This year we have focused our activities firmly on the needs and expectations of our clients. To further enhance our effectiveness, we have reinforced Interpol’s four key roles: message switching, information supply, global co-ordination and the provision of value-added services, in order to fulfil our mission to promote active multi-lateral co-operation in the sphere of transnational crime.

Strategic developments have been refined using ten key action lines. These give added impetus and direction to our daily work as we strive for continuous improvement both at the General Secretariat and through the National Central Bureaus in our Member States.

Crime continues to develop on a global scale; Interpol is developing to meet and anticipate this challenge.

R E Kendall
Secretary General

<p>| VISION | Interpol exists to help create a safer world. Our aim is to provide a unique range of essential services for the law enforcement community to optimise the international effort to combat crime. |
| VALUES | Respect for human rights  |
|        | Integrity  |
|        | Commitment to quality  |
|        | Availability  |
|        | Team spirit  |
|        | Value for money  |
|        | Accountability  |
| MISSION | To be the world’s pre-eminent organization in support of all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is preventing or detecting international crime.|
|        | We will achieve this by providing both a global perspective and a regional focus; exchanging information that is timely, accurate, relevant and complete; facilitating international co-operation; co-ordinating joint operational activities of our member countries; making available know-how, expertise and good practice. |
|        | We will act on the basis of the articulated demands and expectations of these organizations, authorities and services, while remaining alert to developments so as to be able to anticipate future requirements. |</p>
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<td>FOUR KEY ROLES</td>
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<td>MESSAGE SWITCHING</td>
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<td>INFORMATION SUPPLY</td>
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<td>VALUE-ADDED SERVICES</td>
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<td>HUMAN RESOURCES</td>
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<td>06</td>
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<td>07</td>
<td>VISION, MISSION AND VALUES</td>
<td>37</td>
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As a result of successfully co-ordinated domestic and international law enforcement action a 16-year old was safely returned to Norway on 3rd July. She was located in an apartment occupied by 19 persons, including a male with whom she had previously communicated via the Internet. In a letter dated 16th July 1999, the Norwegian National Criminal Investigation Service credited the minor’s return to ‘good co-operative efforts between Interpol, the FBI, the Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the United States Embassy in Copenhagen’.

Message switching is still one of the most widely valued Interpol functions. The practical provision of a global network for the exchange of messages and information between law enforcement services is the essential starting point for effective co-operation between them. In 1999, nearly 2.5 million Interpol X.400 messages were exchanged around the world, a 13 percent increase on 1998. However, improving our performance in this area is not simply about increasing the volume of message traffic. Interpol has also been developing and implementing tailored communications solutions for specific groups of users. Examples are:

**ASEANAPOL**
New interconnectivity solutions for six Interpol ‘ASEANAPOL’ countries; provision in financial partnership with Member States; addition of Singapore and Brunei to the network.

**SOUTH PACIFIC**
In conjunction with the Australian Government and the Australian Federal Police, the model used for the ASEANAPOL countries has also been used to update communications in the South Pacific for five countries and allowed the addition of Fiji and New Zealand.

**BALTCOM**
Eleven countries in the Baltic Sea region have agreed a project focusing on organized crime; the Interpol network provides the means for direct access to the Automatic Search Facility database and will be extended to other agencies involved which have a law enforcement mission.

**SECI**
Southeast European Co-operation Initiative, a recent project promoted by the United States to focus on customs issues and transnational crime in the Southeast Balkan region. Interpol and the World Customs Organization are observers; Interpol has offered SECI full co-operation on data transmission, handling, analysis and research.

**ROCCISS**
In response to urgent local needs expressed by the Caribbean Chiefs of Police, Interpol developed, installed and trained users in a tailored variant of EasyForm to allow the exchange and searchable storage of messages between countries in the area.
On 24th September 1999 officers from both Interpol Alma Ata and Interpol Rome, together with the Alma Ata police arrested in the capital city of Kazakhstan, and extradited to Italy, a 30-year-old Italian man suspected of having murdered his wife, a doctor, in Italy.

During the early years of the next millennium, Interpol’s world-wide X.400 system will be replaced by ‘Atlas’ - a new secure communications system based on internet technologies. Atlas should greatly increase the range and quality of services available to Member States.

As an example of how message traffic analysis can be of interest, we can say that during 1999, terrorism-related correspondence was received from 83 Member States; and the 5 percent increase in messages from Europe in 1999 clearly indicates heightened awareness and activity in this area. However, environmental factors, such as the World Cup football tournament finals held in France this year, make the simple comparison of annual statistics rather unreliable.
Information supply needs to focus on the provision of real time and relevant information which helps law enforcement agencies and officers to ‘do their job’.

Interpol has developed new specialised IT products to improve the speed and quality of information sharing:

- **Easyform**
  Software for formatted messages - 55 percent of national Interpol sites (67 percent response rate) have installed this tool.

- **ICPO Image Viewer**
  New image-handling software following the ending of ASFDirect due to Y2K changes.

- **UNDCP-WCO-Interpol database**
  Technical co-ordination and harmonisation of drugs data sharing with two key global partner organizations.

Additions and updates to the Interpol Criminal Information System (ICIS) database increased by over 80 percent in comparison with 1998. Despite this rapid expansion in workload, new quality control procedures were implemented. These focussed on eliminating errors prior to data entry and enhanced the team approach amongst the data compilers. There are many facets to the ICIS, these are some examples of how Interpol information is used:

- **Nominal database**
  Some 1.5 million individual images and/or texts are currently available, and these are updated at a rate of 5,500 - 6,500 messages per month. At the end of December 1999 there were over 125,000 nominal files and nearly 70,000 accompanying images. An average of 5,000 queries per month are made by NCBs with a positive response rate of approximately 15 percent.

