

49th YEAR, NUMBER 451
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1994

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE REVIEW



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL POLICE
ORGANIZATION

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CPPAP N 1207 AD
PRINTED IN FRANCE
ISSN 0367 729X

General Assembly

63rd SESSION

ROME



Photo Véronique Castan

28th September - 4th October 1994

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The 63rd session of the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly was held in Rome from 28th September to 4th October 1994 at the Casal Lumbroso Police School.

Mr Norman Inkster, President of Interpol, chaired the Opening Ceremony which was held in the presence of Mr Luigi Scalfaro, President of Italy.

After the Italian national anthem and the Interpol anthem had been played, a one-minute silence was observed in honour of police officers killed in the line of duty.

Speeches were then given by Mr Inkster and Mr Maroni, the Italian Minister of the Interior.

The texts of both speeches are given in full.

Speech given by Mr Inkster, President of Interpol

Mr President, Ministers, Fellow platform guests, Honourable delegates, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I must of course begin by expressing the collective thanks of all foreign visitors in this room for the very warm reception we have all received at the hands of our Italian hosts. I am told that this is the largest gathering of the Member States of Interpol in the history of the Organization. This is of course a tribute to the Italian Government, the NCB Rome under the capable leadership of a friend and colleague, Mr Portaccio, and the natural beauty of Rome. But it is an indication, as well, that never before in its history has the role and responsibility of Interpol been more important. As I have said publicly in the past — if Interpol did not exist to-day, we would have to invent it.

As I conclude my term as a Member of the Executive Committee, I look back on two years filled with challenges, opportunities

and achievements — and yes, some unfinished business.

Because, as every law enforcement officer knows, our work is never really finished.

Only three years ago, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, commentators around the world were speaking of “the end of history”, and nations everywhere clamoured for their portion of the so-called “peace dividend”.

To date there has been no “peace dividend” as we see United Nations peacekeepers, police officers, immigration professionals and others stationed around the globe from Bosnia to Haiti to Namibia.

Like the dynamics of national and international politics, the dynamics of national and international crime never cease to function; for every crime prevention and law enforcement action, there seems to be an equal and opposite reaction from the criminal element — some sort of perverse Newtonian function!

Just as we seem to contain or eliminate one form of crime, another new version appears, based on the continuing evolution of technology and information distribution, and mirroring changes in the social structures, economic markets, and political systems of the countries of the world. Our job is to anticipate and react to these changes, so that people everywhere can benefit from society’s progress.

Eighty years ago when Interpol was first created, its first President must have felt the same way that I feel to-day — there is so much to do, but I know that we can succeed if we all work together.

He probably would have marvelled at the world we live in today — just as I would marvel at the world 80 years from now. But we would both agree that there is no substitute for co-operation and hard work in crime prevention and law enforcement.

And I thank the hundreds (thousands) of individuals and organizations I have had the opportunity to work with over the past many years: your advice, your assistance, your co-operation have been the foundation for any successes that I may have achieved as your President.

I have been proud to represent this Organization and its Member States at meetings around the world, and I am grateful to my own country, Canada, for providing me with the skill, experience and encouragement to serve as your President during this period of increased instability in the world.

As many of you may know, it was a Canadian, Lester B. Pearson, who invented the concept of “peacekeeping”, a concept that has redefined the way we resolve armed conflicts.

Keeping the “civilian peace” is no less daunting a task as we face even more cunning gangs of international criminals, who murder, steal from, kidnap, defraud and violate innocent people, often without remorse, but seldom without fear of capture or punishment.

We must never lose sight of our real objective — to remove the fear of crime from the world’s innocents, many of them women, and sadly, many of them children, often sold into human slavery, or forced into the deadly use or trafficking of restricted substances.

This is our real objective.

When I say that I have left some “unfinished business” I mean that there is plenty of room to build on the new structures and processes that we have developed during my time as President.

But let us be effective — let’s target our efforts and energies to where they are most needed.

Let us be efficient — wasting scarce resources today can be as big a crime as that which might



The Casal Lumbroso Police College near Rome where the General Assembly session was held

have been prevented with a more careful allocation of our resources.

