. 13 dealing with computer-related crime. Appended to the report was a preliminary draft resolution which recommended that the problem be approached on the other continents in the same way as it had been in Europe since 1991.

The French Delegate reported that, a month previously, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers had signed a recommendation on different problems of criminal procedure related to computer crime.

Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/5 was adopted.

Counterfeit currency

The General Secretariat Representative reported on the activities of the Counterfeit Currency Group in Division II of the General Secretariat. The Group

had to look into about 2,000 cases of currency counterfeiting every year. The allocation of a special indicative for each type of counterfeit recorded made it possible to compile meaningful statistics. It had been noted that colourcopier counterfeiting was on the decline, after a number of countries had taken stringent measures to crack down on the problem. The Counterfeit Currency Group was working on a new project aimed at making use of the ASF, which would allow for easier access to the central records. It was a well-known fact that, from its earliest days, Interpol had played a key role in combating currency counterfeiting, notably by organizing a series of international conferences; the most significant of those conferences had taken place in Ottawa in 1992, and the next was scheduled for 1997 in Helsinki.

The Kenyan Delegate agreed that currency counterfeiting by colourcopier was dying out, but he was concerned to note that some counterfeiters were managing to get hold of genuine paper to make their counterfeits.

The Delegate of Qatar cited a case in which it had been recognized that a person found in possession of counterfeit currency had not intended to commit a crime. The Qatari authorities had nevertheless taken the precaution of reporting the matter to the person's country of origin.

The Nigerian Delegate said that the illiteracy of certain populations was a help to counterfeiters, and that educating such groups might be one solution to the problem.

The Chairman informed the meeting that his colleague from the Secret Service had just gone back to

the United States to prepare for the next session of the United Nations, and also to attend a meeting to study the forthcoming production of a new 100-dollar note with a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, which would incorporate quite expensive security features.

Counterfeiting of travel documents

The General Secretariat Representative commented on Report No. 15 and introduced Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/7 which harmonized and combined the five recommendations made by the 2nd International Conference on Fraudulent Travel Documents held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in 1994.

Several delegates reported on the situation in their countries and the difficulties they were facing.

Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/7 was adopted unanimously with one abstention.

Money laundering

The Chairman presented Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/22, submitted by the United States Delegation. Speaking as a member of that Delegation, he explained what had motivated the authors of the draft.

The United States Delegation felt the text would give extra weight to Interpol's voice vis-à-vis other international organizations and would encourage the adoption of legislative provisions corresponding to Interpol's objectives. The draft also aimed to define money laundering, and referred to the five recommendations put forward during the General Assembly session in Rome. There was nothing revolutionary about it. The text merely tried to bring together elements which were currently too scattered to permit an effective fight against an evil which was at the very root of criminal activity.

Taking into account the legislation in his country, which for the moment only concerned the laundering of funds derived from illicit drug trafficking but might soon be amended, the Japanese Delegate proposed that the operative part of the resolution should begin:

"RECOMMENDS that Interpol member countries consider adopting national legislation ...".

The Russian Delegate proposed adding at the end of point 2: "as well as the repatriation of proceeds derived from illegal activities".

The Japanese and Russian amendments were adopted.

Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/22, as amended, was adopted (2 votes against).

Draft Resolutions:

- AGN/64/P.RES/17, Universal classification system for counterfeit payment cards,
- AGN/64/P.RES/18, Fraud involving payment cards,
- AGN/64/P.RES/19, Computer-related crime,
- AGN/64/P.RES/20, Recommendations adopted by the 2nd International Conference on Fraudulent Travel Documents held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 6th to 8th September 1994,
- AGN/64/P.RES/25, Money laundering, were subsequently put to the vote in plenary session and were all adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

Organized crime and international terrorism

The reports on those two subjects were presented by the Head of Division II at a plenary session of the General Assembly.

Organized crime

The Head of Division II reported on the activities of the General Secretariat's Organized Crime Group which was currently working on five main projects relating to criminal organizations.

Project GoWest had been launched to tackle organized crime by gangs from Eastern Europe because of the alarming increase in criminal activities in that part of the world. Unfortunately, the countries concerned had not yet sent in much information and, consequently, the results hoped for had not yet been achieved. The General Secretariat urged those countries to make a special effort in that connection.

Project Rockers dealt with the activities of illicit bikers' groups. Such activities included extortion and racketeering, violent assault and the use of weapons, drug traffic, theft of and traffic in spare parts. Information received showed that the Hells Angels were trafficking in cocaine and had direct contacts with Colombian suppliers. Combating such activities relied to a great extent on having a constantly updated list of national and international contact officers so as to facilitate the sharing of information and to ensure continuity and co-ordination.

Project OCSA was concerned with organized crime in Latin America. Since November 1994, the General Secretariat had been working with the Belgian and Chilean police to try to break up a gang that was based in Belgium but whose activities (theft of and traffic in Eurocheques and credit cards) extended to other European countries. Information from the countries affected by the traffic would be circulated, and a booklet giving particulars of the persons involved would be published.

Project EastWind had been initiated to combat organized crime emanating from Asia including, in particular, illegal immigration networks. There again, unfortunately, NCBs had not provided much information and it had been difficult to analyse the situation.

Project Macandra covered the three main Italian criminal organizations: the Mafia, the Camorra and the N'drangheta. A

general study on the subject had been conducted and a database had been established. Finally, work had begun on a new project designed to combat African organized criminal gangs. The success of all those projects would naturally depend on the degree of co-operation by NCBs.

The Italian Delegate said that his country had adopted new legislation to intensify its fight against organized crime. Because the laws on pentiti (protected witnesses) had produced excellent results in terrorism cases, it had been suggested that the same sort of system might be used in connection with Mafia-type organizations. The legislators had been somewhat hesitant at first because of the powerful influence of the concept of omertà (the law of silence), but a law had been adopted on 15th March 1991 and, from the outset, information from repentant Mafiosi had been forthcoming.

International terrorism

The three specialized officers working in the TE Group at the General Secretariat and the Head of the Group, divided up their activities on a geographical basis. The Group dealt with all aspects of terrorism and civil aviation security:

it collated messages, processed requests for information, analysed trends and studied all subjects related to terrorism.

The Head of Division II reminded delegates of the recommendations made in the Guide for Combating International Terrorism and urged NCBs to send information to the General Secretariat's database regularly.

The Group had recently been represented at a meeting on the smuggling of nuclear waste and the proliferation of special weapons, sponsored by the United States FBI, and at a meeting on security and risks in the travel and tourism sector, sponsored by the World Tourism Organization and a Swedish University.

The Head of Division II mentioned recent terrorist attacks in Algeria, France, Japan and Ethiopia. One of those incidents, linked to the recent upsurge in terrorist activities in France, had occurred very near the Organization's Headquarters. He thanked the member countries that were contributing to the General Secretariat's fight against international terrorism and urged them all to co-ordinate their prevention efforts.

The Iranian Delegate described the recent hijacking of a civilian

Iranian aircraft, and urged Interpol's members to apply the terms of the 1971 Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation and the 1970 agreement on international hijacking of aircraft. It should not be possible to consider any member country of Interpol a safe haven for criminals committing such crimes. He asked Interpol to remind its Members of their obligations, and said he would let the General Secretariat have the findings of studies carried out in Iran, *inter alia* on the extradition of international criminals.

The Togolese Delegate asked if the Organization had adopted a particular approach to the definition of terrorism - that was an important problem where extradition was concerned.

The South African Delegate pointed out that the question had led to the adoption of Resolution No. 4 by the United Nations Conference on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. Citing his own country as an example, he called for extreme caution when attempting to define "terrorist" activities - which were currently prosecuted as "ordinary" crimes committed by terrorists: civil liberties activists who had once been considered as terrorists now constituted the legitimate government.

The Indian Delegate agreed with the remarks made by the Iranian and South African Delegates. The problem was mainly that of the extradition of criminals who sought refuge in a country other than that in which they had committed their crimes. It would be interesting to know exactly what results were achieved when red notices were sent out for the criminals in question. A report on the matter would be welcome.

It did not appear impossible to find a definition of terrorism. That would be valuable for countries seeking to adopt appropriate laws.



He then referred to the remarks he had made earlier on the subject of counterfeit currency and traffic in firearms. He did not think it would be difficult to keep details of explosives and weapons in a database.

The Head of Division II said that he would very much like to know the results of the terrorist survey carried out in Iran; that information would be a valuable addition to the General Secretariat's database. Replying to the Indian Delegate's questions, he said that he would try to find out the percentage of successful arrests made on the basis of red notices. He would also be able to supply the definitions of terrorism which had been given in various international conventions. In answer to a question from the Saudi Arabian Delegate, he pointed

out that all the information which reached the General Secretariat was entered in a general database, which was then consulted by different departments using key-words to collect information on specific subjects.

The type of system for recording details of weapons and explosives advocated by the Indian Delegation already existed, in the General Secretariat's database. Several circulars had been sent to member countries, describing how the system worked and all contributions to the database from member countries would be welcome.

The Secretary General then took the floor to draw attention to the fact that the Organization's policy in matters of terrorism had been made clear in several resolutions adopted

in the early 1980s. Rather than attempt to provide a definition, it had very wisely been decided to determine the criminal elements that constituted each specific act of terrorism. Those guidelines had been set out in Interpol's Guide for Combating International Terrorism. They avoided the difficulties mentioned by the South African Delegate, and also any problems which might arise by considering political or religious aspects.

The observations that had been made would be taken into account for the Symposium on Terrorism, due to be held in Lyons at the end of the month. The General Secretariat's anti-terrorist activities were well organized, a fact that countries which had recently joined the Organization would no doubt realize.

COMPUTERIZATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Committee on Computerization and Telecommunications met on 5th October 1995, with Mr William Taylor, United Kingdom, in the chair.

Mr Silva (Argentina), spoke briefly about the background to the Standing Committee on Information Technology (SCIT), of which he was the Chairman.

At the 52nd General Assembly session in Cannes, it had been decided to set up a working party - which later became a standing working party - initially to deal with telecommunications, and subsequently with information technology in the broad sense of the term.

At its 53rd session in Luxembourg the General Assembly had formally ratified those decisions.

Mr Silva recalled the SCIT's objectives:

- to monitor developments in technology for the benefit of users;

- to recommend operational technical standards;
- to advise the Executive Committee.

He went on to describe the irreversible trends taking place in information technology and its applications. He emphasized the importance of the increased involvement of countries which hosted the Interpol Regional Stations located in Abidjan, Buenos Aires, Canberra, Nairobi, Puerto Rico and Tokyo.

The SCIT provided an excellent discussion forum and its tasks were far from easy. It co-ordinated, assisted in the drafting of, and approved the General Secretariat's proposals on technological matters. It acted, in effect, as a consulting body for the General Secretariat's Technical Support Division (Division IV).

The SCIT had made it possible for the Interpol network to become the first police network to conform to the new age of telecommunications. Mr

Silva paid tribute to the work accomplished by Division IV.

He then went on to describe the SCIT's recent activities which had included:

- a review of its terms of reference, in collaboration with the General Secretariat's Legal Affairs Division (Division III);
- the preparation of drastic reductions (45% - 50%) in its budget for the next two years;
- recommending Option 1 of the Criminal Information System (ICIS), so as to provide Interpol with technology standards worthy of the end of the twentieth century;
- further study of the successive stages of regional modernization;
- a study on standard message formats, the use of which was now a priority given the number and cost of calls.

Mr Silva ended his presentation by emphasizing that the SCIT was at the service of its users. It undertook to ensure that Division IV had the necessary financial

resources derived from the savings made by reducing the SCIT's budget.

In conclusion, he made a strong appeal to Interpol's member countries: they had to understand the need for the Organization to have the most up-to-date technology.

Mr McQuillan, Head of the Technical Support Division at the General Secretariat, introduced Interpol's Five-Year Computerization Plan (1996 to 2000).

Five-Year Computerization Plan 1996 - 2000

It had become clear while preparing the Five-Year Plan for 1996 - 2000 that a number of the major computer systems operating at the General Secretariat would have to be replaced.

The move of the General Secretariat from Paris to Lyons in the spring of 1989 had seen the installation of a number of computer systems introduced as part of a modernization programme.

Taking into account the fact that all those computers would be due for replacement at about the same time, a "Capital Investment Fund" had been established in 1990 under Article 18 of the Financial Regulations to assist in the replacement of equipment subject to depreciation. A policy of replacing the computers after five to seven years of continuous use had been established.

Interpol's Criminal Information Systems

Mr McQuillan explained that criminal information sent to the General Secretariat was processed by the following three major computer systems, which were due for replacement in 1996/97.

The Criminal Information System (CIS): a storage and retrieval database that could only be accessed by authorized officials working at

the General Secretariat. NCB information was entered into the system via the Message Response Branch and was referred to in Article 5 of the Rules governing the database of selected information as the General Secretariat's general criminal records.

The Electronic Archiving System: an optical disk image system holding, electronically, copies of the criminal files. In the main, the files consisted of the original messages received from the NCBs. The system was linked to the CIS system described above.