- **Stolen Motor Vehicles database**
  Increasingly we are looking to provide NCBs with the ability to input data directly into certain areas of the Interpol databases, and they are encouraged to provide links to their national law enforcement agencies wherever this could increase the timeliness and effectiveness of certain information.

  A good example is the Stolen Motor Vehicle database: by the end of 1999 the ASF database contained more than 2 million vehicles, with regular data uploading from 51 countries.
There are some 15,000 images of stolen works of art relating to over 3,500 individual cases, and a search has, on average, a 20 percent chance of a positive reply. The new ASFmail search service is best used with EasyForm and its many coded description fields. A CD-Rom version of the database has been distributed, though many NCBs still need CD-Rom readers to make use of this. Work continues on a technical solution for interconnecting the many existing Works of Art databases throughout the world.

Fingerprints database (AFIS)
Although activity levels in the current fingerprints database continued at similar levels to 1998, the key project has been the development of an Automated Fingerprint Identification System. This should become operational during the course of 2000.

A first operational success for the General Secretariat’s Stolen Works of Art CD-Rom. A specialist on researches for stolen objects and a member of MAECENAS Foundation for Ancient Art, was the first to receive the Interpol CD-Rom on Stolen Works of Art. During a recent visit to London, this expert met with a client who informed him that he had just purchased an antique bust. The expert, who regularly travels with the Interpol CD-Rom, checked whether the item was listed as stolen. It did not take very long to determine that the item in question was in fact stolen. The British police were informed and an investigation commenced immediately.
In October 1998, a red notice was issued at the request of the judicial authorities in Tocoa, Colón, Honduras, for a person wanted for abduction and murder. The suspect was accused of being the leader of the gang which had abducted and killed four people in June 1998. The victims had USD 240,000 hidden in their vehicle to buy drugs. The suspect was arrested in Nicaragua and extradited to Honduras.

Basic elements of red (‘wanted’) and yellow (‘missing’) notice information can now, with the approval of the requesting NCB, appear on the Interpol.int website within an hour of the data being approved for web publication in the ICIS database. The numbers of diffusions and red notices cancelled as a result of successful Interpol action have increased by 137 percent and 27 percent respectively in 1999.

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<th></th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>PERCENT CHANGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>RED - wanted</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>1033</td>
<td>40.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOW - missing</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>-10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUE - information</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREEN - warning</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK - unidentified body</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-52.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL NOTICE PRODUCTION</td>
<td>1132</td>
<td>1337</td>
<td>18.1 PERCENT</td>
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<tr>
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<th>TOTAL VALID AT YEAR END</th>
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<tr>
<td>RED - information</td>
<td>1033</td>
<td>5706</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOW - missing</td>
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<tr>
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<td>28</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK - unidentified body</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>not available</td>
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The General Secretariat hosted 63 international conferences, meetings and working groups during the year, and organized a further 42 such events at regional venues. These meetings and conferences are valuable opportunities to exchange information, experiences and best practice. The networking and link-building which occurs when professionals with similar specialisations congregate is an essential factor in successful international law enforcement co-operation. During the year, General Secretariat personnel also spent 3516 man/days (the equivalent of 9.6 man/years) on mission throughout the world, an increase of 36 percent over 1998 showing that Interpol is becoming increasingly proactive.

Increasingly we are working to make our information more concise, more accessible and more immediate. Electronic distribution is used more and more where the recipients are suitably equipped and have requested it. Hard copies are distributed as before to other NCBs, working groups and law enforcement partners. More information is available on the website and several services, for example, the Trafficking in Human Beings unit and Fraudulent Payment Cards section, have initiated regular newsletters which are successfully being used as vehicles for two-way communication. These newsletters also appear on the website, along with the Weekly Intelligence Message and Drugs Alerts.

For law enforcement use only:

- Disaster Victim Identification (1998)
- Computer Crime (Revised 1999)
- Crimes against Children (1998)
- Terrorism (Revised 1999)
- Works of Art: completion of CRIGEN/ART forms (1996)

For specialist professionals:

- Vehicle Registration Documents (1998)
- Annual Passport Guide (Revised 1999)
Our focus on ‘regional activities’, a growing development since the mid-nineties, was further emphasized by the 1998 market review. This called for more regionally-focused meetings, more training in the regions and increased support for National Central Bureaus. As a result, the Directorate of Regional Co-ordination and Development was created at the beginning of the year. This brings together the Sub-Regional Bureaus, the European Liaison Bureau and the Regional Co-ordination Bureau (including the Training Branch). Its mission is threefold:

- to promote a network of regional institutions
- to develop effective strategic alliances with other institutions
- to promote the delivery of a quality of service by NCBs that meets real law enforcement needs.

Standard equipment has been identified which will provide each Sub-Regional Bureau with the same facilities as those at the General Secretariat. Delivery and installation are due to take place during 2000.

The completion of the formalities for the opening of a third African Sub-Regional Bureau - in Kenya, for Eastern Africa - resulted in the formal agreement between Interpol and the Republic of Kenya, on which its operation will be based, coming into force in September 1999. Interpol has been careful to ensure that this Bureau opens on a sound financial footing and already a number of countries in this region have paid voluntary contributions towards its running costs.

The three American members of the Executive Committee met to plan the 1999 American Regional Conference. This was a key recognition of their important role in taking the lead to promote and enhance law enforcement co-operation through Interpol in the Americas. The Council of Chiefs of Police of Mercosur, Bolivia and Chile have this year formally recognized the Interpol Sub-Regional Bureau as its secretariat.

