

# ORGANIZED CRIME AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

## Working Party reports

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

## Disaster Victim Identification

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

## Police/Bank Co-operation

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

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

## Cybercrime

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Environmental crime

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

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

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