Automated Search Facility (ASF): a storage and retrieval system holding selected criminal information which could be accessed directly by authorized NCBs or could be electronically downloaded to those NCBs with ASF Equipment Option 5.

Non-personal information, on stolen cars for example, could also be held on the system.

The ASF database was controlled by the Rules governing the database of selected information referred to above.

Interpol Criminal Information System (ICIS) - Recommended replacement policy

In 1994 the Technical Support Division, in liaison with the Standing Committee on Information Technology (SCIT), had begun a study in order to recommend a strategy for the replacement of the three Criminal Information Systems in 1996/97.

As a result of the study, the policy outlined below was recommended:

Reduction of the three major computer systems - CIS, Archives and ASF - to one system (ICIS) within the concept of a 3-Tiered Architecture;

Budget: Reduction of investment and running costs by an estimated

FRF 4.2 million over 5 years and avoidance of the need to recruit additional staff;

Duplication: Avoidance of duplication of data systems and networks;

Access to data: Preservation of the current internal (General Secretariat) and external (NCB) access controls to selected and authorized information only;

Data integrity: Improvement of the integrity of the criminal information held, by introducing message formats and by reducing the delays in updating information, in accordance with the principles of data privacy;

Security and reliability: Improvement of overall security and reliability by concentrating on the one system and a single point of access;

Hardware and software evolution: Institution of flexibility for change, in a cost-effective way.

Mr McQuillan emphasized the success of the ASF and stated that 81% of all Interpol records had been entered in that database. By merging the systems, savings in the region of 4.2 million French francs could be made over a period of five years.

In order to obtain the benefits of the new systems, it was proposed to delete Article 5.1 and 5.2 of the Rules governing the database of selected information at the General Secretariat (ASF).

Those rules, which prevented an electronic link between the CIS and the ASF, were considered to be obsolete in the light of the new information technology policy and principles defined in Report No. 26.

It was further proposed in the preliminary draft resolution that NCB restrictions on access to information in the ASF should also be applicable to the CIS.

In addition, it was proposed that suspect vehicles, boats and planes

be recorded in the ASF when there were reasonable grounds for suspecting that they had been used in connection with criminal activities.

In response to a question from the French Delegate, Mr McQuillan reminded the Committee that the 1994 General Assembly session had approved the principle whereby non-personal information concerning stolen motor vehicles could be entered into the ASF directly by countries, without a manual interface at the General Secretariat. Whilst details of suspect vehicles, etc., would often be linked operationally with personal data, data protection considerations required the two to be separated as far as entry in the ASF was concerned. Personal data was checked for compliance with Interpol's regulations before it was recorded at the General Secretariat.

The Saudi Arabian Delegate raised the question of using the X.400 system for the transmission of messages in Arabic. Mr McQuillan replied that in 1997-1998 the General Secretariat would introduce Microsoft software for the use of the Arabic language. He stressed that whilst the General Secretariat would then have the possibility of sending messages in Arabic to NCBs where that was the preferred language, Arabic was not an official language of the Organization (it was only an official language of the General Secretariat and General Assembly) and so messages should not be sent in Arabic to NCBs whose personnel did not have the necessary language skills.

Answering a question from the Cameroonian Delegate, Mr McQuillan confirmed that countries benefiting from the Regional Modernization Programme would receive the equipment to use ASFMail in addition to the X.400 telecommunication system.

The Iranian Delegate congratulated the Technical Support Division on the work done to

implement the modernization programme and called for continuous monitoring of the use and performance of the system. Mr McQuillan, emphasizing the success of the X.400 system, assured delegates that every assistance would be given to help overcome any difficulties that arose and reminded those present that a Help Desk had been established at the General Secretariat for that purpose. The Technical Support Division would follow up the issue directly with the Iranian Delegation.

Mr Saphos (United States), Chairman of the *ad hoc* Committee, confirmed that Preliminary Draft Resolution No. 17 was in conformity with the Constitution. The text was duly put to the vote by the Chairman and adopted unanimously.

The ASF system

Mr Suc (Technical Support Division) outlined the major developments that had occurred on the Interpol network such as image transmission, formatted messages and the Windows version of the encryption software.

He reported on the status of the ASF project and said that the launching of ASFMail on 1st July 1994 had made it possible for nearly 60 NCBs to be able to consult the ASF database using their X.400 equipment. Currently 76 NCBs could access the database by ASFDirect of ASFMail and were using a total of 157 workstations. He gave a presentation on the stolen works of art program, which had been finalized; the MRRB and ASA departments had begun data entry and digitization of colour photographs of stolen property (paintings, carvings, furniture, etc.).

There were no plans for NCBs to store data at local level, since they would have access to the database via ASFMail (X.400).

Mr Suc also gave a status report on the stolen vehicles program, as well as comprehensive details of

the various technical configurations proposed for NCBs. He presented the timetable for the project and explained the role of the eight NCBs which had been chosen as pilot sites. He illustrated his presentations on the stolen works of art and stolen vehicles programs with slides.

Regional Modernization

The situation regarding implementation of these projects at the end of June 1995 was summarized in the following terms:

South America

The contract was signed on 30th December 1993 and installation began after the equipment had been technically approved. The Buenos Aires Regional Station was installed and tested in November and December 1994. It began operating on 19th December 1994, and was quickly followed by the national stations in Montevideo, Asunción, Santiago and Lima on 26th December and then, between January and March 1995, by those in Brasilia, Quito, Caracas, Georgetown, Bogotá and La Paz.

Between December 1994 and March 1995, therefore, the South American Region had been fully equipped with high-performance X.400 electronic message-handling systems which also gave it access to the ASF system via the ASFMail service. This pilot project for the regional modernization strategy was a complete success thanks to the efforts of all concerned: the Buenos Aires Regional Station and the NCBs for organization and local preparation of the project, the General Secretariat's Technical Support Division for management and co-ordination, technical decisions and implementation, and the SCITOR/SITA/ITS Company which demonstrated its ability to install, set up and maintain the equipment and the network throughout the Sub-Region.

The strategy proposed and adopted during the 60th General

Assembly session held in Punta del Este in 1991, and the choice of company made following a call for bids in early 1993, had been fully justified and their suitability for the other projects had been confirmed.

Eastern Europe and the Middle East

The project for modernizing this region was prepared in mid-1994 and a contract with SCITOR was signed on 11th April 1995 to provide 24 NCBs plus the Liaison Bureau in Bangkok with equipment similar to that installed in South America.

Installation will take place between October and December 1995 and the training for the NCBs will be given during the same period at the General Secretariat in Lyons. This is a very important project because it will allow eight NCBs, which have no means of communication, to acquire X.400 electronic message-handling equipment and will put an end, once and for all, to the use of telex and Teletex at the Central Station. The result will be great savings in communications costs.

Caribbean and Central America

This project is at an advanced stage of preparation: a draft contract was sent to SCITOR on 30th May 1995 and the contract will be signed in July or August 1995. Currently, the Regional Station in Puerto Rico and 20 NCBs have signed the necessary legal documents. All those NCBs have been included in the initial contract. Installation of the equipment in the Regional Station is planned for the end of 1995 and the national stations will gradually be brought into service from the beginning of 1996 onwards.

Use of the telex and Teletex systems, which were installed in the NCBs of the Region in 1989 and have worked very well to date, will



cease when this project is completed.

West Africa

The legal documents required were collected during the first half of 1995. By the end of the year, sixteen countries had signed up, making it possible to launch the project officially, in co-operation with France which is contributing towards the cost. SCITOR's technical and financial proposal has been received and analysed and the contract is due to be signed before the end of 1995. The equipment should therefore be installed during the course of 1996.

East Africa

As a result of the decisions taken by the General Assembly in Rome in 1994 it was not possible to maintain funding for this project in the 1995 Budget as initially planned. The studies have been reviewed and refined in co-ordination with the financial departments and it has proved possible to include an appropriation in the 1996 Budget which is currently being submitted for approval. That will make it possible to finish equipping the African

Region and complete the Regional Modernization Programme as approved in 1991.

Discussion on regional modernization

Mr SILVA, Chairman of the SCIT, briefly outlined the background to the five-year pilot scheme for Regional Modernization in South America. The scheme, which had been adopted by the General Assembly in Ottawa in 1990, had received financial support from the United States, technical support from the General Secretariat and logistical support from Argentina. Its successful completion had given the police of 12 countries, with a total of 310 million inhabitants, a highly sophisticated telecommunications system to facilitate their day-to-day co-operation.

The Regional Station in Buenos Aires, which had been set up by the Argentine Federal Police as part of the Interpol Sub-Regional Bureau, had had its terms of reference defined at the 35th American Regional Conference in Caracas.

Mr Silva, speaking as Head of the Regional Station, went on to describe the Station's activities, highlighting its integrated training

centre which had six workstations for training purposes and which had trained staff from all the countries in South America.

He emphasized the vital support the Station had received from Division IV and the SITA Company, as a result of which his Station had never felt isolated either during implementation of the pilot scheme or once it became operational. He gave a detailed description of all the immediate advantages arising from the pilot scheme as the Argentine Federal Police saw them:

- a dramatic reduction in telecommunications costs;
- a spectacular increase in traffic (the regional traffic recorded between March 1995 and August 1995 had been greater than the traffic recorded for 1994 as a whole).

He concluded by urging member countries not to be discouraged by the administrative and financial difficulties they would undoubtedly encounter before achieving such results. He encouraged all future beneficiaries of Interpol's various Regional Modernization plans to use the services of the SITA Company, which was the airline companies'

telecommunications co-operative. It was reported that the system was working beyond expectation and was highly successful. The network and support provided by SITA was considered to be of a high standard.

Mr McQuillan reported on progress regarding Regional Modernization since the end of June 1995 as follows.

European and Mediterranean region

22 NCBs in the European and Mediterranean region would be operational at the end of 1995.

Caribbean and Central American region

Also, 22 NCBs of the Caribbean and the Central American region had signed the necessary legal agreements and would receive the Regional Modernization equipment and network in the spring of 1996.

Training at the Interpol Regional Station of Puerto Rico would start in February 1996. Installation would be in March/May 1996.

The system would be operational in 1996.

West African region

17 NCBs had signed the agreement, and the contract with SITA would be signed at the end of 1995. Training and installation would take place in 1996.

East African region

Financing for the East African project had been proposed in the 1996 Budget and was subject to agreement by the General Assembly.

19 NCBs in the region would receive training and equipment in 1996/1997.

Asian region

Subject to the availability of funds, the Asian project could be implemented in 1997/1998. Mr McQuillan announced that it was anticipated that 3 million French Francs would shortly be allocated to the ATSFDC for that purpose.

Draft Resolution AGN/64/P.RES/3 was adopted during the plenary session.

MEETING OF HEADS OF NCBS

The meeting was held on 6th October 1995 and chaired by Mr Mastenbroeck (Netherlands).

Mr Higdon, General Secretariat representative, reported on the activities of the following Working Parties:

- Working Party on disaster victim identification;
- Working Party on environmental crime;
- Working Party on police/customs co-operation;
- Working Party on offences against minors.

The Standing Working Party on Offences against Minors had held its first meeting in March 1993. The Working Party met twice a year and was composed of representatives from 25 countries in Asia, North America, Europe and Australia. A training seminar had been held from 5th to 7th April 1995. There was a very close working relationship with the various United Nations institutions involved. The next meeting of the Standing Working Party would be in London in November 1995, thanks to the British authorities

who were offering to host the meeting and making a valuable contribution on this sensitive issue. Mr Higdon then referred to Interpol's collaboration with one of the most active non-governmental organizations in the field - ECPAT - and to the work of that NGO. Interpol was also deeply involved in an expert capacity in the First World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, to be held in Stockholm in August 1996. It would be hosted by the Swedish Government in collaboration with UNICEF, ECPAT

and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A number of cases had been solved thanks to Interpol.

Mr Higdon updated delegates on the progress of the ICPO-Interpol Disaster Victim Identification Programme which was managed by the General Secretariat in close co-operation with the Standing Committee on Disaster Victim Identification which consisted of delegates representing 18 member countries and the medical and dental professions. South Africa had joined the Committee in 1995 and Argentina and Jordan had agreed to join. Continued support had been given by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Air Transport Authority (IATA) and the International Red Cross Committee. The Standing Committee was hoping that a representative from the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs would attend the next meeting, scheduled for 1996.

The 1995 Meeting had resulted in finalizing the format of the new disaster victim identification guide and forms. The guide would include comprehensive information on how to search for victims, how to set up a temporary mortuary, how to move victims from one country to another (with reference to the relevant legal implications), how disaster victims should be treated according to their national customs, culture or religion, and how to use genetic techniques in identifying victims.

It would also cover the important issue of stress and welfare of personnel working at the scene (post traumatic stress disorder) and include photographs of different types of disaster scenes.

The future work of the Committee would include developing a better understanding of national rights and responsibilities in incidents involving residents of more than one country. Also, the six General

Assembly resolutions which had been adopted over the years would be combined into one comprehensive summary.

The Training Unit established in 1994 had enabled the Secretariat to co-ordinate requests from member countries better. Delegates were urged to ensure that their countries replied to the questionnaire sent out by the Secretariat requesting information on the type of DVI Unit they had and the training they provided.