During the American Regional Conference in El Salvador, the El Salvador delegation offered to host an Interpol Sub-Regional Bureau in El Salvador for Central America. This offer received the firm support of the Committee of Chiefs of Police for Central America. The same committee, in a joint declaration with the Council of Chiefs of Police of Mercosur, Bolivia and Chile, expressed support for Interpol’s move towards more targeted regionalization in the area.
The Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) has recently devoted considerable energy to the creation of a regional criminal intelligence database - the Regional Organized Counter Crime Intelligence Sharing System (ROCCISS). This year it was agreed that the Interpol Criminal Intelligence System would host ROCCISS. Information sharing, archiving and retrieval software was specially developed for the purpose at the General Secretariat, and ROCCISS went live in October 1999.

We have intensified our efforts to develop a partnership approach with existing regional structures in South-East Asia and have now been granted permanent observer status at the meetings of the ASEANAPOL Chiefs of Police. This builds on the work carried out in the region, in close co-operation with the Interpol General Secretariat, to develop a regional intelligence database and facilitate the wider exchange of data through an interface with Interpol’s telecommunications network.

The Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime took place in Rangoon in June 1999. The Ministers adopted a Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime and directed the senior officials’ group to develop an implementation programme. This group is also to explore, with the ASEAN Secretariat, ways to work closely with dialogue partners including Interpol.

Asia is also the focus for Interpol’s development of a regional approach to combating currency counterfeiting: with over half the world’s population and one third of world trade and economic activity, the region is at considerable risk from the forthcoming introduction of the Euro.

Interpol’s General Secretariat participated in the discussions relating to the founding of the South-East European Co-operative Initiative (SECI) and has been granted permanent adviser status on the Joint Co-operation Committee.

SECI’s stated aims are to favour cross-border co-operation in the region, facilitate the integration of those countries into European structures, and allow the private sector in the region to become involved. The objective is to achieve greater democratic, social and economic stability in the area. An agreement on combating corruption and cross-border crime was signed in May by nine countries and a SECI centre is to be established in Bucharest (Romania).
Interpol has also been active on the Operational Committee of the Baltic Sea Task Force, a body resulting from an initiative of the Prime Ministers of eleven Baltic region countries who met in Sweden in 1996. They expressed a desire to improve police co-operation between their countries. The primary concerns are drugs trafficking, illegal immigration, stolen vehicles, tobacco and alcohol smuggling, money laundering and traffic in women.

Interpol has long co-operated with the Arab Interior Ministers’ Council (AIMC) which is active in an area that reaches into both Interpol’s African and Asian regions. A formal Memorandum of Understanding with the AIMC was signed in September 1999. This agreement should enable even closer co-operation between the two organizations.

In April, Yaounde (Cameroon) hosted an important meeting of the Central African Committee of Chiefs of Police. This was immediately followed, as is now the practice throughout Africa, by a meeting of the Ministers responsible for policing matters in the same countries. The inaugural meeting of this committee took place in Brazzaville (Congo) only in 1997, yet at this second meeting it was possible for five of the eight countries in Central Africa to conclude and sign an agreement on co-operation in criminal police matters between the Central African States. Article 3 of the agreement confirms the Interpol NCBs as a liaison channel between the police services of the participating countries who may also, if need be, request the assistance of the Sub-Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa (Abidjan).

The Sub-Regional Bureaus host and/or organize a number of meetings of the sub-committees of their respective regional committees of Chiefs of Police as well as meetings related to specific areas of criminality. The Sub-Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (Harare) was, for example, centrally involved in a UN CIVPOL training exercise (Blue Crane). It has now been recommended that the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organization (SARPCCO) training committee should eventually take over responsibility for running these courses in the region.

SARPCCO continues its policy of running joint operations. Operation SESANI - a joint operation on motor vehicle theft between Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe - was conducted in Zimbabwe in February 1999. During the operation 57 stolen motor vehicles were recovered. This operation coincided with the second ASF operators course in the region and gave the trainers an excellent opportunity to review the operational requirements of those involved in joint operations as far as Interpol telecommunications and intelligence systems are concerned.
The General Secretariat was regularly represented at meetings of the Heads of Europol National Units during 1999 and informal co-operation has thus been maintained. Formal negotiation of an agreement has not, however, been able to commence pending a decision by the European Council of Ministers.

Existing NCB service standards place a significant level of responsibility on all Member States to put structures in place to enable their NCBs to perform to the agreed standards. Evidence from recent research under the Strategic Development Plan makes it clear that not all NCBs are achieving the necessary standards despite wholehearted support for the principles on which they are based. In order to develop appropriate means of mutual evaluation and support, several European NCBs have initiated a pilot programme of peer group evaluation. The General Secretariat is working on ways of providing additional support, and a system of mutual advice and assistance.

International police co-operation is significantly enhanced when it is based on shared understanding, knowledge and approaches. With this firmly in mind, Interpol is developing a wide range of training programmes and support materials which can be used for law enforcement training throughout the world. Current examples include:

- **Economic Crime**: at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. In response to requests, a training manual is being developed to cover all the relevant areas of economic and financial crime including the offences themselves, methodology, tools, techniques and other aids, as well as preventative measures.

- **Criminal Intelligence Analysis - initial training**: in conjunction with the UNDCP

- **Information Technology Crime**: European region courses held in Germany, Spain and the UK.

- **Environmental crime**: initial training in environmental criminal investigations; two courses in 1999, for Eastern and Central Europe (at the General Secretariat) and Southern Africa (in Zimbabwe).
These courses are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of Interpol’s role and services for NCB personnel and other law enforcement staff. They can be tailored to needs with, for example, the addition of technology and/or communications training.

Interpol databases and communications systems: Sessions are now shorter and more intense, with pre- and post-course monitoring to ensure the best possible tailoring of courses to specific regional needs. This enables us to reduce group sizes, improving the training environment, yet maintain the numbers of participants trained.

