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Closing Remarks

By

Khoo Boon Hui

Outgoing INTERPOL President

81st INTERPOL General Assembly

8 November 2012

Rome, Italy

Ms Annamaria Cancellieri – Minister of Interior of Italy;

Honourable Ministers;

Mrs Mireille Ballestrazzi, INTERPOL President-elect;

Mr Ronald K Noble,

INTERPOL Secretary General;

Mr Antonio Manganelli – Chief of Police/ Director of Public Security of Italy;

Members of the New Executive Committee;

Distinguished Delegates, observers and guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

This has been a memorable 81st INTERPOL General Assembly in the historic city of Rome. Your spirited participation during the proceedings mirrors the efforts of the Executive Committee and the Secretary General to bring this organization to the highest level of professionalism. Thank you for displaying such enduring commitment to the principles of enhancing international police cooperation. It is this spirit of collaboration in a global network of law enforcers that will help us stand against the criminals who exploit the growing complexities of our operational environment.

The start of the proceedings saw the participation of almost 100 Ministers who adopted the Outcome Declaration on the “Challenges for Police Facing Contemporary Criminal Violence”. We were then exposed to various insights by experts on border security, organized crime, terrorism and INTERPOL operational support. We took away key lessons from the sharing of best practices on fugitive investigations, stolen works of art and efforts to harness technology and innovation to counter trafficking in illicit goods. We were stimulated by discussions on future crimes that may arise because of emerging technologies and the exponential growth of the Internet. The General

Secretariat also updated us on the latest developments in operational services, strategic foresight, the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation and INTERPOL's evolving funding model.

Four days of hard work that resulted in key resolutions and insightful discussions now point the way for INTERPOL to chart its future. International police cooperation is a work in progress that never ends. Our resolutions must now be translated into action and I call upon you, as leaders and decision makers, to galvanise your organizations to act. Only then will INTERPOL and the global community of law enforcers be able to overcome the challenges of complexities in this interdependent world.

I am deeply touched by the tribute that the General Secretariat has accorded me. It has been an honour and privilege to have been associated with the INTERPOL family since 1979. I was just a young officer then when I accompanied my Commissioner of Police to the General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya.

Through these years, I have seen the General Assembly grow both in stature and size. From a networking session of police chiefs then, to what it is today: the only truly international forum where annually serious issues are discussed and new ideas presented to enhance international police cooperation.

As for the General Secretariat, it has developed from what some have claimed was a glorified post-box for notices to a trusted player in world security. It has become an effective 24/7 resource through which our members and partners can offer and seek help. Many of these achievements have been due to the indefatigable efforts of our dynamic Secretary General. He has devoted much of his best years to the Organization.

On my part, I have tried to contribute in whatever small way I could during the past six years, the last four as your President. In order to better understand your needs and aspirations, I

spent time to reach out by attending regional conferences and visiting you in your home countries. To all the Chiefs of Police and Heads of NCBs of the many member countries I have had the privilege of visiting during my term in INTERPOL, I owe you a debt of gratitude. You have never failed to extend the courtesies and generosity of spirit in hosting me. To those I have been unable to visit despite your kind invitations, I seek your understanding for my omission. From all these experiences and my interactions with you at other meetings, I have grown both professionally and personally, having learnt much from all of you.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, I urge you to provide the same or even greater support to our new President and the Executive Committee. I am confident they will bring our Organization to even greater heights of success.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank the SG and the senior officials in the General Secretariat for extending to me and my fellow EC members a relationship reflecting the highest professional standards and truly consultative spirit. In particular, I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr Jean-Michel Louboutin, Mrs Roraima Andriani, Mr Laurent Grosse and Mr Noboru Nakatani. Their advice and expertise will stand us all in good stead as INTERPOL evolves to the next level.

I also wish to convey my appreciation to Mr Jose Fernandez-Lopez, Mr Martin Raby, Ms. Nicole Casas and Mr Simon Fernan for their faithful service to the office of the President.

Please accept my apologies if your name has not been mentioned but you know yourself how much I have benefited from your professionalism and acts of kindness.

I am heartened that my retirement has occurred in such a magical setting with my wife Betty accompanying me. What more can I ask for in what has turned out to be a General Assembly by which all future ones will be benchmarked?

I would therefore like to thank, on your behalf, everyone who has contributed to the success of this General Assembly: the speakers, moderators, delegates, observers, IPSG staff, the organizing committee, the band, MCs, interpreters, technicians, security and all who have made this event such an overwhelming success.

In conclusion, I am sure you will agree that this has indeed been a truly memorable conference. Key resolutions have been passed and ties amongst fellow law enforcers renewed. We did not shirk from discussing difficult issues and passionately raising our concerns and different points of views, all in the best interests of the Organization. This bodes well as we prepare our Organization and our members to tackle the increasingly complex environment we face, not as individual member states but as a truly resilient and resourceful international police organization. This is INTERPOL. I wish all of you safe travels back home.

Arriverderci Roma

Au revoir INTERPOL General Assembly