And finally, let us remain accountable — to each other, to our Member States, and most of all to the billions of innocent and law-respecting citizens of the world who are our real clientele.

There will be many challenges which will confront my successor and I am sure his successor as well. That is, I regret to say, the nature of law enforcement today — today as

we witness the reality of the global village which brings the problems of Benin to the doorstep of Canada and the problems of Canada to the doorstep of China. And that is why we must be united in our common fight against the scourge of international crime.

Our agenda for this the 63rd General Assembly session is replete with the challenges that face law enforcement bodies everywhere in the world. These items will require

your full attention and your advice through energetic debate as we prepare the workload to confront the General Secretariat for the coming year.

But there are challenges internal to the Organization which require at least an equal measure of your attention and of course your advice.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee which I attended in 1987 we discussed the budget of the Organization, the value of the budget unit and naturally the question of arrears.

We discussed exactly the same problems at my last meeting of the Executive Committee on Monday and I regret to report that we have not made much progress in the intervening 7 years. Let me take a moment if I may to provide a context for the discussion that must occur.

In 1989, under the outstanding leadership of Mr Kendall, the Secretary General, Interpol became the most modern and technically advanced police organization in the world. That is a position that Interpol cannot maintain without recurring update and modernization costs. NCBs now quite comfortable with this new technology are using it more and sending more messages, thus the day-to-day costs of doing business are increasing.

Yet the Organization has been on an essentially fixed budget as the value of the budget unit has remained constant for the past several years. But some of the value of the budget unit has been eaten away by inflation so the actual money available to Interpol's Secretariat has declined while we ask the Secretariat to do more.

At the same time the list of countries in arrears is growing, while we ask those who pay, to pay more budget units of higher value. And they have budget problems too. And the provisions of Article 52 are ineffectual.

The conundrum is an obvious one and it will take some very difficult decisions to find solutions. I wish you well. As this will be my last appearance before this august body I want to remind you, if I may, that you represent the finest

police organizations in the world and it has therefore been both an honour and a privilege to work with you, to know you and to make friends. The friendships will, I hope, continue.

We demonstrate on a daily basis to an increasingly complex world that as police professionals we can put politics, religion and ideologies aside in the best interests of those who need us most, the peaceful, law-abiding citizens of the world.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to be among you and share in the glory of Interpol.

Thank you.

Speech given by Mr R. Maroni, Italian Minister of the Interior

Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very pleased to attend the opening ceremony of the 63rd session of the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization and to welcome all of you.

I would like to extend a respectful greeting to the President of the Republic and to thank him for being here, thereby proving the great esteem and appreciation of our country for all those who, both in Italy and abroad, silently but proudly struggle against crime.

I wish to welcome the Government authorities, the representatives of the Constitutional Court and of the Judiciary, and all those who will attend this Assembly in their capacity as representatives of the international police forces or as observers of several international institutions.

The International Criminal Police Organization, which has become more and more important within the framework of multilateral cooperation agreements entered into for the purpose of struggling against crime, dates back to a long time ago when, at the beginning of this century, the need to harmonize extradition procedures and to establish an institution capable of "managing" international criminal police archives arose.

But it was only in 1956 in Vienna that the ICPO-Interpol took its present shape, thereby

encompassing the previous experience of the International Criminal Police Commission.

Since then many and major events have deeply changed the international political scene.

Though often characterized by periods of serious concern and of worrying crises, such events have fostered the relations between peoples on the basis of a new dialogue and mutual understanding.

Nevertheless, further insidious dangers have arisen that, if not adequately faced, are nowadays potentially capable of jeopardizing peaceful social, economic and political development.

A first reference could be made to some geographical areas of the world, harassed by serious crises, or to those problems, not yet adequately solved, concerning countries and peoples whose survival can be in danger due to a difficult living situation.

Much has been and is being done by international institutions in order to overcome such dramatic situations so that each human being can not only theoretically but actually enjoy the same degree of



human dignity regardless of his race, religion and citizenship.