Excluding specialist investigator training, 70 percent of Member States participated in Interpol awareness and/or technical training this year. See examples of our regional approach to training above.
The provision of value-added services focuses on the development of law enforcement capability and support for operational actions. In this area we operate with greater selectivity, and more focused priorities than for message switching and information supply. Examples of value-added services include:

**Operational Information Analysis Sharing**
Interpol analysts are increasingly working in direct contact with law enforcement officers at the General Secretariat on specific operational projects. Criminal Intelligence Analysis expertise is widely shared with Member States in order to encourage them to develop their own capability at national level. Consultancy-style help is offered regarding analytical training, analysis techniques, methodologies and the choice of information technology tools.

**Setting and Promoting Standards**
This is a culturally and politically sensitive area where Interpol’s global perspective can be of assistance in enhancing successful co-operation between law enforcement services in Member States with sometimes widely differing priorities, procedures and legal structures. Some current examples of Interpol’s work in this field include:

- **Fingerprints** - the Interpol AFIS Expert Group is working on standards for interoperability between AFIS systems, regardless of supplier, to be adopted by the international law enforcement community and suppliers of AFIS systems. The Interpol European Expert Group is undertaking a feasibility study for the development of a common European method for fingerprint identification.

- **NCB Service Standards** - The European Regional Conference examined Service Standard 16, which requires NCBs to adopt a strategy for dealing with national and regional issues. A more comprehensive definition was adopted, which places emphasis on promoting and making known the role of NCBs, together with a detailed explanation of what is intended.
Respect for human rights, harmonisation of co-operation, development and enhancement of external relations are, in addition to the provision of legal assistance to the departments of the General Secretariat, the three main strands of activity in this area.

Our lawyers have contributed to the development of standards relating to data protection and police ethics, particularly in the eastern European states. Activities in this area have been particularly focused on the legal issues arising from the development of new technologies such as the Internet, and also by the increasing desire to use open source information in the fight against crime.

Data protection has been a major focus this year, and will be for some time to come. Interpol's rules are the subject of a detailed study in order that appropriate revisions can be proposed to bring them in line with current thinking and allow the Organization to function according to the demands of today's world.

A key instrument to assist in the harmonisation of international law enforcement co-operation is the newly developed model police co-operation agreement. It is intended that this could serve many Member States as a tool to further develop their international relations.

Interpol lawyers have also been called to contribute their expertise in the drafting of a wide range of legal instruments relating to the development and facilitation of co-operation. For example, the United Nations Conventions on Transnational Organized Crime, the Financing of Terrorism and the draft Rules of Procedure and Evidence for the International Criminal Court, in whose creation Interpol was equally involved. We should also cite the Council of Europe's draft Convention against Cybercrime, and the Second Protocol of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

In the continuing spirit of harmonisation, studies have been undertaken, for example to establish a network of national points of contact for particular crime areas in order to further facilitate law enforcement co-operation, and the protection of the distinctive insignia of international organizations through a joint project with the United Nations and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Relations with partner organizations have been formalised in accordance with the programme approved by the General Assembly. Thus this year we have seen agreements signed with the International Centre for the Development of Immigration Policies, UNESCO, the Organization for African Unity, the International Authority for Civil Aviation, the Organization of American States, plus the International Council of Museums and the International Chamber of Commerce.
Nor is it simply a question of negotiating and reaching new agreements; there is also the on-going duty to maintain and enhance existing relationships, for example with the representatives of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Interpol lawyers also work in multi-disciplinary arenas to facilitate co-operation between police and judicial authorities, particularly through continued efforts to raise awareness amongst the magistracies of the different Member States.

Following the successful concept of the European Liaison Bureau, sub-regional bureaus began to develop as key points of contact within the Interpol regions, notably in Africa and South America. However, the Strategic Development Plan highlighted the need for a global central contact point in Lyon. Thus, 1999 saw the creation of a new Directorate at the General Secretariat - for Regional Co-ordination and Development. This enables better inter-region co-ordination through the European Liaison Bureau, the Regional Co-ordination Bureau and the Sub-Regional Bureaus (Harare, for Southern Africa, Abidjan, for Western Africa, Nairobi, for Eastern Africa and Buenos Aires, for Southern America).
Successful counter-terrorism action. Interpol Tashkent asked for the assistance of the General Secretariat’s TE Branch (counter-terrorism) to locate the main suspect following a series of six car bombings that took place in Tashkent on 16th February 1999. These bombings resulted in the deaths of 15 people and injuries to 128 others.

Between 16th and 18th August, a two-man delegation from Uzbekistan came to Lyon and met with staff in the TE Branch. As a result of information exchanged at the General Secretariat, the suspect was located in Norway. The judicial process is underway.

INTERPOL FREQUENTLY CONSTRUCTS PROJECTS ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING MODEL:

- the identification of groups involved in continuous criminal activity
- identifying the membership, hierarchy, modus operandi and actual criminal activity
- collating information for analysis and dissemination
- assisting Member States with co-operative activities, especially for on-going investigations
- establishing networks of specialist national contact points with Interpol NCBs, other Law Enforcement Agencies and other relevant bodies

WE DO THIS BY:

- creating and/or using databases to facilitate the collection and handling of large quantities of information in a coherent and consistent way
- comparison and analysis
- dissemination of information through circulars, bulletins, newsletters and notices
- facilitating co-operation and co-ordination through working group meetings
- negotiating formal agreements with relevant bodies (International Organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations etc)
- sharing best practice
On 7th October, a Tanzanian national, for whom a diffusion had previously been issued on the Interpol network, was arrested in South Africa and extradited to the United States for his role in the 1998 bombing of the United States Embassy in Dar-Es-Salem.

During 1999 Interpol has pursued a wide-ranging programme of major projects that include:

**PROJECT EASTWIND** Japanese Yakuza/Boroyokudan groups, plus Vietnamese gangs, ethnic Chinese, and other Asian groups; assistance and facilitation of co-operation against Asian organized crime. Organized Crime Bulletin; links with FOPAC group on money laundering.

