

In response to increased pressure by Mexican drug traffickers whereby South American cocaine cartels were being forced to deliver one kilo of cocaine for every two kilos smuggled through Mexico to the United States, Colombian syndicates were re-routing cocaine shipments to the United States via the Bahamas. The movement of drugs was mainly by air and small craft known locally as "go-fast" boats. Joint operations with the United States authorities showed an increase in seizures in 1997 over the preceding year. The traffic of marijuana through Jamaica to the Bahamas was significant: seizures had more than doubled in the previous year. The Delegate wished to thank the United States authorities for their close co-operation.

The Observer from the World Customs Organization said that co-operation between police and customs was essential. He was pleased to report that there was now a good exchange of information between the WCO, Interpol and the UNDCP. Thanks to meetings, information exchange and training, better information was being collated.

The Observer reported that 80% of seizures of all types of drugs happened at borders. He emphasized the importance of national controlled deliveries.

WCO had established Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices throughout the world. Over 100 customs administrations were feeding that intelligence network. He thought that the RILOs should work in conjunction with Interpol's regional activities.

The Malian Delegate expressed the view that arms trafficking, money laundering and terrorism went hand-in-hand with drug trafficking. In his country it appeared that all types of drugs were being used more frequently and that new distribution networks were appearing. In Mali, low-level cultivation of cannabis and khat was occurring in rural areas. Those

substances were either smoked or chewed. However, Mali was a transit country and the authorities were preparing new laws to combat such crime. Mali had supported the 1988 United Nations Convention. Finally, he agreed with the General Secretariat that information exchange and efficient co-operation were essential.

The Bahraini Delegate stated that hashish and opium were consumed in his country. New substances transported from producing countries were on the increase. Bahrain was currently enacting legislation. There were serious penalties — including the death sentence — for drug trafficking. Bahrain's initiatives included modernizing drug analysis laboratories, conducting awareness campaigns and concluding bilateral conventions. Significant seizures of heroin, opium, cocaine and Mandrax had been made. The Bahraini authorities were extremely willing to co-operate with any other state in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNDCP Observer congratulated the General Secretariat on its overview of the world drug trafficking situation. He drew attention to a recent publication issued by UNDCP entitled "The World Drug Report", a compre-

hensive study of world drug trafficking trends designed to guide readers through the intricate world of drug trafficking and abuse.

He also expressed satisfaction with the growing co-operation between his agency, the World Customs Organization and Interpol.

He then addressed the important issue of controlled deliveries, saying that his agency would be willing to participate in attempts to draw up clear definitions for that enforcement technique.

The Delegate of Pakistan described recent measures designed to counter the flow of drugs produced in neighbouring countries. During the previous year, several law enforcement agencies in Pakistan had been successful in stopping the export of substantial quantities of prohibited substances. The Delegate stressed the need at international level to reduce demand in order to supplement the efforts undertaken by his administration to reduce the flow of drugs to market destinations. He emphasized the benefits to be derived from regional and inter-regional co-operation.

The Delegate of Bangladesh described recent developments in