On this occasion, however, I would like to focus your attention on the danger originating from criminal organizations since they can proliferate and spread whenever abuse, intimidation and violence overwhelm the rules governing human society.

Crime trends have by now reached the "emergency" level; the phenomenon affects Europe as well as the rest of the world, though in different ways, and is far from being eradicated.

In fact, organized crime has proved that it can not only survive law enforcement offensives but also expand, proliferate and infiltrate into the mechanism of wealth production and administration: in addition, it affects the economic and administrative world and establishes close relations with foreign criminal organizations in order to better manage and coordinate illegal activities.

Further possibilities of expansion are offered by the abolition of the barriers previously existing between East and West.

In fact, new relations between offenders coming from different countries have emerged in the course of investigations into drug trafficking, while new signals of an "enlarged" crime market, involving other countries besides EEC member states, have been detected with regard to thefts of cars and of works of art as well as to money laundering activities.

As far as Italy is concerned the fight against crime has been and is still a top priority for the Italian government.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Italian police forces for their activity carried out in the service of the State with devotion and exemplary self-sacrifice though amidst difficulties and dangers.

In this connection, new regulations have been introduced and special attention has been paid to the improvement of the instruments available.

For instance, the Antimafia Investigative Directorate, the Antimafia National Direction and Antimafia District Directions have been set up; furthermore, new provisions have been introduced in relation to drug traffic, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, usury, money laundering, witness protection, contracts, and transparency of the public administration. Finally, those who have been sentenced for serious offences are now subject to more severe detention measures.

As far as the struggle against organized crime is concerned, several laws have been enacted at various levels.

Excellent results have been achieved and the Government intends to continue along the same path.

In fact, a bill has been prepared to set up "Antimafia District Courts", competent for criminal conspiracy of the Mafia type, kidnapping for ransom and criminal conspiracy aimed at drug trafficking, and located in the district of the court of appeal having jurisdiction over the offence committed.

However, the struggle against organized crime must not be considered limited to the national boundaries.

The illicit activities carried out by criminal organizations have expanded at international level to the extent that they can be prosecuted only through the harmonization of national legislations and co-operation between police forces all over the world.

In fact, most positive results in the struggle against crime have been achieved when at international level the institutions concerned have rapidly come to operational agreements by resorting to targeted actions and to the co-operation of all the parties involved: government representatives, magistrates, and police forces.

In this connection, it must be stressed that the effectiveness of the agreements entered into at governmental level in order to achieve common purposes has resulted in a more rapid and valid

action of the institutions in charge of the repression of crime.

This is why Italy firmly believes in international co-operation.

It was you, Mr President of the Republic, who in 1984, while holding the office of Minister of the Interior, supported the policy of bilateral co-operation of our country in relation to the struggle against organized crime and drug trafficking.

The initiative was undertaken with the United States of America where I have recently met my United States counterpart for the purpose of intensifying co-operation between Italy and America.

Many other agreements have followed, with both European and non-European countries.

The latest agreement was entered into with my Israeli counterpart in order to reinforce bilateral co-operation with regard to the struggle against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

Apart from bilateral agreements Italy has been a party to multilateral agreements such as the Trevi Group, the Schengen Agreement or — as a promoter — the International Agreement concerning the "European Drug Route".

In this regard, the Italian government co-operates actively in order to consolidate and support further agreements within the framework of the struggle against international organized crime.

As a result of the above and firmly believing in co-operation, the Italian city of Naples is about to host a World Conference on Transnational Organized Crime which will be held in November under the auspices of the United Nations.

The international community has by now realized the serious danger posed by crime which was once an expression of a mere infringement of the law, but has become a major threat to the security of both industrialized and developing countries.

Nevertheless, the awareness of such danger alone does not suffice to remove it.

It is necessary to realize the extent and the aggressive potential of the phenomenon and to find a proper definition shared by all countries since this is the prerequisite for any effective struggle.

Hence, it is necessary to harmonize different legislations, to constantly exchange information, data and experiences, to make the economic, financial, administrative and political systems less vulnerable, and to improve prevention and repression measures.