**PROJECT BRIDGE** Organized Crime Groups involved in the illegal immigration of Chinese nationals.

**PROJECT MILLENNIUM** In response to needs identified by the G8 Law Enforcement Projects sub-group on Eastern European organized crime: creation of an ‘indices’ system; collation, comparison, analysis and exchange of information from participating countries (currently 29); enhanced security database; national law enforcement contact points; issuing of Green (warning) notices.

**PROJECT ROCKERS** Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs involved in criminal activities; 29 countries involved at present.

**PROJECT MERCOSUR** Operational and strategic intelligence on organized criminal groups in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and the Mercosur countries; fugitive tracing using the Mercosur extradition treaty.

**STOLEN WORKS OF ART** Automatically searchable database of stolen and/or discovered works of art; CD-Rom (updated every two months) containing the database, relevant international conventions, directory of specialist contact points, free to NCBs, commercially available to museums, auctioneers and other interested parties through Jouve s.a. (http://www.jouve-diffusion.com).

**STOLEN VEHICLES** Automatically searchable database containing data on over 2.2 million stolen vehicles updated overnight by 52 countries, used regularly for searching by over 70 countries; an average of 32,000 new items are added each month and a similar number of searches are made. Other projects include directories of registration documents, driving licences and licence plates.
In October 1997, a Malawi male national, abducted his fifteen month old baby boy, from the child’s mother, in Molepolole village, Botswana. Excellent police co-operation through Interpol made it possible for the child to be safely re-united with its mother in August 1999.
Visit to the General Secretariat in July 1999 by Mr John Ralston, International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIME

Money Laundering

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIME

WEST AFRIQUE FRAUD

The 419 project continues: an international meeting in Abuja, Nigeria established the need to collate information in a co-ordinated manner; create multi-agency units to maintain a standardised intelligence database; document an investigation guidelines manual. An African working party committee has been created with sub-committees for West and Central Africa, Southern Africa and Eastern Africa.

ECONOMIC CRIME

Trends in the African Region: split into two groups (Central, Northern and Western Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa), building awareness of how to address the problem of economic crime; emphasis on networking between national law enforcement agencies, public and private sector parties; Member States are strongly encouraged to create dedicated economic crime units.

EUROSHORE

Research into 36 key off-shore investment centres threatening European economies: European Commission project in partnership with Interpol, Transcrime (Research group on Transnational Crime, University of Trento, Italy), CERTI (Institute of Tax Research for Companies, Bocconi University, Milan, Italy) and ERASMUS University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands).

MONEY LAUNDERING

ASIA WASM

Study of money laundering in Asia based on seven zones; report compiled on the Hawala Alternative Remittance System.

IMOLIN

Part of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention's (UNODCCP) Internet-based Anti-Money Laundering database (AMLID): Interpol gathers and processes information on the status of money laundering laws and programmes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CRIME

CYBERCRIME

Projects on digital financial transactions, Internet investigations (Parts 1 and 2), Internet investigation training, the manipulation of public communication networks, IT Crime - tools and techniques: the investigator's aid to detection and prevention, Computer Crime Manual - revised and circulated to all NCBs and computer crime units.
Threats on the Internet. When a Swiss national began communicating on the Internet, he probably had no idea of the trouble it would cause him. His regular e-mails to and from a woman were of a mainly sexual nature and when he tried to end the virtual relationship, the woman threatened to send his wife the messages he had been sending her. She insisted that the correspondence continue and sent a postcard to his home address to show that her threats were serious. She then created an e-mail address using the Swiss man’s name and used it to place orders with several companies.

The situation came to a head when she used the same e-mail address to implicate the Swiss man’s employer in a case of trafficking of chemicals. This made it seem as though the Swiss national was informing on his employer, who was then contacted by the Swiss Federal Police. The police then had to discover the true identity of the woman behind all these messages. However, Microsoft in Wallisellen, Switzerland, did not have access to the relevant database. The Swiss investigators therefore asked the United States police (though Interpol Berne and Washington) to make enquiries at Microsoft to discover the woman’s identity, the location of the computer terminal used and any other information which could confirm or refute the claims of the plaintiff.
Interpol combats traffic in endangered species of flora and fauna. On 10th October 1999 four offenders were arrested in Portugal during a joint South African and Portuguese operation which resulted in the seizure of 150 African elephant tusks as well as 1000 kg of cannabis in Portugal. The arrests followed months of investigation and undercover operations by the South African ESPU (Endangered Species Protection Unit) assisted by the Portuguese police and Interpol.

The Interpol General Assembly in Seoul approved a Declaration of Intent for adoption by law enforcement agencies, comprising codes of ethics and conduct. Work continues with the creation of a library of best practice to assist investigators of corruption cases. This will cover topics such as anti-corruption structures and their potential weaknesses, undercover investigations - operatives and techniques, witness protection, corruption legislation and prevention.

UNIVERSAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR COUNTERFEIT PAYMENT CARDS AND INTERNATIONAL PAYMENT CARD DATABASE Supported by five major payment card companies (American Express, Discover Card, Europay International, Mastercard International and Visa International), this five-year project is designed to fight fraud in the payment card industry. The new classification system, based on the technical examination of authentic and counterfeit payment cards, identifies similarities between isolated investigations and brings them into context with each other. The restricted access database is fully searchable for both forensic characteristics and non-forensic (intelligence) information.

PROTECTION OF THE EURO Sharing experience and expertise with EU Member States, the European Central Bank and OLAF (the investigative division of the European Commission) in a Europol co-ordinated project to develop anti-counterfeiting measures in preparation for the introduction of the Euro currency.