Annual Report of the Supervisory Board for the internal control of Interpol's archives

The Board's most important task is to ensure that any personal information in the Organization's archives is held in conformity with the conditions laid down in Article 5 of the Exchange of Letters.

The Board carried out two kinds of verification in 1994.

Requests for verification

These requests for verification are made by private individuals.

As it had already done in previous years, the Board asked to be allowed to consider requests submitted to the General Secretariat for verification or deletion of information, in addition to the requests it received directly. The General Secretariat accepted the proposal.

In 1994, the Board considered 17 individual requests for verification, some of which were of a very delicate nature. At its meeting in March 1995, the Board considered 12 requests for verification. After having studied the requests carefully, it replied to the persons concerned that all the verifications provided for had been conducted. The General Secretariat agreed to its proposal that a red notice be cancelled. In one case, the General Secretariat had refused

to record information at the request of an NCB because it considered that Article 3 of the Organization's Constitution was applicable to the case. After having taken note of the General Secretariat's decision the Board took note of its effect on the recording of information about that case in the archives.

As a general rule, the Board informs the requesting parties that it is not empowered to divulge whether or not Interpol's archives contain information concerning them, or to give them access to such information should it exist.

The Board maintained the principle of not giving specific data to any individual, but it modified its position slightly in certain cases where it indicated to requesting parties that they might have a better chance of obtaining information by applying to one or other specific institution. Furthermore, in certain particular circumstances, the Board told the requesting parties whether or not there was information about them in the General Secretariat's archives.

Spot checks

The Board carried out 27 spot checks in 1994. It did not carry out any spot checks at its meeting on 30th and 31st March 1995.

Although none of the spot checks resulted in additions to, or deletion of, a file, they did prompt the Board to recommend to the General Secretariat that various NCBs should be contacted again to ask them to update information and check on the time-limits for prosecution of offences, notably with regard to information from Interpol member countries which were formerly part of Yugoslavia. They also led the Board to reflect on the consequences of the creation of the International Tribunal to try war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia, and on the application by Interpol of the "conflict zone" criterion.

The Board would like to point out that, in the case of spot checks,

it is more difficult to discover whether or not the files comply with Interpol's rules and regulations, since no information has been supplied by the person who is the subject of the file being checked.

Other missions

The Board approved a proposal to amend the Rules on Police Co-operation so as to give it the same right (as that enjoyed by the General Secretariat) to send information to a requesting party, with the express agreement of the NCB concerned. It pointed out that the amendment would improve the provision of information and make for greater openness which would be beneficial for Interpol's data protection system. It would also be in conformity with current data protection trends in the Schengen and Europol systems, both of which institutions were again discussed by the Board on several occasions in 1994.

The Board approved a proposal for an amendment to the Rules on Police Co-operation allowing the General Secretariat to delete items of police information if it seemed that it would be impossible to be certain of the accuracy of updates.

The General Secretariat provided the Board with information about data relating to computer fraud.

The Board expressed interest in the new Analytical Criminal Intelligence Unit (ACIU) and in the legal consequences of its activities, particularly with regard to data protection.

In 1994, the Board again considered relations between the databases held by Interpol, Europol and Schengen, particularly in the context of its discussions with the European Data Protection Commissioners.

Finally, the Board was extremely pleased to be able to organize a meeting with the European Data Protection Commissioners at Interpol's Headquarters. At that meeting, a presentation was given on the Supervisory Board, its mission, its working methods and the results it had achieved since 1986.

Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/10 authorizing publication and circulation of the Board's annual report was adopted unanimously. It was submitted to the plenary session of the General Assembly and adopted as Resolution AGN/64/RES/3 (see p. 44).

New approach to training NCB officials

The General Secretariat Representative referred to the main

points of Report No. 21, which aimed to define a new approach to training NCB officials by organizing regional training courses instead of the annual international courses held at the General Secretariat.

He summarized the advantages of the proposal:

- financial savings,
- no interpretation,
- better regional approach.

The first such course would be held in Buenos Aires in November 1995, after which a circular letter would be sent to the NCBs to enquire about hosting further courses.

The Saudi Arabian Delegate proposed organizing an international course every two or three years.

The Chairman asked the General Secretariat to take note of the Saudi Arabian proposal.

The Azerbaijani Delegate supported remarks made by the Greek and Saudi Arabian Delegates, who had expressed reservations about the concept of regionalizing training courses, since that would decrease the opportunities for contacts between officers from geographically remote countries. The three delegations therefore suggested that a two-level training concept be considered, based on:

- an *ab initio* international training course for new NCB staff,
- regional training courses for existing staff.

Monitoring of resolutions

The General Assembly, Interpol's supreme decision-making body, makes its decisions in plenary session by adopting resolutions, in conformity with Article 17 of the Organization's General Regulations. In these resolutions, member countries define policy and state the position of the international law enforcement community on various matters. Bearing in mind that the Organization, with its 176 member countries, is the only



worldwide forum for the international law enforcement community, these resolutions obviously have considerable significance.

New resolutions are adopted at every General Assembly session and, as a result, the number of valid resolutions has now reached substantial proportions. For instance, 328 resolutions were adopted between 1962 and 1982. However, there is currently no procedure for determining the validity of old resolutions. This has unfortunately led to a situation where some of the resolutions adopted in the past are partly or entirely invalid, or might even contradict some of the resolutions adopted subsequently. This is not surprising when we consider how rapidly international crime has developed and how policies for combating crime have altered.

The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly have a significant role to play, not only within Interpol but also vis-à-vis other international organizations. Consequently, everything possible must be done to maintain a high standard, and the resolutions adopted in the past must be re-examined in this light.

On 20th January 1995, the Secretary General issued instructions to the General Secretariat staff stating that appropriate measures must be taken to harmonize resolutions and reduce their number.

This report has been prepared as a result of those instructions, but it should be emphasized that it represents only the first step in a long-term project aimed at reducing the total number of resolutions within the Organization.

Reducing the total number of resolutions would have the following benefits:

- It would create a more realistic basis for the implementation and monitoring of the remaining resolutions;

- The substance of the resolutions would reflect the current international crime situation more accurately;

- Operational units would be better able to focus on those resolutions which are relevant;

- It would be easier for the General Assembly to identify priorities for the Organization's activities, and update them to meet the current requirements of the international law enforcement community;

- Considerably reducing the number of resolutions might mean that in future more thought would be given to all the possible implications before new resolutions are proposed.

The General Assembly adopted Resolution AGN/64/RES/8 in plenary session.

Regionalization within the ICPO-Interpol

Introducing Report No. 17, "Regionalization within the ICPO-Interpol", Mr Cameron-Waller reminded the meeting that in 1985 the Executive Committee had approved the concept of regionalization, the thrust of which related to a project for establishing sub-regional bureaux to improve co-operation between NCBs. Different regions had progressed at different speeds. First there had been the European Liaison Bureau and the South-American Sub-Regional Bureau, and preparations for the establishment of the Sub-Regional Bureau in Côte d'Ivoire had currently reached an advanced stage. Plans for the Sub-Regional Bureaus in Harare and Nairobi were also progressing well. In addition, there was the Drugs Liaison Bureau in Bangkok. He referred delegates to Report No. 17 which gave guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Sub-Regional Bureaus. Those guidelines had already been approved by the Executive Committee. Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/8 was submitted to the General Assembly and was adopted

unanimously, becoming Resolution AGN/64/RES/7.

Theft of works of art

Introducing the next item (thefts of works of art), Mr Higdon said that it was extremely difficult to get a clear picture of the scale of art theft in the world because national statistics were usually based on the circumstances surrounding the type of theft and seldom provided information on the actual nature of the stolen property. As a result, the General Secretariat had sent out a circular letter in 1995 to urge member countries to provide statistics on art thefts, but only 42 replies had been received to date. He took the opportunity to encourage delegates to provide such information since he felt that the statistics produced by Interpol did not reflect the true situation. He described the measures taken by the General Secretariat to operate more effectively in that field, including the major project of entering details of stolen works of art in the ASF. In conclusion, he thanked the delegates for their assistance and urged them to continue to co-operate to enable the General Secretariat to enhance and increase its efforts to combat that type of crime.

Structure and operation of NCBs

The Chairman then gave the floor to the Egyptian Delegate to introduce Agenda Item 9: Structure and operation of NCBs.

The Egyptian Delegate informed his colleagues that the Egyptian NCB had been set up in 1946 to provide liaison and to receive notices about crimes abroad where Egyptian assistance was sought. Those enquiries were referred to the Egyptian police for investigation. The results were returned to the NCB and then back to the country of origin. As from October 1994, the role of the

NCB had changed considerably from a passive one to an active one. The current role was much broader, with members of the NCB taking part in actual investigations. He then presented statistics from 1992 to the present day which showed that the arrest/extradition figures had risen considerably. He praised the work of other police forces which had resulted in a number of Egyptians being arrested abroad. Considerable success had also been achieved in the recovery of stolen works of art found abroad. He provided details of successful cases conducted in co-operation with other countries. He listed a number of very positive results attained from enhancing the Bureau's functions: as a result, the Bureau had been raised from a Division to a Department by the Ministry. He said that ordinary Egyptians and police officers were all aware of the role of Interpol, which helped them to assist in the work of the Bureau. He concluded by thanking his colleagues in other NCBs and hoped that they would follow the Egyptian example.

The Chairman thanked the Egyptian Delegate and congratulated him on the rise in status of the Bureau.

Fingerprints/Latents transmission forms

Referring to Report No. 18, Mr Higdon informed the meeting of the finalization of the standard fingerprint transmission form and introduced Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/9 which stemmed from a recommendation made by the First International Symposium on Fingerprinting and Fingerprint Standards, held in Lyons in May 1995.

Mr Higdon emphasized that at some point in time fingerprint transmission had to be standardized. Preliminary Draft

Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/9, if adopted, would be implemented worldwide, and some countries in other regions might not want to wait for the result of the pilot project in Europe.

Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/9 was put to the vote and adopted by the majority of the participants. It was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, becoming Resolution AGN/64/RES/9.

The United Kingdom Delegate informed the meeting that CFC 113 was the chemical solvent used to enhance fingerprints, particularly on paper-based substances, and to recover latent prints. Yet CFC 113 caused damage to the ozone layer and its production and consumption were therefore controlled in the 1988 Montreal Protocol. In spite of the hard work done by some countries to develop alternative solvents, no replacement as effective as CFC 113 for fingerprint recovery had been found. Considering the importance of fingerprint evidence in detecting crime and identifying individuals, and the essential role of CFC 113 in developing fingerprints, Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES 23 was presented.

Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/23 was put to the vote and adopted by the majority of the participants. It was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, becoming Resolution AGN/64/RES/10.

Relations with the other international bodies and with police organizations in particular

Such relations were dealt with in Report No. 23, entitled "Relations with the other international bodies and with police organizations in particular", which described the need to enable the senior officials of the Organization to enter into

negotiations with regional and international organizations in a timely manner, with a view to concluding co-operation agreements.

Discussions were also planned with the United Nations on reviewing Interpol's agreement with ECOSOC, and on the possibility of granting the Organization observer status at the U.N. General Assembly.

After being amended, the preliminary draft resolution was adopted. It was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, becoming Resolution AGN/64/RES/11 (see page 46).

Firearms regulation

A preliminary draft resolution was submitted to the meeting: it was a follow-up to a recommendation adopted at the 9th United Nations Congress on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders which had been held in Cairo and which had, in its turn, been followed by a resolution adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

After a certain number of amendments had been made to the text, the preliminary draft resolution was adopted. It was subsequently submitted to the General Assembly (AGN/64/P.RES/21) and was adopted, becoming Resolution AGN/64/RES/13 (see page 46).

CONTINENTAL MEETINGS

African Continental Meeting

Regional activities

Mr Cameron-Waller, Regional Co-ordinator, representing the General Secretariat, referred to the first meeting of the Working Party on Economic Crime in Africa which had been held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 18th to 20th April 1994; the second meeting of the Working Party had been held in Libreville, Gabon, on 24th and 25th August 1995.

The second meeting had discussed the follow-up to the recommendations adopted in Arusha, particularly Recommendation No. 16 which advocated setting up a monitoring committee and asked the Vice-President for Africa to co-ordinate its activities. Participants had adopted a recommendation on setting up a committee for the African region, and empowered that committee to take swift action on the Arusha recommendations and those adopted by the first International Conference on Economic Crime (Lyons, 19th and 20th April 1995). To reduce expense, it had been decided to set up two sub-groups,

one French-speaking, co-ordinated by the Gabonese representative, and the other English-speaking, co-ordinated by the Zimbabwean representative. The NCBs in Libreville and Harare were to establish the agendas and dates for meetings of the sub-groups. The Vice-President for Africa would be kept informed of the results of the sub-groups' work, organize future meetings and keep the General Secretariat informed.

The Chairman pointed out that the African Regional Conference in Lusaka, Zambia, had been preceded by a meeting of a working party on drugs. The report on that meeting would be sent to all members in the region shortly.

A presentation was then given on progress made with the modernization and telecommunications programmes for Africa.