The United Nations World Conference scheduled for November 1994 will be an excellent opportunity in this respect.

The major Italian and foreign authorities will attend this conference and share their experiences and knowledge in order to compare them and to effectively contribute to the struggle against crime.

On the occasion of the 63rd session of the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization, Italy is honoured to host the most important representatives of international police forces.

Once again I welcome all the participants.

The discussions and operational agreements ensuing from the meetings will surely support the over ten-year old activity of the International Criminal Police Organization whose excellent results have proved in advance the need for international co-operation in the struggle against crime.

Interpol participates in global strategies, thereby effectively reacting against crime in the wake of its deeply-rooted experience, in compliance with clear regulations governing its activity and in view of far-reaching initiatives.

Excellent results have been achieved thanks to Interpol's operational skills and to an updated view of the situation concerning the trends in crime closely connected to international social and economic dynamics.

For instance, at the beginning of this month a successful operation jointly carried out by police forces of different countries resulted in the arrest of Carlo Morana, one of the major fugitives charged with — inter alia — criminal conspiracy of Mafia type.

Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe I can no longer abuse the privilege granted to me this morning.

I am convinced that the work of this General Assembly will entail new ideas, new proposals and new initiatives with a view to achieving more and more successful results.

Mr President of the Republic, once again I would like to welcome you and thank you for attending the opening ceremony of this General Assembly.

I wish a hearty welcome and good work to all those who have devoted themselves to the difficult task of struggling against crime.

TWO NEW MEMBER COUNTRIES

Moldova and Uzbekistan presented their applications, which the Assembly approved. Interpol therefore now has 176 Members.



PROGRESS REPORT 1993

The report submitted to the Assembly was more concise than that submitted the previous year, the aim being to highlight the major events that had occurred in each of the Divisions during the course of the year.

Policy and Management Programme

Secretary General's Executive Office

- Increase in the number of occasions when the Secretary General was present at events outside the Headquarters, and increase in the number of interviews given to journalists.

- Study on intensifying public relations activities.

- Preparation of the call for bids to select a company to make a video film on Interpol.

Financial control

- Approval of 3,000 expenditure requests.

Division III (Legal matters — Studies — General reference sources — ICPR — Public relations — Training)

- Improvement in the handling of legal matters since the two Sub-Divisions responsible respectively for :

- international public law
 - contracts and the Supervisory Board
- became fully operational.

- Installation by the Technical Support Programme of a computer-assisted publishing system for the ICPR (International Criminal Police Review).

- Delays in publication of the ICPR due to staffing problems.

- Subscription by the General Reference Department to a legal and bibliographical database.

- Development of the computerized classification system for reference material begun in 1992.

Liaison and Criminal Intelligence Programme

- Inclusion of the European Secretariat in this programme for operational purposes: in terms of the budget, the European Secretariat is still part of the Policy and

Management Programme (Secretary General's Executive Office).

- Development of the European Secretariat with the establishment of a larger team to ensure liaison with Eastern European member countries.

- Increase in the number of mission days owing to development of missions in general and introduction of a new tariff policy.

- Normal increase in activity in all Sub-Divisions, especially in Sub-Division 4.

- More thorough analysis of files with the establishment of the ACIU (Analytical Criminal Intelligence Unit).

- Organization of four Regional Conferences in: Harare, Zimbabwe (Africa); Santiago, Chile (Americas); Ulan Bator, Mongolia (Asia); Berne, Switzerland (Europe).

General Administration Programme

- Improvement of the computerized handling of wages and computerization of personnel management.

- Establishment of a computerized inventory of fixed assets, resulting in a drop in the gross value of fixed assets (reprocessing of assets), a rise in the provisions for depreciation and, finally, a drop in the net value of fixed assets.

- Resumption of a study on withdrawal from the French Social Security system and the provision of an independent social insurance and welfare scheme for the Organization's officials.

- Study on the classification of posts.

- Transformation of the Accounts Department into a Finance and Accounts Section.

General Services Programme

- Implementation of the air-conditioning project according to schedule, with minimum disruption to the operation of the Secretariat,



The Bulgarian Delegation

and in conformity with the agreed price and expected results.