CLASSIFICATION OF FRAUDULENT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS Consensus reached on a new standard international classification system with alpha numeric indicatives for all counterfeit nationally issued passports, after the re-launch of a process which had run into difficulties some years ago. Interpol is now developing a database for this classification system to act as a global central point which will develop link associations and diffuse case-related information as well as trend analyses.

New Interpol training course presented twice this year, for Eastern Central European (at the General Secretariat) and Southern African countries (in Harare, Zimbabwe); current concerns include major reptile cases, poaching in China, illegal traffic in shahtoosh shawls and ivory smuggling by diplomats, smuggling of ozone-depleting substances (CFCs), illegal traffic in hazardous waste and maritime oil pollution. New co-operation with the G8 Law Enforcement Project on Environmental Crime.

CLEAN SEA International maritime project initiated by the new Interpol working group on crimes related to environmental pollution; an operational partnership project involving the USA, Canada, the UK and the Netherlands to combat illegal oil discharges from ships.
PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES PROGRAMME Interpol's fourth global survey of these substances covers national legislation, the establishment of links between seizures and investigations throughout the world, identification of links between individual traffickers and monitoring of trafficking groups' activities, providing operational intelligence wherever possible.

PROJECT WAND The West African Nationals Desk; initially targeting drug trafficking and fraud.

PROJECT PROBALKAN Identification and dismantling of active drug groups and their allied criminal activities (e.g., money laundering) along the Balkan Route, its variants and Central Asian replacements. In close cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and other national customs administrations. Links to UNDCP-PHARE Programme for South-Eastern Europe.

USE OF UNDERCOVER AGENTS IN DRUG TRANSBORDER OPERATIONS IN EUROPE

USE OF CONTROLLED DELIVERIES IN EUROPE (now extended to include all Interpol Member States). Inventories of national legislation, administrative rules and practices; practical difficulties in using undercover agents, financial aspects; feasibility studies on cooperation with new European Union Member States.

DRUGS LOGOS/MARKINGS/PACKAGING/ANALYSIS PROGRAMME A database which includes a description of logos, markings, packaging of drugs, physical characteristics of tablets as well as photos of the tablets, logos, markings and packaging; also includes forensic analysis of the drugs and graphs.

OPERATION BLACK POWDER Cocaine seizure analysis establishing links between several cases and leading to the identification of a new global strategy devised by a particular trafficking organization with a number of arrests and further seizures.

EXPRESS MAIL DRUG SMUGGLING Logical development from the ‘Show Me How’ and ‘Hostal/Portrait’ projects; Interpol information indicates that every member country is susceptible to this form of trafficking, which is set to grow in line with the increase in global trade. Interpol hopes to conclude a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the express courier industry to increase mutual cooperation.
OPERATION AMSTERDAM BYLMEMEER
An analysis of common trafficking patterns and seizure data in the Interpol database showed that certain postal codes in Amsterdam were related to an unusually high number of seizures of various types of drugs in different parts of the world. Further study revealed that this area was being used as a transit area for a high volume of small quantities of drugs involving many countries. Continuing analysis and co-operation with the Dutch authorities will determine the full extent of this phenomenon which, it is hoped, will lead to the identification of individuals involved, and eventually the arrest of the key organizational heads.

DRUG DATA SHARING PROJECT
Developed following three-way consultations between Interpol, the World Customs Organization and the UNDCP, the key feature is a shared database containing all world-wide seizures of drugs recorded by these organizations. This represents a major breakthrough in efforts to gain a clearer and more accurate understanding of the scale, nature and dynamics of the illicit drug trade. The database allows listing and analysis of significant drug seizures and new modus operandi used by traffickers; police and custom services can thus be alerted to new trafficking and concealment methods and adjust their search and investigative techniques accordingly.

CONSUMPTION AND TRAFFICKING OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES
Traffic in psychotropic substances is increasing significantly in Latin America and the Caribbean along with consumption and production. A large number of seizures in freight from Europe to the United States have been recorded in our database. Intelligence analysis shows that the international trafficking organizations exchange these substances to purchase quantities of cocaine and heroin. This analysis also suggests that diversion occurs from legal production of psychotropic substances to the illicit market. Our objectives are to more clearly define the development of increasing illegal activity involving psychotropic substances in anticipation of increased levels during the next few years.

OPERATION LEO
Participation in the Council of the European Union’s multi-agency, multinational joint surveillance exercise: 27 countries comprising EU members and all the countries along the ‘Balkan Route’, targeting heroin leaving Turkey in sea containers.

DIVERSION AND TRAFFICKING OF TEMAZepam
Interpol co-ordination of information and intelligence exchange between various law enforcement agencies, departments of health and private industry in support of Dutch, Belgian and Swiss authorities led to the dismantling of the criminal groups involved in the illegal diversion and trafficking of Temazepam.
INTERPOL DRUG ALERTS  A new system to provide member countries with ‘alerts’ highlighting recent trends and developments for all categories of drugs, distributed primarily via the secure area of the Interpol Drugs Website. The ‘alerts’ allow timely exchange of information and intelligence worldwide, and monitoring of international organized drug trafficking groups to support law enforcement agencies in their investigations and operations.

COCAINE SMUGGLING COLOMBIAN AND MEXICAN CARTELS  As a result of the arrest of the Cali, Bogota and Medellin cocaine trafficking leaders and the dynamism of Colombian and Mexican criminal gangs during the last two years, we are updating and analysing our knowledge of cocaine smuggling organizations, particularly in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru and Mexico.

OPERATION PURPLE  Preventing the diversion of certain industrial chemicals to the clandestine production of illicit drugs is a critical element of any drug enforcement effort. Operation Purple monitors potassium permanganate, a critical chemical in the oxidising of crude cocaine base into cocaine hydrochloride. The project complements existing administrative precursor control systems and aims to deny potassium permanganate to cocaine traffickers. Twenty countries (producer, transit and user) are currently involved. This operation is an initiative of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Germany, to which Interpol contributes and lends its support.