As a result of the budgetary decisions taken in Rome, and in the absence of external financing, the East African project had had to be postponed. Nevertheless, it had been possible to include the East African Bureau in the 1996 draft budget, which had been submitted for approval to the General Assembly at its current session.

As far as the West African project was concerned, it was hoped that the General Secretariat would be able to sign the contract with SITA in the autumn, but it could only do so for those countries which had signed the agreements. Once the agreements had been signed, the General Secretariat would check whether the signatory countries did in fact have the necessary premises and operators, whether they could afford to pay customs duty on the equipment, etc. Any country which had not signed the agreement or which did not respect the conditions of the agreement would quite simply remain in its current situation and would not be able to benefit from Interpol's modern network and the services provided by the ASF.

It should be borne in mind that certain regions (especially the Caribbean and South America) were beginning to use the ASF as a regional computer, in searching for stolen vehicles, for instance. It was obvious that countries which did not take part in the modernization process would lose a great deal in terms of efficaciousness.

Day-to-day co-operation

- There had been a drop in the number of vehicles stolen in other countries and sold in Mali - perhaps because police action was making life particularly difficult for the traffickers.

- The Egyptian Delegate, a member of the Executive Committee, proposed that his country should co-operate with the police forces of other African countries by providing training, particularly in combating drug trafficking and terrorism, and also by providing assistance for the Sub-Regional Bureau in Abidjan.



Sub-Regional Bureaus: Situation and activities

The Regional Co-ordinator reported on the operation of the Abidjan Sub-Regional Bureau under Mr Lorougnon. He added that the meeting would be asked to vote on a preliminary draft resolution relating to the Agreement with the Government of Zimbabwe and that there was reason to hope that a similar agreement could be reached very quickly with Kenya in respect of the Nairobi Bureau.

The Ministers responsible for police services in the Central and West African countries had met in Abidjan under the auspices of the General Secretariat, and had given their total support to the Sub-Regional Bureau project. At the Lusaka Conference a resolution had been adopted with a view to following a similar procedure for the Harare and Nairobi projects. With the aid of the Zimbabwean police, a meeting had been arranged in August 1995 at Victoria Falls. It had been preceded by a meeting of heads of police departments in Southern Africa. Another meeting was scheduled for November in South Africa to finalize a strategy for the future Sub-Regional Bureau.

The Ministerial Meetings had asked the Organization to prepare conventions for the two Sub-Regional Bureaus. The budget report to be submitted to the General Assembly contained the operating budgets for Harare and Abidjan. It was assumed that the two Bureaus would be independent, i.e. financed by a supplementary contribution from the countries they served.

There was nothing to prevent external assistance being obtained, either in the form of financing or the provision of detached officers - which would provide a solution to the concerns expressed by the Egyptian Delegate. A circular about the recruitment of a liaison officer for the Abidjan Bureau would be sent out shortly. It was hoped that the countries concerned would

respond favourably without undue delay.

Establishment of Sub-Regional Bureaus in Africa

The Head of Division III introduced preliminary draft resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/19 on approval of a draft Agreement between the Government of Zimbabwe and the ICPO-Interpol regarding a Sub-Regional Bureau for Southern Africa and its privileges and immunities on Zimbabwean territory. He thanked the Zimbabwean authorities for their understanding attitude which had made it possible to draft an excellent agreement.

Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/19 was adopted unanimously.

The Head of Division III presented Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P.RES/18 on the adoption of a draft Convention between the Organization and countries served by the Sub-Regional Bureau in Abidjan, which was appended to Report No. 27. He confirmed the indications the Regional Co-ordinator had given on the conclusions of the Ministerial Conference of 13th March. The Ministers had asked for a convention to be signed within four months. The General Secretariat had sent a draft convention to the countries concerned on 18th July, and then a reminder on 15th September, but no country had yet replied. Under those conditions, of course, the General Assembly could not approve the draft Convention. However, while awaiting the required signatures, the text of the resolution would at least allow the Abidjan Bureau to operate, with a budget and officials. For the moment, however, there would be no independent budget and the subject would have to be tackled again the following year. After a very lively debate, Preliminary Draft Resolution AGN/64/A.P./RES/18 was put to the vote and adopted by the meeting

(no votes against and one abstention).

Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference

It was agreed that the decision would be taken at the Continental Meeting in 1996.

The two Preliminary Draft Resolutions adopted by the meeting were subsequently adopted unanimously by the General Assembly, becoming Resolutions AGN/64/RES/16 (see page 46) and AGN/64/RES/15 respectively.

American Continental Meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr Nelson Mery Figueroa.

Regional activities

The Aruban Delegate advised the meeting that as of 1st May 1995 the Aruban NCB would be physically transferred to the Aruban National Police. As a result, Mr Lukas Rasmijn was now Head of the NCB. Mr Peterson was still in charge of the Technical Committee. He then read out a proposal from Mr Peterson:

- mentioning that the contract for modernization for the sub-region had been signed in September in Lyons and that the new equipment should be installed in the first tier of countries during the first quarter of 1996;
- including a statement on criminal activity within the region and the fact that the region faced an increase in such activity;
- expressing satisfaction with the communications system and the fact that the Technical Committee had taken part in the selection process for the region;
- proposing the disbanding of the Technical Committee for the Caribbean and Central America and the setting up of a new regional community with a greater and more ambitious mission. The first meeting of the Regional Community would

be held at Oranjestad (Aruba) in January 1996 and all the countries of the region would be invited to attend, including Executive Committee members and the Secretary General.

Finally, he thanked all current members of the Technical Committee for their contribution.

Activities of the Sub-Regional Bureau in Buenos Aires

Mr Higdon said that the most significant issue was that the assignment of the Head of the Bureau would terminate at the end of 1995. A circular seeking applicants had been sent out by the General Secretariat and applications had to be received by the end of October 1995. A circular seeking liaison officers had also been sent out. He understood that two Chilean officers would be starting work at the Sub-Regional Bureau in November 1995.

The activities of the Mercosur Working Party were then discussed. Report No. 14 was presented, and finally it was announced that the second Mercosur meeting would be held in Brasilia on 24th and 25th November 1995.

Draft Resolution AGN/64/P.RES/4, on police co-operation within Mercosur, was adopted unanimously. It was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, becoming Resolution AGN/64/RES/14.

Asian Continental Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Latif (Pakistan), Vice-President of Interpol.

Regional activities, Day-to-day co-operation, Sub-Regional Bureaus

The Chairman welcomed his colleagues and informed them that the Working Party on Regionalization in Asia had held a meeting in Bangkok on 26th and 27th July

1995, and another meeting in Beijing two days previously. The main topics discussed at the Bangkok meeting had been: the role of the Liaison Bureau for South-East Asia; the telecommunications situation in the region; regional training; various regional co-operation initiatives; the possibility of holding meetings of the Working Party outside General Assembly sessions and Regional Conferences.

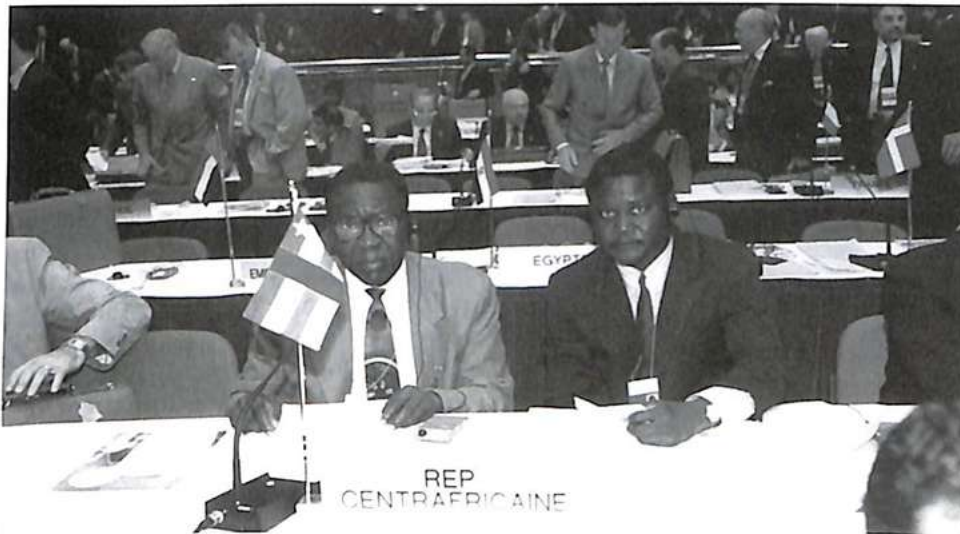
Mr Cameron-Waller, Regional Co-ordinator, also reported on the Working Party's last meeting, and said that a recommendation had been made to change the name of the Working Party to "Working Party for Co-operation in Asia". Mr Bain of the General Secretariat had given a presentation, showing how the role of the Liaison Bureau for South-East Asia had developed since the General Assembly had adopted regionalization recommendations at its session in Punta del Este.

The Australian Representative had emphasized the need to improve information sharing in the region; his remarks had been supported by a number of his colleagues. Various speakers had expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of the telecommunications services provided. The General Secretariat Representative had emphasized the fact that the Regional Modernization Plan obviously concerned Asia too, and that tangible results would soon be apparent. The General Secretariat was perfectly conscious of the needs and concerns of the countries in the region, as evidenced by the arrival of Mr Cheng to work at the Headquarters. The United Arab Emirates Delegate had raised the problem of transmitting messages in Arabic by X.400. Matters of training had also been discussed, and the General Secretariat had been asked to relaunch the project which had not been implemented in 1991 because too few replies had been received to the questionnaire sent to countries in the region.

Various regional co-operation initiatives had been described and the General Secretariat had been asked to harmonize them to avoid any unnecessary and costly overlapping. A meeting between representatives of Interpol and of ASEANPOL had been held in camera. The Liaison Officers in Asia Programme had been discussed: to date, 29 officers had been appointed in 21 countries. The Liaison Officers would be meeting in Australia in 1996.

The future of the Working Party had also been discussed and, as the Chairman had said, the possibility of its meeting more often had been raised. However, that proposal had not been accepted: it had been considered preferable to keep the current programme but to increase the duration of the meetings, which were felt to be too short. However, no formal decision had been taken on the matter. Finally, it had been suggested that it might be better to limit requests for items to be put on the agendas for Working Party meetings, and to distribute the minutes of those meetings only to participants.

Mr McQuillan (General Secretariat) gave a report on the telecommunications situation in the region. He emphasized that Asia was an integral part of the Regional Modernization Plan which had been adopted in 1991. At the meeting of the Computerization and Telecommunications Committee, which had been held that morning, he had been asked who had chosen the order of priority for modernization projects. In fact, the answer was extremely simple - it was all a question of funding by donors. For example, the United States had financed the plan in South America, the United Nations in the Caribbean, and the French Government in West Africa. Unfortunately, to date, no donors had come forward for East Africa, Asia or the South Pacific, which was not really surprising in view of the economic slump. Nevertheless, savings made elsewhere would



make it possible to include East Africa in the general Regional Modernization Plan in 1996.

At Executive Committee meetings, Mr Latif, Mr Kanemoto and Mr Taryam had fought hard for priority to be given to Asia. Their efforts had borne fruit, since 12 countries in the region would receive financial assistance, if not in 1996 then at least in 1997 and 1998, following the transfer of three million French francs to the Regional Modernization Fund. The assistance would take the form of help to acquire hardware and software, as well as logistical backup - that was similar in all respects to the measures taken in favour of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. That said, the General Secretariat had not given up the idea of finding a generous donor.

Mr McQuillan said he could only ask the South Pacific countries to be patient. They must realize that they had not been forgotten but that the Organization had to get its breath back. The General Secretariat would make a detailed study of the number of messages transiting via the NCBs concerned, in an attempt to find the most appropriate response to their needs.

Various local initiatives had been reported to the General Secretariat. In particular, six countries had apparently decided to organize a joint Aseanapol telecommunications

network which they intended to link up to the Organization's network and its database at some later date. Mr McQuillan asked the representatives of those six countries, and those of Japan and Australia where the Regional Stations were located, to meet that evening.

The transmitting of messages in Arabic over the X.400 system had been requested, and that would become possible in 1998 once the office automation system at the Headquarters had been modernized. Bids had been called for, and priority would be given to software which allowed the use of Arabic. Thus, in future, by combining office automation and the X.400, countries would be able to send messages in Arabic to the General Secretariat and to all NCBs with compatible software. Mr McQuillan emphasized that if the Arabic-speaking countries insisted that all NCBs should have such compatible software, the cost of the operation would be astronomical, since translators' salaries would have to be added to the cost of the software.

The Japanese Delegate said he was pleased to note the developments proposed for Regional Modernization. He asked if the investments would be financed from Interpol's ordinary budget, and whether regional modernization in Asia would be included in the 1997 and 1998 Budgets. Mr

McQuillan replied that the budget plan for 1997-2000 still had to be adopted by the General Assembly. For the moment, he had to keep to what he knew, in other words the sums allocated to the Regional Modernization Fund.

