

as civil aviation security, the black market in nuclear substances and narco terrorism. Every year the Group organized a symposium at the General Secretariat; the next one would be held on 18th and 19th November 1996 and would provide member countries with a most effective forum for sharing views in an attempt to co-ordinate efforts to combat transnational crime.

The Organization had made considerable progress in dealing with terrorism since the time when it had had difficulties in interpreting Article 3 of its Constitution correctly. Nevertheless, much still remained to be done, and he urged member countries to send information on terrorist incidents to the General Secretariat on a more regular basis. That would make it possible to update the databases, to inform the other member countries, and to provide material for the crime analysis unit. NCBs could refer to the Guide on combating international terrorism; an updated version of the Guide would be sent to all NCBs once it had been approved by the forthcoming symposium.

The Director reminded delegates of the position adopted by the G7 meeting in June 1996 and the subsequent inter-ministerial meeting in Paris: a list of 25 points of particular interest to Interpol had been drawn up. Along the same lines, the General Secretariat had just launched a programme to publish more green notices, which would allow member countries to monitor the international movements of terrorists more effectively. The General Secretariat urged member countries to step up co-operation in the fight against international terrorism.

The Sri Lankan Delegate called for international co-operation to fight a form of crime which had spread worldwide. Many civilians, soldiers and police officers had been killed in his country over the last thirteen years by terrorists who thought that their action would lead to the establishment of an independent Tamil state. In July

1993 there had been a major revolt by five Tamil groups and in 1994 there had been incidents of indescribable violence. The terrorists conscripted twelve year-old children, attacking the parents of those who refused to co-operate. They had turned down all the Sri Lankan Government's offers of negotiation. They obtained money by threatening Sri Lankans who had emigrated to Western countries, and also obtained weapons in those countries through a network operating under cover of a shipping company. In neighbouring South-East Asian countries they had killed politicians who failed to support them.

The speaker said the authorities in his country were doing all they could to put an end to the situation, but they could not succeed unless all the other countries became more aware of how dangerous such terrorist activities could be and stepped up their co-operation to stamp them out.

The Turkish Delegate described the activities of the PKK and the PHKPC: although both organizations were involved in killings, extortion and all other forms of crime, they still enjoyed some measure of support in Western countries. Law-enforcement measures had been organized more efficiently, and new legislation had been adopted, so that over the past six years those terrorist activities had been reduced. The terrorists were also being prosecuted abroad, particularly in three European countries. The European Parliament had adopted a resolution against terrorism. All Western countries should be more aware of the dangers such terrorist activities represented: they threatened to traffic in nuclear substances, they controlled illegal immigration, they engaged in drug trafficking, etc.

Interpol was very familiar with the problem. It had published its Guide on combating terrorism, which was an effective tool for countries which were prepared to use it. In June 1994, in Antalya, it had organized a meeting on drug

trafficking and terrorism. The struggle against terrorism obviously had to be carried on both nationally and internationally. In the context of the CAT Project and the conclusions of the G7, the Turkish Delegation hoped that the Interpol General Secretariat would step up its anti-terrorist activities even further, and prepare and send out questionnaires and reports on the subject.

The Peruvian Delegate regretted the fact that his country did not benefit from all the international co-operation it needed to combat terrorism; that was because of certain shortcomings in national laws, lack of staff at some NCBs, etc. The MRTA and the Shining Path had begun their activities around 1980, seeking to overthrow the Government "in the name of the people". Faced with this internal strife, and also with the risk that foreign powers would take advantage of the situation for their own ends, the Peruvian Government had realized that the best way to counter the threat was from the social and political angle, to cut the terrorists off from popular support. As a result, the Rondas campesinas had been set up and a law had been adopted on co-operating witnesses. The only thing left was to gain greater support from foreign countries which should fully understand exactly what the terrorists were and which should co-operate more effectively to wipe them out.

The Indian Delegate explained that his country had suffered from terrorist activities at least as much as other countries. He reminded delegates of the assassination of Indira Gandhi and of her son Rajiv, as well as of the many incidents that had occurred in the Punjab, Kashmir, and Bombay in March 1993. He asked all member countries to understand that it was pointless to aim at technological progress in the vain hope of building a better society if citizens' safety, peace and public order could not be guaranteed. He urged them to collaborate more fully on developing efforts to combat terrorism.