PROJECT ECSTASY  In response to the enormous increase in Ecstasy trafficking from Europe to North America, Interpol is the pro-active co-ordination point for the exchange of information and intelligence between the countries involved, which now extend to include Australia and Israel.

UNDCP-PHARE PROGRAMME  Interpol is the main sub-contractor under this UNDCP-PHARE-funded initiative in South Eastern Europe to provide a standardised high-tech system for storage, retrieval, exchange and analysis of drugs-related intelligence to central drugs units with a view to enhancing co-operation and the development of joint operations.

METHAMPHETAMINE PROJECT  Investigating methamphetamine trafficking in and from South-East Asia, an area of vast and increasing production in tablet and crystal form. The first significant seizures of the drug outside the region were made in Europe in 1998 and 1999. Interpol is monitoring this trend and offers help to the countries involved in order to counter the phenomenon.
Using controlled deliveries and following action by drugs liaison officers posted in Nicosia, Cyprus, Lebanese police made several seizures of cocaine and heroin totalling almost 8kg at Beirut International Airport.

Excellent co-operation between the British, Lebanese and Moroccan police led to the arrest, in Lebanon, of the Lebanese murderer of a Moroccan woman whose dismembered body had been found in a suitcase left at London Heathrow Airport on 23rd July 1999.
Clearly, when handling sensitive nominal data about criminals and suspected criminals, security is a key issue, and one which was raised by some clients during the 1998 market review. Project Millennium, undertaken under the auspices of the G8 Working Group on Russian and East European Organized Crime, has enabled Interpol to review the fine detail of its secure data handling and storage processes with a restricted group of countries with a keen interest in this particular crime area.

The operational objectives of the project are to provide:

- an international index of basic nominal data on people involved in Russian and East European organized crime
- a network of specific contact officers
- enhanced security for sensitive data
- brief, timely, analytical products which are circulated to participating countries.

The in-house process of notice production is under detailed review and recommendations are likely to be made which might reduce the notice production period from three months to 30 days. This could be further reduced with increased investment and radical alteration of existing organizational structures. Of course, any improvement to in-house processes also requires special attention to be given by National Central Bureaus to the provision of accurate and complete information on the red notice request form.
The Internet potentially provides an immensely flexible new resource to Interpol; it also offers challenges in the interpretation of the Organization’s existing rules, structures and practices. The Children Project has two phases: a dual level website (public and restricted access) to publicise Interpol yellow notices more widely with the explicit authorisation of the NCBs, and bring together a wide range of information and links to legislation relating to crimes against minors. This phase went live in July 1999 with over 200 yellow notices featuring on the site. The restricted access level has been developed for members of the Standing Working Party on Crimes against Minors, with a separate high security area devoted to a specific international police operation. Work continues in the restricted access area on an electronic format of the yellow notice request form. It will eventually be possible for appropriately equipped NCBs to submit their completed forms by e-mail, thus considerably reducing the time delay between receiving a request and its eventual publication.

The second phase of the project envisages the creation of a computer database of child pornography images. The objective is to develop a central reference point for the sharing of information on child pornography trafficked over the Internet.

Interpol red notice subject deemed extraditable. An African priest faces extradition to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which has indicted him for alleged war crimes. In a precedent-setting ruling, a United States federal court ruled that he is extraditable even though the United States government has no treaty authorizing the extradition. While acknowledging the historical practice of extraditions conducted pursuant to treaties, the court held that the Constitution does not require one.

The priest is the former head of the Seventh Day Adventists in Rwanda, and has been indicted for alleged participation in the genocide of ethnic Tutsis during the country’s 1994 civil war.
Sending stolen property by mail. At the end of 1998, the Criminal Intelligence Division of the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation registered the following phenomenon: according to the Customs Post at the Helsinki-Vantaa Airport, parcels were sent by mail from Finland and other Scandinavian countries to Lithuania. This year parcels were sent to the former Soviet Union countries. The Customs Post is the ‘gateway’ for all the airmail from the Scandinavian countries to the countries in question. The contents of the parcels were usually listed as ‘second hand clothes’, but X-ray examination has revealed that they contained inter alia car radios, mobile phones, razor blades, etc. Taking into account the nature of the objects, it was evident that the property had been stolen in various parts of Scandinavia.

The phenomenon embraces organized criminal activities on a large scale, where single acts are thefts or petty larcenies, for which a complaint is not always lodged or which are settled in single cases with fines. As a whole, the activities have become a very serious ‘business’ involving millions of marks. In terms of investigation, the phenomenon is expensive, particularly due to its international nature: finding the owners of the property in Scandinavia, returning the property and discovering the senders and receivers.

Interpol channels were one of the most important tools in solving the series of offences in question. During the operation, there was close co-operation between the Helsinki, Vilnius, Tallinn, Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm NCBs. It can be said that, without good Interpol connections, solving this case and similar cases would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.
RAISING INTERPOL’S PROFILE

The secretary general undertook 31 missions during 1999:

Number of missions undertaken by the secretary general:
- 1996: 31
- 1997: 34
- 1998: 40
- 1999: 31

VIP visits to the general secretariat:
- 1996: 24
- 1997: 22
- 1998: 35
- 1999: 47

Internal events hosted by the secretary general:
- 1996: 17
- 1997: 14
- 1998: 18
- 1999: 49

External requests for information:
- 1996: 458
- 1997: 587
- 1998: 690
- 1999: 652

Europe - 71 percent
Asia - 16 percent
The Americas - 10 percent
Africa - 3 percent

The secretary general undertook 31 missions during 1999.
The Strategic Development Programme (SDP) identified four key objectives: one of which is to raise Interpol’s profile. One of the Action Programme areas is Marketing and Communication. The difference in terminology - ‘Marketing and Communication’ and ‘Communication and Public Relations’ - is not simply semantic finesse. Interpol currently has a small Communications and Public Relations operation which primarily handles press requests and visits, whereas the SDP Action Programme for Marketing and Communication, in its 1999 terms of reference, identified eleven areas for evolution within Interpol under this heading:

A communication plan for Strategic Development Programme itself, plus...