Noting that the discussion on that subject was closed, the Chairman then informed the meeting of the recommendations made in Bangkok by the Working Party on Regionalization in Asia. The first recommendation was on the Working Party's title, which would henceforth be "Working Party on Co-operation in Asia". Its task would be to promote and increase international police co-operation in the region and it would have to report on its activities to the Asian Regional Conferences and to Asian Continental Meetings held during General Assembly sessions. The Working Party had also recommended that the General Secretariat extend the scope of the Liaison Bureau for South-East Asia. Furthermore, it had expressed its eagerness to see the regional modernization telecommunications projects implemented in the area, but Mr McQuillan's explanations had shed light on that point.

Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference

The Thai Delegate said his country would gladly host the next Asian Regional Conference.

European Continental Meeting

The European Continental Meeting was held on 5th October 1995, with Mr Thiessen (Denmark), Chairman of the Interpol European Committee, in the chair.

Regional activities

Speaking as Chairman of the Interpol European Committee, Mr Thiessen submitted a report on the Committee's activities. He mentioned the main points discussed at the 24th European



The Portuguese Delegation

Regional Conference which had been held in Ljubljana, and at the 11th Meeting of the Interpol European Committee. He highlighted the importance of the IEC's Business Plan which ran until the year 2000. After a brief tribute to his predecessor, he reasserted the importance of the IEC's work in connection with the implementation of the European Business Plan for 1992-1996 and with the preparation of the 1996-2000 section of the Plan. He described the effects of some of the decisions taken at the last European Committee meeting, in particular the decisions to:

- Allow candidates wishing to stand for election to European posts on the Executive Committee to announce that fact at the European Continental Meeting held during the General Assembly session;
- Include on the agenda for all European Continental Meetings items relating to co-operation with other European police co-operation institutions, to ensure that delegates were better informed on those matters.

He said he was convinced that co-operation had been greatly enhanced by the arrival of new European members of Interpol, and by the new European initiatives relating to security. The report on the Ljubljana Conference would be submitted to the next European Regional Conference. A drafting committee had been set up and, with the help of the European Liaison Bureau, it would make an

inventory of the current situation and propose an ad hoc business plan. However, the discussions on existing problems might well prove difficult, and the discussions on solutions even more difficult.

He briefly mentioned the IEC's work on regional co-operation, the transmission of fingerprints, and crime analysis. He also referred to the work of the Group of Experts on the automatic transmission of images which would be meeting at the General Secretariat on 19th and 20th November 1995; its report would be submitted to the next European Regional Conference in May 1996. He was convinced that the business plan was a good one, that it could be modified to take account of new needs, and that it could serve as an example for other regions, particularly with regard to service standards for NCBs. In that connection, he pointed out that 17 service standards had been established, guidelines to which appeared in the latest version of the Vade Mecum published by the General Secretariat; he urged all European countries to apply those standards.

Some European countries, however, felt that the real situation did not correspond to the replies provided by certain European NCBs during recent consultations. He drew the NCBs' attention to their telecommunications costs and recalled the numerous advantages offered by the SITA company from that point of view.

The Chairman then gave the floor to the General Secretariat Representative (Head of the General Crime Sub-Division) who reported on the activities of the European Liaison Bureau.

The staff of the European Liaison Bureau had grown to 12 officers from 11 different countries (Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Switzerland). There had been an excellent rate of response (83%) to the questionnaire sent out about the services offered by the 45 European NCBs, and he expressed satisfaction at the fact that, in 1995, the rate for European NCBs meeting the 17 service standards had risen to 77%.

That significant progress would undoubtedly contribute to the success of future European police co-operation.

During the discussion which then ensued, the Delegates of Russian Federation and the United Kingdom made some interesting remarks. The latter proposed that Interpol's public relations activities be stepped up despite the budget restrictions decided on at the 1994 General Assembly session. He realized that a considerable amount had already been done along those lines with the making of the Interpol video. Nevertheless, he hoped that the Interpol European Committee would bear in mind the need to develop a marketing strategy for the Organization and a public relations policy vis-à-vis the media; he asked the Committee to include that point among its priorities.

The Europol Observer reported on the activities of the Europol Drugs Unit, and discussed relations between Europol and Interpol.

Date and meeting place of the next European Regional Conference

The Polish Delegate formally invited all the European countries to hold their 25th Regional Conference in Warsaw.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1996

The Head of Division 1 at the General Secretariat submitted Report No. 11 which contained the Programme of Activities for 1996:

Secretary General

- Computerization of the Public Relations Department, given the increase in its activities and the growing need for computerized files and records;
- Updating of the public relations brochure (last update in 1994 in four languages, in collaboration with Division III; updating is necessary every two years to take account of changes at the Secretariat [e.g. the organization chart] and in the Organization generally [e.g. number of member countries]);
- Updating of the floppy disks (updating is necessary every two years; to be carried out in collaboration with Divisions II and IV).

General Administration

- Strengthening the monitoring of statutory contributions and installation of a computerized commitment accounting system;
- Replacement of technical equipment at the General Secretariat which is coming to the end of its working life and refurbishment of parts of the premises;
- Replacement of the access control system (required when the new External Security Post is brought into operation in 1996).

Liaison and Criminal Intelligence

Sub-Division 1: General Crime, Organized Crime and Terrorism

General Crime

- Updating and increasing the information contained in the international pickpocket manual;
- Monitoring the information pertaining to violent crimes (especially the use of weapons in the commission of violence and the phenomenon of violence in urban areas).

Disaster victim identification

- Continuation, in co-operation with the Standing Working Committee on DVI, of work on disaster victim identification matters, including finalization of the DVI forms and the DVI Manual;

- Printing of the new DVI Manual and forms (in Arabic, English, French and Spanish).

Motor vehicle crime

- Regular updating of the motor vehicle registration manual;
- Production of a brochure on motor vehicle registration documents in Europe;
- Continuation of work on the motor vehicle crime action plan:
 - (a) Review of methods of collecting vehicle crime statistics;
 - (b) Development of crime analysis functions;
 - (c) Further development of the ASF database on stolen vehicles;

Works of art and cultural property

- Improvement of the output time for stolen property notices;
- Continuation of the back-record conversion of stolen property records;
- In-depth analysis of stolen property trends;
- Finalization of the extension of the ASF to stolen works of art.

Arms and explosives

- Ongoing provision of assistance and analyses regarding work done by member countries to establish tracing centres;
- Continuation of work with member countries to standardize intelligence language for use within the IWETS database.

Offences committed against minors

- Continuation of the training programme in co-operation with the United Nations;
- Improvement of the Specialist Liaison Officers network to increase efficiency;
- Production of model training programmes for law enforcement officials dealing with offences against minors;
- Pursuit of the objectives given to the Standing Working Party by the 61st General Assembly, i.e. propose practical solutions relating to the recommendations, co-ordinate subsequent action by member countries.

Organized Crime

- Furtherance of the following projects (notably with regard to the individuals implicated and wanted internationally):

(a) MACANDRA (Italian organized crime)

(b) ROCKERS (motorcycle gangs involved in organized crime)

(c) OCSA (organized crime in South America)

(d) EASTWIND (organized crime in Asia)

(e) GoWest (organized crime in Eastern Europe)

(f) MA.L.E. (Italian Mafia money laundering in Europe);

- Creation of an "identification manual" pertaining to motorcycle club colours;

- Preparation of a report on the European chapters of "Hells Angels", describing their development, evolution and structure, with a breakdown of the criminal activity involving members worldwide.

Terrorism

- Airport security and aviation statistics;

- Study of links between drugs and terrorism;

- Preparation of statistical reports on international terrorist incidents;

- Study on the possibility of nuclear terrorist incidents;

- Updating of the list of terrorists in general and terrorists involved in unlawful acts against aviation in particular.

Sub-Division 2: Economic and Financial Crime and FOPAC

- Computer Crime: publication of a Computer Crime Manual;

- Means of payment: establishment of a "Central Reference Point" and a "Central Reference Library" for counterfeit payment cards;

- Preparation of a manual on environmental crime;

- Product counterfeiting: study on the current situation in Member States and development of an international approach to combat product counterfeiting;

- Corruption: study on "information brokering";

- Computerized currency counterfeiting database (ASF);

- Computerized fraudulent travel documents database (EDISON System);

- Computerization of the "Counterfeits and Forgeries" Review;

- Studies on illegal migration (depending on the feasibility study to be conducted beforehand);

- M.L. (Money Laundering) File;

- In-depth study on the economic environment in the former Eastern bloc States;

- MA.L.E. (Mafia Laundering in Europe): study on the activities of the Mafia.

Training

- Environmental Crime Training Course.

Sub-Division 3: Drugs

- Special analysis and monitoring of all drug movements along the Balkan Route, as brought to the attention of the General Secretariat's Drugs Sub-Division;

- Studies on the illicit manufacturing of amphetamines in the Baltic States;

- Monitoring of drug trafficking trends through ongoing statistical analysis;

- Follow-up of the Pompidou Group initiatives with regard to drug trafficking by sea;

- Combining WCO, UN and Interpol statistics and conference programmes;

- Monitoring of West African drug trafficking organizations (West Africa project);

- Cocaine packaging markings/logos programme;

- Study of the impact of illegal migration from Eastern to Western Europe in relation to drug trafficking;

- Monitoring of the 1988 Convention in relation to mutual judicial assistance and maritime trafficking.

- Continuation of the psychotropics programmes including monitoring:

(a) the diversion of legitimately produced synthetic narcotics

(b) the legitimately produced psychotropic substances

(c) the production of illicit psychotropic substances

(d) the diversion of precursor and essential chemicals

(e) the threat posed by Polish traffickers in amphetamines to West European countries.

Sub-Division 4: Criminal Intelligence Department

- Commencement of "Default release of fugitives" project (objective: to prevent arrested persons being released simply because the necessary paperwork is not available);

- Implementation of the new ASF applications (i.e. ASFMail, stolen vehicles, stolen works of art, counterfeit currency), in collaboration with Division IV.

European Liaison Bureau

- Monitoring developments, establishing working agreements and maintaining close association with the European Union, EDU/Europol and Schengen;

- Monitoring and encouraging the implementation of Service Standards for the European NCBS;

- Enhancing the network of European Contact Officers at NCBS;

- Standardizing message formats, in collaboration with Division IV and with user input;



- Continuing work on the Regional Modernization projects, particularly for East Africa;

- Promotion of the encryption system, image transmission and the ASF at NCB level.

The Programme of Activities was adopted unanimously in plenary session.

- Developing the Interpol European Business Plan 1995-2000 (in collaboration with the Interpol European Committee).

Regional Co-ordination Bureau

- Promoting the creation of an organizing administrative support for Regional Committees following the precedent of the Interpol European Committee;

- Researching the demand for the creation of additional Regional and Sub-Regional Bureaus and, in collaboration with the Legal Affairs Division, developing the framework for their introduction where appropriate.

Legal Matters and Training

- Enhancement of the ICPR's desktop publishing system;

- Enhancement of the General Reference Department's computer system;

- Introduction of an electronic document storage system;

- Continuing action to reduce the number of invalid resolutions;

- Continuing and developing regional training activities;

- Continuing negotiation of international agreements in connection with the Regional Modernization programme;

- Continuing co-operation with the UN International Tribunal;

- Attempting to set up an outline agreement to regulate relations with the various regional police organizations.

Computerization and Telecommunications

- Establishment of an information technology strategy - three-tiered client/server architecture;

- Merging the CIS (Criminal Information System) and the ASF (Automated Search Facility) to form a single Interpol criminal information system (ICIS);

- Installation of new automated office and electronic archiving systems in the context of a three-tiered client/server architecture and the introduction of a financial management system to operate solely in French francs;

- ASF (Automated Search Facility): developments relating to suspect vehicles and boats;

ELECTIONS AND CHOICE OF A MEETING PLACE FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Executive Committee Elections

The General Assembly was invited to elect a Delegate for Europe to replace Mr Richardot (France).

Mr William Taylor (United Kingdom) was elected Delegate for Europe.

Appointment of the Secretary General

The President informed the Assembly that the current Secretary General, Mr Raymond Kendall, had indicated in 1994 that he wished to stand for a further term of office. His current term was due to end at the close of the present General Assembly session.

After due consideration, the Executive Committee had unanimously decided to propose, in conformity with Article 28 of the Organization's Constitution, that the General Assembly appoint Mr Kendall for a further five-year term of office.

After a vote by secret ballot, Mr Kendall was appointed Secretary General.

The President congratulated Mr Kendall, saying that he fully deserved the overwhelming vote of support that he had just received. He also congratulated the Assembly, saying that its vote would allow it to take full advantage of the Secretary General's outstanding professional qualities. The President added that he personally was very



William Taylor, Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police, elected as a member of the Executive Committee

pleased to be able to continue working with Mr Kendall.

Mr Kendall thanked the General Assembly for the confidence it had placed in him and, by implication, in his excellent team. He said that he would continue to work towards improving the Organization's Constitution: the discussions on Article 42 of the Constitution might have seemed lengthy or disorganized, but they were a reflection of the Organization's maturity. The discussion had been necessary and lessons would be drawn.