- Installation of new technical premises for the refrigeration plant and generators.

- Additional improvements to the staff canteen.

- Study on the reorganization of the Central Security Post.

- Initiation of the project to replace the current invertors.

- Replacement of two vehicles and sale of the two replaced.

- Renegotiation of the Headquarters building maintenance contract by splitting it into several parts, issuing calls for bids and concluding contracts with subcontractors specializing in each sector.

- Replacement of the document collator.

- Appointment of a new Head of the Document Production Sub-Division.

Meetings and Missions Programme

- Increase in the number of missions in France and in the number of meetings.

- Advantage taken of lower air fares for travel.

- Negotiation of lower interpretation rates, with an appreciable reduction in the number of interpreter-days for certain meetings.

- 62nd General Assembly session: Aruba, 29th September to 5th October 1993.

Technical Support Programme

- Restructuring of the organization chart with the start-up of the Research and Development Section, located between the EDP Section and the Telecommunications Sub-Division.

- Postponement of the following projects, initially scheduled for implementation in 1993 as part of the Regional Modernization Plan:

- West Africa;
 - South America;
 - Europe/Mediterranean;
 - Caribbean and Central America (carried over from 1992);
- owing to legal problems beyond Interpol's control (delays in ratification of agreements with NCBs).

- Negotiation of a contract with the Scitor Company for the supply and maintenance of equipment, and provision of a telecommunications network covering the various member countries concerned and

the Headquarters, for all the projects relating to the Regional Modernization Plan.

- Increase in the number of messages received and dispatched.

- Receipt of damages from the Antarctic Company in compensation for difficulties in radio transmission from the Saint Martin d'Abbat radio station.

- Closure of the radio transmission station at Saint Martin d'Abbat following the installation of the X.400 server, resulting in cessation of use of the AMSS, which will lead to a substantial amount of equipment being sold off in 1994.

- Implementation of the equipment renewal programme at the Headquarters, although on a smaller

scale than initially planned because of:

- postponement of the Regional Modernization Plan Programme,
- the decision to rent equipment instead of purchasing it, thus ensuring greater flexibility in respect of equipment replacement at an equivalent cost.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Report for 1993

Document No. AGN/63/RAP, No. 2, was the Financial Report for 1993. It contained a balance sheet, an income and expense statement and appended documents. With regard to the income side of the income and expense statement, it should be mentioned that the value of the budget unit again remained at CHF 17,300 for the 1993 financial year, no increase having been requested since 1990. The number of budget units called up increased by 148.86 between 1992 and 1993 to 1,595.2. Income from miscellaneous sources amounted to CHF 1,868,532.16 and mainly came from royalties paid by Messrs. Keesing for publishing and distributing "Counterfeits and Forgeries" and from insurance company reimbursements following claims in connection with the construction of the new Headquarters building. Financial income decreased significantly in comparison with 1992 as a result of the considerable fall in the rates offered on the financial market.

With regard to expenses, those for personnel rose by 5.8% while those for missions remained stable, despite an increase in the number of missions, thanks to strict management of travel expenses. Expenditure on maintenance increased significantly, which was inevitable five years after the

construction of the Headquarters building. Significant savings were made on utility costs as a result of work done and measures adopted to permit better management of water and electricity consumption. Interpretation costs increased significantly, mainly because four Regional Conferences were held in 1993. In addition a certain amount of translation work was out-sourced during the year. Expenditure on telecommunications continued to rise since modernization of equipment led to increased use of the system and, as a result, to an increase in the telecommunications costs paid by the Organization. Rentals also increased because of Interpol's new policy of renting computer equipment rather than purchasing it.

Exceptional expenses resulted from cancellation of the debts of Former Yugoslavia, El Salvador and Laos. Lastly a number of documents were appended to the report relating to the inventory of fixed assets which had been established at 31st December 1993 and which had required a considerable effort by all the staff concerned. The inventory made it possible for the first time to give a fair and true account of the assets listed in the Organization's balance sheet, to guarantee adequate insurance cover for those assets, and to improve the management of Interpol's property.

