

RESOLUTION No. AGN/38/RES/4

SUBJECT:

DRUGS (GENERAL)

To be classified as follows:

1 copy in the Chronological Series: year 1969

1 copy in the Subject Series

Heading: Drugs

Sub-heading: Resolutions concerning several types of drug and/or of a general nature concerning international co-operation in the fight against drug traffic and abuse.

Sub-heading: Training staff to deal with drug cases

1 copy in the Subject Series

Heading: Prevention of Crime - Social role of the police

Sub-heading: prevention of drug addiction

1 copy in the Subject Series

Heading: Recruitment of police officers - Technical co-operation

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

IN VIEW of the resolutions adopted at previous sessions on the various aspects of the fight against illicit drug traffic, which recommended that this fight should be intensified on a world-wide basis;

HAVING NOTED the new elements that have emerged in the last few years and which have transformed the traditional aspects of drug abuse and consequently of the fight against this abuse and the illicit trade in such drugs;

ALARMED BY the epidemic proportions of the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, particularly in those parts of the world where they were hitherto virtually unknown;

RECOGNISING that police action can only be effective if part of a general policy to combat the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

The ICPO-INTERPOL General Assembly, meeting in Mexico City from 13th to 18th October 1969 at its 38th session:

1) RENEWS its previous recommendations with regard to the forms which should be taken by the fight against the production, traffic and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the treatment and social rehabilitation of addicts;

2) URGES PARTICULARLY:

a) With regard to cultivation,

- that, in addition to the measures previously recommended for the punishment of those who engage in illicit cultivation, further measures should be introduced - within the possibilities of the respective national legislations - to confiscate land known to have been used for the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, cannabis or coca plant, the assistance of the national armed forces being enlisted wherever possible for the destruction of these illicit crops;
- that the Lebanese policy of introducing substitute crops become general practice;

b) With regard to penalties,

that a clear distinction be made in criminal law and penitentiary practice between occasional users or others, and persons deeply involved in illicit traffic. The latter should be liable to heavy prison sentences, thus preventing them from being a danger to society. On the other hand, addicts or persons found in possession of very small quantities of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances intended for personal use, should be allowed to benefit from all systems of parole suited to their cases, especially if they are minors or first offenders;

c) With regard to movements of population,

- that, in countries where the cultivation of the opium poppy is licit, or where the cultivation of the opium poppy and/or cannabis is illicit, strict measures be taken to prevent the entry into the country of any person - and particularly young people - reasonably suspected of being involved in traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances;

d) With regard to information and education,

- that every effort be made to alert the public about the dangers of the abuse of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances and to create a climate of opinion against such abuse; to accomplish this, not only should all the resources of the mass media be used, but the support of civic or religious organisations should also be sought;
- that in no case should the mass media treat cases involving the misuse of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in such a way that they appear to be defending drugs;

e) With regard to police action,

that all INTERPOL-affiliated countries increase their efforts to establish new technical methods and to take stern measures to eliminate the cultivation of, and traffic in, opium and cannabis, e.g.:

- 1) the organisation of re-organisation of special squads to suppress narcotics offences;
- 2) the introduction of special training courses for law enforcement officers dealing with narcotic drugs;
- 3) greater use of technology and other means to detect and destroy illicit crops of opium-poppies, cannabis and/or coca;
- 4) increased funds for these special squads so that they are adequately equipped to combat illicit traffic effectively;
- 5) the extension and encouragement of the exchange of information between Interpol-affiliated countries;

3) RECOMMENDS furthermore that the INTERPOL NCBs urge their governments to prohibit all cultivation of the opium poppy or cannabis in their countries.

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