A five-year term was indeed a long one, and Mr Kendall considered that one of his main tasks would be to prepare, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, for his succession. It was unthinkable that the work

accomplished over the years should be wiped out. As soon as that question had been settled, Mr Kendall considered that he would be able to bring his services with the Organization to an end (Applause).

Mr Latif, Vice-President for Asia, expressed his satisfaction at the renewal of the Secretary General's term of office. He believed that Mr Kendall was probably the most competent and most subtle police diplomat alive. His unfailing efforts had helped to give a considerable boost to Interpol's prestige, and he had made a significant contribution towards modernizing the Organization's technology and strategy.

Mr Mahundi, Vice-President for Africa, was also pleased that Mr Kendall's term of office had been renewed. The fight against international crime was becoming ever tougher, and the Organization needed the professional qualities of a man of his calibre. He assured the Secretary General of the support of all the African member countries.

Mr Mery Figueroa, Vice-President for the Americas, echoed his colleagues' sentiments and expressed the unreserved support of member countries in the Americas.

Mr Zhu En Tao (China) wholeheartedly congratulated Mr Kendall on the renewal of his term of office as Secretary General at a crucial moment in the Organization's history, and he assured him of his full support.

Mr Raymond Kendall, appointed to serve a further term of office as the Organization's Secretary General

Selection of a meeting place for the 65th General Assembly session

The President said that Turkey, Egypt and India had offered to host the 65th General Assembly session.

The Indian Delegate said he did not wish the choice of meeting place for the next General Assembly session to become a bone of contention. In the hope of facilitating a unanimous decision, he would therefore extend his invitation for the 1997 General Assembly session instead of 1996.

A vote was held by secret ballot and Turkey was chosen as the country in which the next General Assembly session would be held.



MAIN RESOLUTIONS

AGN/64/RES/2

Subject: Amendment of the rules governing the database of selected information at the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat and direct access by NCBs to that database

HAVING CONSIDERED Report No. 26 entitled "Amendment of the 'Rules governing the database of selected information at the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat and direct access by NCBs to that database'";

TAKING ACCOUNT OF the opinion expressed by the *ad hoc*

Committee meeting in application of Article 56 of the General Regulations,

WISHING to institute rules which are better adapted to practical requirements and to new techniques,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th October to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:

Adopts the following amendments to the Rules governing the database of selected information at the ICPO-Interpol General

Secretariat and direct access by NCBs to that database :

Article 3(4) to read as follows:

"The General Secretariat shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that neither the NCBs, nor the said official institutions, nor third parties which have not been allowed direct access to an item of police information, can obtain that item of information from the database or from the General Secretariat's general criminal records, unless the NCB of origin specifies to the contrary."

A new paragraph will be added at the end of the list of Non-personal information in Appendix 1 of the Rules, to read as follows:

“Descriptions of vehicles, planes or boats, or any other means of transport where there is reasonable cause to suspect that they have been, or are likely to be, used in the commission of international criminal activity.”

These two amendments shall be immediately applicable.

Article 5(1) and 5(2) of the Rules will be deleted. The entry into force of this deletion is postponed until 1st January 1996.

AGN/64/RES/3

Subject: Annual report of the Supervisory Board for the internal control of Interpol's archives

HAVING STUDIED Report No. 19, entitled “Annual Report of the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives”, which reviews the activities and experience of the Board from the time it began functioning in 1986 until the end of the terms of office of its current Chairman, Mr Robert Bieber, and two of its members, Mr Jacques Fauvet (appointed by the French Government) and Mr Markus Peter (appointed by the Organization),

NOTING the Board's wish to communicate its Report to the appropriate audience and the favourable opinion expressed by the Executive Committee which has acceded to that wish,

HAVING NOTED the importance of the Report for the development of police co-operation within a context of respect for individual rights, and having found that it contains no police information of a personal nature,

WISHING TO THANK Mr Robert Bieber, Mr Jacques Fauvet and Mr Markus Peter, who have worked for nine years to give the Supervisory Board the importance,

prominence and independence it deserves and, during those years, have demonstrated their competence in the field of data protection and their concern for individual rights in the context of international police co-operation.

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:

DECIDES to pay tribute to them, and to all those who have been members of the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives, for their role in applying the first data protection system within an international organization, and to thank all of them for their excellent work;

RECOMMENDS that the NCBs take every opportunity to make the public aware of the existence, within the Organization, of a system for protecting personal data and of the right of indirect access which can be exercised through the Board, and asks them to reply as quickly as possible to any questions and requests put to them by the Board;

AUTHORIZES the publication and circulation of the Board's Annual Report to the appropriate audience and to all international institutions responsible for protecting human rights.

AGN/64/RES/4

Subject: Stolen motor

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:

RECOMMENDS that member countries:

- (1) Encourage motor vehicle manufacturers in their countries:
 - (a) to stamp tamper-proof identification numbers on essential parts of motor vehicles and to keep records of those numbers;
 - (b) to install effective anti-theft devices in all motor vehicles produced;

- (2) Create and maintain central records on motor vehicle registration details and on stolen or misappropriated motor vehicles;

- (3) Systematically provide motor vehicle identifying information to the country of prior registration when a motor vehicle that has already been registered in one country has been, or is to be, registered in another;

- (4) Advance co-operation between police/customs, motor vehicle manufacturers, insurance companies, car-hire firms, and motor vehicle users with a view to developing the most efficient preventive measures possible;

- (5) Study and initiate techniques that would make it more difficult to alter or forge driving licences, registration documents and licence plates;

ABROGATES the following resolutions:

- (a) AGN/31/RES/8 (1962)
- (b) AGN/36/RES/6 (1967)
- (c) AGN/41/RES/8 (1972)
- (d) AGN/44/RES/5 (1975).

AGN/64/RES/5

Subject: Communication of information on stolen works of art

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:

- (1) RECOMMENDS:
 - (a) that notices including particulars of identifiable works of art of a certain cultural or commercial value, stolen or found in suspicious circumstances, should be circulated as rapidly and widely as possible through Interpol channels, especially to the national customs authorities and all cultural or professional bodies which may be able to help in tracing the property;
 - (b) that NCBs incorporate the standard basic data found in these documents in their computer systems and set up index files on individuals suspected of trafficking

in, receiving or smuggling works of art:

(2) CONSEQUENTLY ALLOWS the General Secretariat complete freedom to decide not to publish international notices about property which does not comply with the criteria referred to at (1) (a);

(3) ASKS the General Secretariat: (a) to periodically publish a special issue, including some of the most important stolen works of art, to be sent to all NCBs for purposes of investigation, to underline Interpol's activities and to alert public opinion;

(b) to ask NCBs to give the widest publicity to these special issues through the media;

(4) AUTHORIZES the General Secretariat to adapt the CRIGEN/ART Form and the Manual of Guidance as necessary to permit identification of stolen items by electronic data processing;

(5) DECIDES that these documents should be distributed to NCBs;

(6) ASKS that, in order to facilitate computer processing of data, NCBs should:

- use these documents as much as possible;

- in cases where a telegram is sent out before the form or even instead of it, ensure that the information supplied in the telegram is drafted so as to follow both the headings on the appropriate form and the order of those headings;

(7) ABROGATES the following resolutions:

(a) AGN/39/RES/2 (1970)

(b) AGN/40/RES/6 (1971)

(c) AGN/56/RES/6 (1987).

AGN/64/RES/6

Subject: Stolen cultural property

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:

RECOMMENDS that member countries:

(1) Make every effort to adopt more appropriate legislation and to take account of other countries' laws on the receiving of stolen property and on the movement and restitution of cultural property stolen abroad;

(2) Support efforts being made by other international institutions to improve international rules on the restitution of stolen cultural property and to refine the concept of "acquisition in good faith";

(3) Facilitate the return to the legal owner of any cultural property found in one country, but obtained by means of an offence;

(4) Make any necessary information available to the judicial authorities of the requesting country of origin, in order to facilitate the identification of the property in question and the prosecution of the offenders responsible;

(5) Intensify both national and international co-operation between police forces, customs services and the professional circles concerned, to facilitate searching for stolen property and identifying property of suspect origin that has been discovered;

(6) Ensure that adequate training is provided for the personnel of all the bodies responsible for protecting cultural property;

(7) Encourage museums, similar institutions and private collectors to prepare inventories containing detailed descriptions of all valuable works, and to photograph and mark such works, with a view to more effective international co-operation;

(8) Improve the means of protection of cultural property, in particular in museums, in places of worship, during transport and at archaeological sites;

(9) Support educational and publicity campaigns to raise public awareness of the need to protect the cultural heritage;

(10) Exchange detailed information about dates, means of transport and routes chosen for items which have to be transported, together with a description and an indication of their value, in order to ensure efficient protection;

ABROGATES the following resolutions:

(a) AGN/37/RES/3 (1968)

(b) AGN/41/RES/9 (1972)

(c) AGN/52/RES/5 (1983)

(d) AGN/59/RES/9 (1990).

AGN/64/RES/11

Subject: Relations with the other international bodies and with police organizations in particular

BEARING IN MIND Article 41 of the Organization's Constitution,



NOTING THE CONTENTS OF Report No. 23, entitled "Relations with the other international bodies and with police organizations in particular",

AWARE of the importance, to the development of the fight against international crime, of establishing relations between the various regional police organizations and the ICPO-Interpol, whose scope of activity and whose influence extends to 176 member countries,

ALSO AWARE of the need to avoid any duplication of personnel, procedures and computer systems in the international fight against crime in order to prevent any unnecessary expenditure and diverging strategies,

CONVINCED OF the need to fight crime on a worldwide basis in order to prevent certain countries bound by regional agreements from feeling self-sufficient in the fight against crime,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:

ENDORSES the analyses and considerations contained in the above-mentioned Report;

ASKS the Secretary General to make a list of the regional police bodies and organizations responsible for international police co-operation at State level;

ALSO ASKS the President of the Organization and the Secretary General:

- to enter into negotiations:
 - aimed at allowing the closest co-operation and the most fruitful exchanges at the highest level between Interpol and the regional organizations which they feel are useful to international police co-operation;
 - with the United Nations with a view to establishing a procedure aimed at obtaining observer status for the Organization at the UN General Assembly sessions;
- to submit to the General Assembly for its approval any draft convention agreement or protocol which they conclude;
- and to take account of the wishes expressed on this subject by Interpol Regional Conferences.

AGN/64/RES/13

Subject: Firearms regulation

NOTING the resolution entitled "Firearms regulation for purposes of crime prevention and public safety", notably its paragraph 3, adopted by the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held from 29th April to 8th May 1995 in Cairo, Egypt,

ALSO NOTING the resolution entitled "Implementation of the resolutions and recommendations

of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", notably paragraphs 7 and 11 of its Section A, Chapter IV, adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 held from 26th June to 28th July 1995 in Geneva, Switzerland.

RECALLING the following resolutions previously adopted by the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly:

- AGN/37/RES/1, Tehran, 1968: Sale, Possession and Transport of Firearms;
- AGN/41/RES/11, Frankfurt, 1972: Control of Trade in Firearms;
- AGN/55/RES/4, Belgrade, 1986: Terrorism and Trafficking in Weapons and Explosives;
- AGN/56/RES/7, Nice, 1987: Form to Transmit Information about Weapons and Explosives Discovered, Seized or Connected with Trafficking Cases;
- AGN/61/RES/15, Dakar, 1992: Firearms Tracing.

DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER the grave suffering in the international community caused by the high incidence of violent crimes, accidents and suicides involving the use of firearms,

CONCERNED THAT the high incidence of crimes, accidents and suicides involving the use of firearms is closely related to the abundance of firearms in society without appropriate regulation of their possession and storage or training in their use and inter alia, to the fact that the persons who are most likely to use them for criminal activities have easy access to them,

RECOGNIZING THAT criminal activities in which firearms are used have been increasing, in part because of an increase in illicit trafficking in firearms at both the national and transnational levels,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:



DECLARES THAT there is currently an urgent need for effective strategies to ensure the proper regulation of firearms at both national and transnational levels;

CALLS UPON the Secretary General to establish and maintain close co-operation with the United Nations by the exchange of data and other information on, among others, statistical and strategic information about criminal cases in which firearms are involved and the situation with regard to transnational illicit trafficking in firearms;

INVITES member countries and the Secretary General to develop, in co-operation with the United Nations, a study of common strategies to strengthen international police co-operation for the purpose of combating illicit trafficking in firearms;

URGES member countries to duly report firearms-related incidents to the Secretary General by means of the existing Interpol Weapons Incident Form in order to facilitate an effective exchange of data and information among the member countries;

CALLS UPON member countries and the Secretary General to extend their full support to studies to be carried out by the United Nations following its two resolutions mentioned above;

REQUESTS member countries to recommend that illegal possession, manufacturing and sale of firearms be considered a penal offence;

INVITES member countries and the Secretary General to contribute actively to promoting appropriate firearms legislation and regulation within their respective competences;

URGES the Secretary General to ensure that, within the limit of the Organization's budgetary provisions, its human and financial resources be sufficiently allocated to the

implementation of the measures hereby required.