Report by the Financial Controller for 1993

The Financial Controller pointed out that it was the first time a report of that type had been submitted to the General Assembly. The report, contained in Document No. 4, was divided into three sections. The first section described the duties of the Financial Controller: during 1993, he had approved 3,000 budgeted expenditure commitments. The second section covered the Organization's financial situation at 31st December 1993. The final section dealt with budget implementation, taking into account both the actual rate of exchange — i.e. 3.9053 French francs for 1 Swiss franc — and the rate of exchange adopted for the budget, i.e. 3.75 French francs for 1 Swiss franc.

A comparison of the 1991, 1992 and 1993 balance sheets, prepared on the basis of the actual 1993 exchange rate, showed that the amounts for assets and liabilities on the balance sheet had risen continually between 1991 and 1993. The increase on the assets side was due mainly to the "Accounts receivable and deferred" item, 85% of which consisted of contributions in arrears. The increase on the liabilities side was due to the increase in the "Statutory funds" item. The net accounting result for 1993 was back at the same level as in 1991, namely a surplus of



The delegation from Burkina Faso

CHF 3.3 million. Contributions in arrears had risen, as had statutory funds. Finally, net fixed assets and net equity had fallen slightly due to the fact that depreciation progressed more quickly than capital investment.

As far as the accounting result was concerned, there had been a more rapid rise in income than expenditure since 1991, owing to the increase in contributions called up and in exceptional income, which offset the fall in financial income.

With regard to the overall budget implementation statement for 1993, the balance was due more to a surplus in income and satisfactory implementation of the operating budget, than to the non-implementation of investment projects, since the postponement of those projects meant that the corresponding resources had not been mobilized. Furthermore, although income from financial investments was lower than forecast, income from contributions called up was CHF 2.4 million higher than the forecast amount.

Report by the External Auditors for 1993

The President of the *Chambre des Comptes du Luxembourg*,

introduced the Report on the administrative and financial management of the Organization. The auditors had found no particular variance between the budget drawn up for 1993 and that implemented and consolidated in the accounts: overall, actual expenses had not even met forecasts. That balance between surpluses and deficits had been brought about by good management, which had been made easier by the practice of transferring credits from underspent budget items to items for which expenses were higher than forecast. There was, moreover, formal provision for such transfers in the Financial Regulations. The auditors had wished to refine the comparison of the budget with the actual accounts and had examined in more detail only the cost centres which exceeded forecasts, taking care to analyse the accounts by heading. Such an exercise provided information on the realistic nature of certain budget items, but relevant, final conclusions could only be drawn once it had been repeated.

Given the large amount of information provided, and its quality, the External Auditors wished to limit themselves to making some significant points arising from the Organization's accounting situation at 31st December 1993. Implementation

of the consolidated budget for the year showed a positive balance of CHF 3.977.000. Moreover, the installation of a computerized assets management file had led to a reduction of CHF 3.3 million in the gross value of assets. The External Auditors felt it would no doubt be useful henceforth for payment orders to be accompanied by a certificate indicating that the goods had been recorded in the inventories. Furthermore, although the postponement of certain major investments could be put down to legal problems, the managers should learn some useful lessons and make allowance accordingly when planning work and budgeting for the relevant financial resources.

The Auditors had already stressed the problems relating to the non-payment of contributions by member countries. The situation had worsened further in 1993 with an increase in arrears of CHF 765.952.58 compared with the previous financial year. The External Auditors were aware that it was a sensitive area which required a great deal of flexibility and, while repeating the observations they had made in their previous report, felt that constant pressure should be maintained and even increased, and that sanctions should be considered in order to obtain payment of the sums due by countries for which the Organization provided many services.

As far as staff management was concerned, the External Auditors commented that Article 40(4) of the Staff Rules was often applied retroactively. The practice should be revised in the light of the general principle that administrative decisions were not retroactive.

With regard to the Keesing contract, the Auditors felt that Interpol should make full use of its right of control under Article 14 of the contract signed on 1st October 1962. They also felt that more account should be taken of the financial aspects of distributing and producing the International Criminal Police Review.