- Website
- Internal communications
- External communications
- Corporate communication strategy
- Corporate identity and publications
- Policy and recommendations for improved media relations
- Public relations
- Business culture
- Communications tools
- Effective organizational structures for marketing and communication
The website was one of the first SDP projects to get under way, building on work already started. It has many features which represent developments for the General Secretariat:

- New communication tools
- New team-based way of working
- New multi-directorate way of relating to the General Secretariat hierarchies
- New opportunities to raise awareness of Interpol’s activities with content specially targeted for law enforcement

The site is designed for the sharing of information; not only to raise the profile of Interpol in the eyes of the general public, but also for facilitating wider law enforcement co-operation in specialised crime topics across the world - particularly through the restricted access site. Over the first four months of live operation, traffic on the site increased by 59.5 percent, and the trend is set to continue as the site becomes more comprehensive and dynamic.
The Interpol General Secretariat spends some 50 percent of its budget on staff costs. This is relatively low for a service organization, due in part to the present availability of seconded staff. This use of seconded personnel also contributes to high staff turnover - over 30 percent change this year. There is also a growing flexibility in work patterns, both through the use of more fixed term contract staff, and with the introduction this year of part-time and flexi-time working. Large numbers of spontaneous applications are received from both civilians and law enforcement officers - in all, about 1,500 in 1999.

At the end of 1999, there were 373 members of staff (General Secretariat (GS) and Sub Regional Bureaus), 62 countries (35 percent of the membership) were represented in varying numbers, an increase of 7 over the previous year.

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*indicates that some of these staff now have French nationality
33 developing flexible working practices

Evolution of staff numbers at the General Secretariat and sub regional bureaus:

- Total:
  - 31.12.96: 315
  - 31.12.97: 326
  - 31.12.98: 344

- GS contract:
  - 31.12.96: 202
  - 31.12.97: 204
  - 31.12.98: 214
  - 31.12.99: 218

- GS seconded:
  - 31.12.96: 85
  - 31.12.97: 83
  - 31.12.98: 88

- GS detached:
  - 31.12.96: 20
  - 31.12.97: 21
  - 31.12.98: 23
  - 31.12.99: 24

- GS regional bureaus:
  - 31.12.96: 8
  - 31.12.97: 18
  - 31.12.98: 19
  - 31.12.99: 30
Staff activities can be broken down into 14 main categories with the highest proportion of staff (16 percent) working on the handling of criminal information and the smallest proportions (2 percent respectively) in the Legal Directorate and Strategic Planning and the Executive Office which includes Communication and Public Relations. The pie chart above shows the spread of staff activities.

We make a distinction between the training offered as a service to our member countries and that offered in-house to enhance the performance of General Secretariat staff. At present, in-house training focuses primarily on induction training in office technology and the Interpol Criminal Information System for new staff. A Strategic Management Programme has also been delivered, using external trainers, to key staff involved in the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan.

Training in, for example, Interpol systems, intelligence co-ordination and criminal analysis delivered to NCBs through regional co-ordination and development programmes, is discussed in the section on global co-ordination.
Interpol derives its primary funding from contributions by Member States. The level of contribution is fixed on joining, based on a number of budget units - a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 100. The budget unit for 1999 was set at USD 11,825 (FRF 77,200). The total budget for 1999 was USD 27.2 million (FRF 178 million). Comparative figures for recent years are shown above.

Member States also contribute ‘in kind’ through their National Central Bureaus, through officers seconded to the General Secretariat and Sub Regional Bureaus, and by providing special expertise and support in certain project-based activities co-ordinated by the General Secretariat.

Operational costs can be broken down in a number of ways, but the intention here is to show the main areas of expenditure.
Operating costs by activity:

1998

1999

Projected 2000

Key to categories:

- **Governance**: General Assembly, Executive Committees, Sub-Committees, Executive Office of the Secretary General, Public Relations, Strategic Planning.

- **Criminal Intelligence**: Administration and Management, Crimes against Persons and Property, Economic and Financial Crime, Drugs, Criminal data processing (including Analysis and Specialised Publications).

- **Regionalization**: Administration and Management, Regional conferences, Co-ordination outside Europe, Co-ordination Europe, Sub Regional Bureaus (Abidjan, Buenos Aires, Harare, Nairobi).

- **IT Support**: Administration and Management, SCIT, IT Systems, Communications (network management, communications costs), Research and Development.


- **Documents**: Production and mailing.

- **Administration and Management**: Maintenance, management and security.

- **Legal Advice**: Administration, management and international legal activities.

- **Training**: Training Unit, courses.

- **Financial Management**: Financial control, book-keeping.

- **Other Costs**: Banking fees, Seconded Officers, Criminal Analysis training.
This year we have focused our activities firmly on the needs and expectations of our clients. To further enhance our effectiveness, we have reinforced Interpol’s four key roles: message switching, information supply, global co-ordination and the provision of value-added services, in order to fulfil our mission to promote active multi-lateral co-operation in the sphere of transnational crime.

Strategic developments have been refined using ten key action lines. These give added impetus and direction to our daily work as we strive for continuous improvement both at the General Secretariat and through the National Central Bureaus in our Member States. Crime continues to develop on a global scale; Interpol is developing to meet and anticipate this challenge.

R E Kendall
Secretary General