AGN/64/RES/16

Subject: Approval of a draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the International Criminal Police Organization-Interpol regarding a Sub-Regional Bureau for Southern Africa and its privileges and immunities on Zimbabwean territory

HAVING EXAMINED Report No. 28, entitled "Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the International Criminal Police Organization - Interpol regarding a Sub-Regional Bureau for Southern Africa and its privileges and immunities on Zimbabwean territory".

BEARING IN MIND Resolution No. AGN/63/RES/22 adopted at its 63rd session.

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:

APPROVES the draft Agreement as it appears at the Appendix to Report No. 28;

AUTHORIZES the President of the Organization to sign the said Agreement;

THANKS the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for the privileges, immunities and facilities it intends to grant the ICPO-Interpol.

AGN/64/RES/19

Subject: Internal unemployment compensation scheme (IUCS)

HAVING EXAMINED Report No. 24, entitled "Internal Unemployment Compensation Scheme" (IUCS).

NOTING that the Executive Committee adopted the Rules on the Internal Unemployment Compensation Scheme at its 112th session in October 1995.

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Beijing from 4th to 10th October 1995 at its 64th session:

DECIDES, in conformity with Article 19 of the Financial Regulations, to set up a fund, entitled the "IUCS Fund", to cover payment of compensation due in application of the IUCS Rules;

ASSIGNS to the Fund all sums acquired as interest on the money in the Fund;

ALLOCATES to the Fund, as an initial payment, the contributions paid to IUCS by officials under contract and by the Organization since 1st January 1995, after deduction of allowances paid out in 1995 in accordance with the authorization given by the Executive Committee at its 111th session;

ALSO DECIDES that in future the Fund shall be financed by contributions paid into the Internal Unemployment Compensation Scheme by officials under contract and by the Organization;

FURTHER DECIDES that, at the end of each financial year, the Fund's situation, together with all recorded movements, shall be the subject of a specific report within the Financial Report.

States, Territories and Observers attending the 64th General Assembly session

States and Territories

Albania, Algeria, American Samoa¹, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Hong Kong¹, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao², Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar (Union of), Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico³, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Federation), Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

1. United Kingdom NCB Sub-Bureaus
2. Portuguese NCB Sub-Bureau
3. United States NCB Sub-Bureaus

Observers

European Union
International Air Transport Association
International Banking Security Association
Technical Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council
United Nations Organization
World Customs Organization

CONFERENCE SIDELIGHTS

by Miguel Chamorro, General Secretariat

According to an ancient Chinese proverb, right at the top, there is heaven and just below there is China. Many of us arrived at Beijing International Airport for the General Assembly session with this idea in our minds and with impressions gained in childhood from reading books about Marco Polo's journeys.

Again, on our way from the airport to our hotels, many of us were scouring the landscape expecting to see a multitude of pagodas, as we did in the Bertolucci film "The Last Emperor". But we were very disappointed to find that there was not a single pagoda to be seen. However, before us were wide, clear avenues between modern buildings. The Beijing of today is not very different from any capital city in the West.

With over 7 million inhabitants, it is the second most populous city in China, after Shanghai.

3,000 years ago, Beijing was already a well-known town in Northern China, called Ji. When the founder of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) became the third Emperor of China, he transferred the court from Nanjing to Ji and gave the city the name Beijing (Northern capital).

The stark exactness of figures is the only way of giving a clear idea of what China represents today in the world of nations.

Over 1.130 million inhabitants are unevenly spread over a territory of 9.5 million square kilometres: there are major concentrations such as Shanghai and Beijing, and there are less populated areas, but the average density is 113 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Recent statistics show that around 10 million marriages and 1 million divorces are registered every year: life expectancy is 71 years.

There are also 44 million Chinese living abroad.

Despite the birth-control policy, which imposes economic sanctions on couples who have more than one child, forecasts of the size of the population in the year 2000 are being revised up from 1,200 million inhabitants to 1,270 million.

The banquet for Executive Committee members, hosted by the Minister of Public Security, Tao Siju, on 2nd October in the private rooms of the Kun Lun Hotel, opened this year's full and fascinating social programme.

Photo: Véronique Castan





Welcoming dinner given by the Ministry of Public Security in the central hall of the People's Assembly Palace

Over dessert, Mr Kendall gave a speech. He began with a personal and professional portrait of Mr Zhu En Tao recalling his activities as a member of the Executive Committee and Vice-President of the Organization, and the invaluable co-operation he provided as Head of the Chinese NCB. He concluded by paying tribute to the Minister's personal efforts, and those of Mr Zhu En Tao, which had made it possible to hold the General Assembly session in China.

The next day, after the Executive Committee session had ended, a visit to the Jingshan and Bouhai parks was organized for the Executive Committee and the delegates present. The Chinese NCB then invited us to a dinner in a typical restaurant. It was an opportunity to sample over twenty of the country's specialities, served by elegant young women in dazzling red kimonos with enormous, brightly coloured flowers in their elaborately-dressed hair. The evening progressed in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and we tried to learn to use chopsticks to eat like our Chinese hosts.

On Wednesday morning, there was unusual activity around the conference hall. The final preparations were being made so that everything would be perfect: slight touches were given to the flowers on the presidential rostrum, reporters were rushing backwards and forwards, the security service was worrying about the undisciplined behaviour of some of the media representatives who had just arrived to attend the opening ceremony, and last-minute registrations were taking place.

Once the Chinese authorities had arrived at the conference centre, the General Assembly opening ceremony began with the Chinese national anthem and the Interpol anthem played by the police band. The General Assembly observed a minute's silence in honour of officers killed on duty and then there were speeches by Mr Eriksson, the President of Interpol, and Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China, who declared the General Assembly session open.

There were two pleasant surprises for us at the end of the first day's plenary session.

First, there was the delicious welcoming dinner given by Mr Tao Siju, Minister of Public Security, served in the immense central hall of the People's Assembly Palace. It was served by almost two hundred young people, who had been carefully groomed for this gala evening. They were lined up along the four walls and were dressed immaculately: black dinner suits for the men and beautiful red silk dresses, slit very high up the side, for the women. Moving with grace and agility between the tables, they brought to mind a ballet company on stage.

Throughout the meal, an orchestra played a selection of classical music interspersed with tunes typical of several of the countries represented.

After dinner, there was a second, major surprise: the 40 hectares of Tiananmen Square in front of our eyes! Said to be the largest square in the world and the heart of the city, it is made up of both modern and ancient buildings.

We took in the immense square from the steps of the People's Assembly Palace. Before us were the Museum of Chinese History and the Museum of the Chinese Revolution. In the middle was the Monument to the People's Heroes and, on the South side, was the Chairman Mao Zedong Memorial Hall where the People's Republic of China was proclaimed on 1st October 1949. Finally, on the fourth side of the square, the North side, stood the Tiananmen Gate Tower, from which the square takes its name. The Imperial City stands opposite, on the other side of the Gold Water River with its five marble bridges.

On the Thursday evening, the President and the Secretary General held a reception in the spacious rooms of the Sheraton Great Wall Hotel. It was attended by the country's leading authorities, the delegates and their spouses, members of the General Secretariat, of the diplomatic community, and

various guests from other sectors of society. Representatives of the artistic world included the famous painter Andrew Vicari whose works were being shown in a prestigious local gallery while the General Assembly was being held.

The party was already lively when the President, Mr Eriksson, announced that it was Mr Kendall's birthday and, after some friendly words to mark the personal and professional esteem of the international police community for Interpol's Secretary General, proposed a toast in his honour. Everyone then sang "Happy Birthday" in different languages.

Because of the very full programme, the Delegations of the United States and Japan had to organize their receptions on the same day and at the same time.

The two parties were held on different floors of the same hotel and we went to both! Some people even made several return journeys! So both parties were very successful, to judge by the number of people who attended them and the friendly atmosphere that prevailed.

On the Friday work was hectic, as is always the case when there are

Committee meetings. The delegates want to attend most of the sessions and all the matters discussed are important: finance, the Constitution, telecommunications, etc.

That was why the last Committee meetings ended later than expected and some delegates did not have time to change before going to the Poly Plaza Theatre. But nobody wanted to miss the show, which was put on exclusively for Interpol.

The performance gave us a choreographic tour of China and some of its history and customs with songs and dances performed by extraordinary artists who sang of our Organization, its symbols and its officers.

We were held spellbound by the grace, elegance and good taste displayed before us on the stage.

Our surprise of the day - here we were entitled to at least one surprise a day - came when we read the programme. It was our host, Mr Zhu En Tao, who had written the lyrics to almost all the songs performed. We were well aware of many of his gifts, but we did not know that he was also a poet.

The Great Wall

We were all looking forward to Saturday's trip so much that we were even prepared to get up at dawn to catch the buses which would take us to one of the wonders of the ancient world, the Great Wall. We were not required to walk more than 2 km along the wall, one up and one down, but I would not venture to say which was easier. The delegates were given an opportunity of showing how fit they were and of imagining the suffering and sacrifices of those who had built it.

Felipe, the young Chinese guide, explained to us in perfect Spanish that at one time in its history the Great Wall had been 9,980 km long but that its present length was 6,700 km. It started in Jiayuguan, in Gansu province in the west, crossed mountains, deserts and plains and reached the sea at Shanhaiguan, Hebei province, on the eastern coast. Its average height is 8.5 metres, but it is twice as high in some places, and varies between 6 and 10 metres wide at the base. It is slightly narrower at the top, with a crenellated parapet, and the watchtowers rising up every 60 metres give it that look of an impregnable fortress.

The Great Wall was originally build for defensive purposes by the feudal kings to protect themselves from each other and then to keep out the invading tribes of nomads from the North. The earliest constructions date from the 7th century BC, but work began on joining and enlarging the existing fortifications in around 214 BC, at the time of the first Emperor of the Qin dynasty.

Subsequent emperors pursued this task, and it took an estimated 200 years to finish it.

Originally, the work made it possible to observe the enemy's movements and prevent incursions. It was also a means of faster and more reliable communications between east and west.

The President and the Secretary General during the reception they hosted in the rooms of the Sheraton Great Wall Hotel



Wild flowers and scrub have invaded part of the Wall, giving the pleasant impression that it is becoming part of the natural environment.

The section of the Wall we visited near Beijing has been carefully restored. It is China's most representative symbol and, as such, an essential stop for all tourists.

The Ming Tombs

Our Chinese colleagues had planned a copious lunch at the Palace of Nine Dragons restaurant, so that we could recover our strength. From there, the buses took us to the imperial necropolis of the Ming dynasty at the foot of the Tianshou mountains.

We entered along the Sacred Way, which is lined on both sides by an impressive array of 24 statues of lions, elephants, horses and unicorns, followed by twelve human figures also carved in stone, depicting the different levels of civilian and military hierarchy.

We then passed through the Stone Arch, the first building in the necropolis, with its exquisite carved columns.

We only visited one imperial tomb and a few special sites in this immense imperial cemetery, which is in fact a park which covers 40 square kilometres planted with pines, willows and cypresses where thirteen Ming dynasty emperors are buried. The cemetery was forbidden to visitors until 1644.

Chinese archaeologists began exploring the imperial tombs in 1956 and they are now one of the highlights of a visit to Beijing since the objects exhibited (over 3,000 items in gold, silver, pearls and textiles) give a clear idea of the culture and way of life at a time so remote to us that it seems almost unreal.

Dingling is the tenth of the thirteen Ming tombs and it is there that the Emperor Zhu Yijun and his two wives are buried.

In the underground palace, we admired the grandeur of the funereal monuments and were particularly impressed by the room where the coffins of the Emperor and the Empresses are displayed.

Another element of this age-old funereal culture made us reflect on the brevity of life. We were admiring the Everlasting Lamp, a porcelain pot decorated with blue dragons, which was intended to permanently illuminate the deceased, but which went out shortly after having been lit, we were told, when the oxygen was exhausted once the doors of the room were sealed.

Yiheyuan

Still struck by the grandeur of the monuments we had visited, and still trying to remember all we had learnt, we arrived at Yiheyuan, better known as the Summer Palace, a majestic park on the outskirts of Beijing, dating back to the Qing dynasty.

Our guide told us that a large part of its 300 hectares had been destroyed by a fire after the invasion of Beijing by an Anglo-French force. In 1888, the Dowager Empress Cixi diverted 5 million silver taels earmarked for the imperial navy to restore the park, which was then given its present name.

As soon as we arrived, we were struck by the imposing Foxiangge Tower. Over 60 metres high with three elegant double-eaved storeys, it dominates almost all of Yiheyuan. From the foot of Longevity Hill, we looked out over the vast blue expanse of Kunming Lake which stretches right across the park and, in the background, the chain of bluish mountains reaching up to the sky as if marking the edge of one of the largest parks in China.

We went along the lakeside to the building known as the Marble Boat, which looks like a two-decked boat at anchor and is built of large stone blocks with an elaborately carved marble facing.

We toured the lake in a small boat, passing under the Yudaiqiao, or Jade Belt Bridge which, with its full arch in white marble, looks as if it comes straight out of a fairy tale.

We then went past the Seventeen Arch Bridge with its pillars carved with 544 lions, and continued our tour of the park admiring the different pavilions with interior gardens full of anemones, lotus flowers and other aquatic plants on the ponds shaded by weeping willows.

The sun was beginning to set when we left Yiheyuan by the Long Corridor. Almost 800 metres long, this covered walk's beams and crossbeams are decorated with figures, birds and flowers drawn from legends and folk tales: a veritable open air masterclass.

The Police Academy

Sunday, 8th October began with a radiant sun and a luminous sky, a good omen of what was to come.

The coaches were waiting for us at the hotel doors, each with a guide/interpreter all of whom were university students who spoke one of the Organization's four working languages fluently.

At 10 o'clock precisely, we were sitting comfortably in the police college, waiting for the demonstrations which the various Chinese police departments had prepared in honour of the delegates at the General Assembly session.

We admired the displays by different motorized groups using all possible means of locomotion, from helicopters to trial motorcycles, to show the police can chase offenders. The jumps performed by the motorcyclists from ramps at different levels were warmly applauded. Loud applause, especially from the women, also greeted the simulated street arrests by a female police patrol which managed to break-up and arrest a group of male criminals by judo



Souvenir photo after the Chinese folk-dancing show

and karate techniques. That was followed by a demonstration of the different arrest and search techniques with the subsequent involvement of medical assistance and logistic departments.

There was also much applause for the displays by the dog patrols and dog handlers who simulated different arrests and identity checks in the street, and searches for drugs.

The most spectacular demonstration, which kept us rooted to the spot, was by the different intervention and special operations groups who dealt with a situation in which hostages had been taken in the street, with the interception of vehicles, the use of firearms, explosives, flares and tear gas, and then a final assault on the bus containing the "criminals" right in front of the grandstand we were sitting in. We could even follow the "negotiations" between the hostage-takers and the police crisis centre on a television screen.

We were proud to witness the display of professionalism and mastery of police techniques in different situations, put on for us by our Chinese colleagues.

At midday, the municipal authorities treated us to a reception

in the luxurious public rooms of the International Hotel with a recital of songs, a group of musicians and an illusionist.

The Forbidden City

When, a few moments later, our programme took us to the entrance to the Imperial Palace, more commonly known as the Forbidden City, we thought we were still under the illusionist's spell. But Lucia, our guide for the day, told us in her musical voice that the palace had been built on the ruins of the ancient imperial palace of the Yuan dynasty at the beginning of the Ming era.

The surface area of the rectangular Forbidden City is more than 700,000 square metres and as it was impossible for us to cover it all in the few hours we had, we decided to follow in the footsteps of the architects who had built the City.

The principle on which the ancient Chinese cities were built is based on the one hand on symmetry along a North-South axis, as a natural defence against the cold and against attacks from the Barbarian hordes from the North,

and on the other hand on respect for a certain hierarchy of structured values.

From Tiananmen Square, the five bridges crossing the moat which protects access to the Forbidden City lead to the foot of the wall surrounding it. At each corner, there are three-storey watch towers with overhanging roofs which have triple canopies and a multitude of crests. They are veritable masterpieces of Chinese architecture.

As we walked through the Meridian Gate (Wumen), we were at last making an ancient dream come true: to walk in the very place where 14 emperors of the Ming dynasty's Zhu family and 10 emperors of the Qing dynasty's Aisin-Gioro family lived for over 500 years. We were at the nerve centre of Chinese political life, where all the emperors except the last of the Qing dynasty exercised their supreme power.

We carried on walking north through the Gate of Supreme Harmony (Taihemen), and saw the three main palaces: the Halls of Central Harmony, Preserved Harmony and Supreme Harmony, also called the Throne Room, which is the central building of the Forbidden City and the place where the grand ceremonies were held. It was in this palace that the Emperor received high officials and from here that he ruled the Empire. The three main halls stand on a three-level terrace with white marble balustrades.

Behind the Hall of Preserved Harmony is the Dragon Cloud Ramp, the largest of the thousands of stone carvings to be found in the Imperial Palace. It is a spectacular 17 metres long, weighs over 200 tonnes and its marble surface is carved with majestic dragons floating between clouds over mountains.

From our vantage point we were struck by the symmetry of the palaces, courts and entrances along

the axis we were taking and the predominance of red on all the walls and buildings, golden yellow on the roofs, and white on the balustrades and marble steps.

There can be no doubt the three palaces are the most beautiful architectural ensemble in the Forbidden City.

Because of the predominance of wood in the elaborate decorations on all the palace buildings, they were destroyed by fire several times during the Ming and Qing dynasties. It has therefore been necessary to rebuild parts of the Forbidden City on many occasions, but the whole complex has retained its original characteristics.

In the courts at the entrances to almost all the palaces are enormous gold cauldrons which were not merely ornaments: they served an essential function as water tanks in the event of a fire.

Our curiosity was growing as we carried on into the interior courts of the Palace of Heavenly Purity, the Hall of Heavenly Union and the Hall of Earthly Tranquillity, which are all quite similar to those referred to above. It was there that the Emperors resided and conducted their administrative business.

The twelve courts, where the dowager empresses, the concubines, and the virgins and eunuchs lived, are laid out along the central axis on either side of the palaces. Imaginations worked overtime to picture the official and private events of the imperial court which took place in

these palaces and which we would all have liked to attend. It was not difficult, because every effort has been made to preserve the whole palace as it was during the imperial days.

Today, the whole City is a museum of Chinese history embodying, through the architecture, furniture and ornaments, the arts and traditions of ancient China, and giving visitors an idea of the art and culture of that venerable civilization.

We reached the imperial garden towards the end of our visit and we found its design somewhat different from what we had seen elsewhere.

In fact, in contrast to the rectilinear and symmetrical architecture of

the buildings. Chinese gardens are closed off by walls and are considered to be a natural extension of the house. They contain buildings used as libraries or for drinking tea, studying, reading and music.

They are irregular and asymmetrical in shape, with curves predominating. They offer mystery and originality with their hidden corners, and they clearly imitate nature with waterfalls, grottoes, mountains and streams. They are made for intimacy and meditation.

There are four gardens in the Imperial Palace: the Imperial Garden, full of pine trees and bamboo groves, the garden of the Palace of Happiness and the gardens of Tranquillity and Longevity, situated between the Palaces of Benevolence and Peace.

We will have particularly pleasant memories of the Pavilion of the Thousand Autumns in the Imperial Garden. Before we left it, Lucia showed us the delightful Room of Accumulated Beauty above a rock-covered hill. The hill dominated the whole of the Forbidden City and it was from there that the Emperor and Empress admired the scenery on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month.

Our guide showed us that the figure 9, being the highest single figure, was reserved for the emperors. Inside the Forbidden City, therefore, the staircases, terraces, cornices, etc. are always made up of nine elements or a multiple of nine.

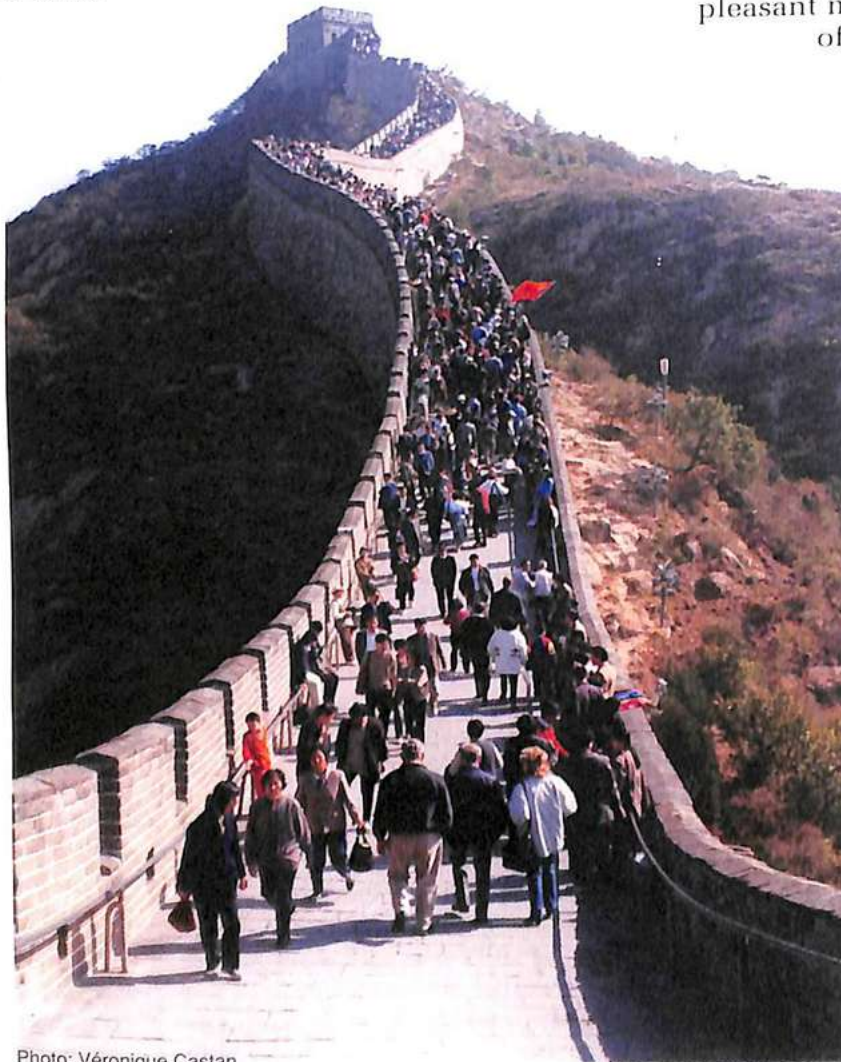


Photo: Véronique Castan



The Marble Boat in the Summer Palace park

Photo: Veronique Castan

We left the Imperial Palace by the Shen Wu Men Gate, on the Northern side.

The official farewell banquet given by the Chinese authorities for the delegates and their spouses was held on Monday 9th October in the Palace of Diaoyutai, a small palace with vast gardens.

On the carefully trimmed lawn, we listened to a speech by Tao Siju,

the Minister for Public Security, who drew very positive conclusions from the General Assembly session. Mr Eriksson, President of the Organization, replied effusively and presented the Minister with a silver Interpol medal and Bai Jingtu, the Vice-Minister of the Interior, with a bronze medal. He then gave a lithograph of "La Vigonade de la justice d'Interpol", an allegorical representation of justice by Vicari,

to Mr Zhu En Tao, Director General of Public Security.

The President also said the presence of representatives from 135 countries, four Sub-Bureaus and four international organizations clearly showed the member countries' interest in the Organization.

The day ended with a delicious feast in the palace rooms, another

Photo: Veronique Castan



Previous page: walking on the Great Wall. Right: entrance to the Forbidden City.

occasion for the delegates to come back to the long conversations they had had on matters discussed during the working sessions.

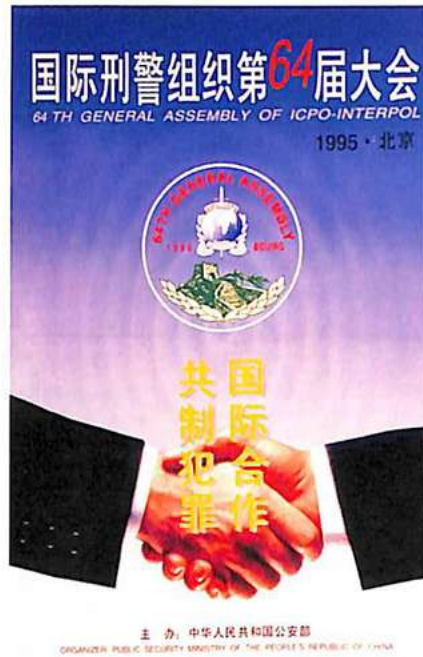
We returned to the hotel late that night.

Final plenary session

The final plenary session was held on Tuesday, 10th October, the highlight of which was the re-election of Mr Kendall as Secretary General of Interpol. This re-election was yet another demonstration of the member countries' confidence in his acknowledged professional competence and in his human qualities and irreproachable personal conduct.

We are sure the delegates had in mind the progress made over recent years: the new modern, functional Headquarters in Lyons, the computerization of all the departments and the modernization of the telecommunications network.

With serenity, but with a certain degree of emotion, Mr Kendall



Poster designed by the Chinese authorities for the 64th General Assembly session

thanked the delegates for their confidence in him and the General Secretariat staff for their constant efforts and their support which had resulted in the achievements that had been mentioned.

Coming to the final item on the agenda, the delegates decided to accept Turkey's offer to host the next General Assembly session.

We took advantage of the few hours we had left to do some shopping and have dinner one last time in a genuine Chinese restaurant.

While the delegates rested in the hotel lobby, we decided to say goodbye to Beijing with a final stroll on Tiananmen Square, which was almost deserted at that time of night. We sat on the bridges over the Gold Water River and gazed at the Forbidden City, its gates closed, free of the bustle of the day.

We tried to keep in our minds that view of the empty Palace with the moonlight shining on its roofs and, as we moved away, we thought we could hear the bells of the Shen Wu Men Gate toll 108 times as they did to announce the dawn in imperial days, or the drum rolls which signalled the night patrol in the palace.