In conclusion, the External Auditors considered that the

financial reports reflected the Organization's financial situation at 31st December 1993 and the results of its operations during the financial year ending on that date; the financial reports had been drawn up in conformity with the accounting policy currently in force; the operations were in conformity with the Financial Regulations. They concluded that the accounts for the 1993 financial year could be submitted as they were to the General Assembly for approval.

The draft resolution contained in Document AGN/63/P.RES/1 was adopted unanimously, as was the amendment to Interpol's Financial Regulations in Document AGN/63/P.RES/2.

1995 Draft Budget and Ongoing Plan for 1996-1999

Approval of the 1995 Budget

The initial budget amounted to FRF 148,882,000, or CHF 37,221,000 (from 1995 onwards, the Budget will be prepared in French francs, the Headquarters country's currency).

The initial overall objectives were as follows:

- Completion of the implementation of ongoing Regional Modernization Plan projects: Europe/Mediterranean (early 1995), Caribbean/Central America and West Africa (second half of 1995) and East Africa (end of 1995),
- Implementation of new training and technical co-operation projects for member countries,
- Introduction of a new public relations policy,
- Development of the services provided by the Organization for member countries,
- Minimizing the increase in the Organization's expenses by taking the appropriate measures in the light of the member countries' financial capabilities.

To achieve these objectives, the Budget had been prepared on the basis of a budget unit valued at 73,400 francs, an increase of 6% compared with the previous value, which had remained constant for five years.

After a very lively discussion, an increase of just 3% in the value of the budget unit was adopted; the budget unit was therefore set at 71,300 francs for the 1995 financial year.

The General Assembly approved and adopted the 1995 Draft Budget and Plan for 1996-1999 as contained in the document and postponed the "Public Relations", "AFIS", and "East Africa" projects, which had been part of the Regional Modernization Plan, and would be implemented once the credits were available. The Budget adopted for 1995 amounted therefore to FRF 143,749,000, or CHF 35,937,000.

Draft resolution AGN/63/P.RES/4 was amended and adopted as follows: "The General Assembly ... asks the Executive Committee to set up a sub-committee on finance to consider the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of Interpol, including — if necessary — the hiring of an outside consultant, with a view to establishing a zero-growth budget for future years".

Report on implementation of the plan for reassessing statutory contributions and on the rise in contributions in arrears: Draft resolution AGN/63/P.RES/3

During its two previous sessions, the Executive Committee had devoted particular attention to the question of the number of budget units paid by each member country and the actual payment of contributions within the time set by the Financial Regulations. The Executive Committee had noted that if all the countries paid their contributions in the time set in the Financial Regulations, the Organization would be able to meet its undertakings. Despite great efforts made by certain countries since 1990, others had not replied favourably to the proposals made to them on the basis of the Van Hove Plan adopted by the General Assembly in Ottawa. The two questions posed concerned re-evaluation of the budget unit and arrears in contributions. The current trend was of regular increases in arrears and the Executive Committee was obliged to apply Article 52 of the General Regulations to an ever-increasing number of member countries.

After a lively discussion, the General Secretariat was asked to

Members of the Greek Delegation



propose more drastic solutions in order to get the bad payers to pay their debts. Some amendments were made to the draft resolution, which was then adopted by the General Assembly.

Project to establish an Assistance and Technical Support Fund for Developing Countries (ATSFDC)

The Executive Committee had attempted to find outside financing for the implementation of new projects, particularly Regional Modernization projects.

The Organization had, in fact, received CHF 2 million in outside funding for that plan: CHF 800,000 for the Caribbean Project, CHF 400,000 for the South American Project and CHF 800,000 for the West African Project.

In conformity with Article 19 of the Financial Regulations, the proposed Assistance and Technical Support Fund would make it possible to finance the following:

- The new capital investment costs for the Regional Modernization Plan (CHF 900,000 was needed for the East African Project) and the recurring operating costs, which could vary between CHF 2 and 4 million in the coming years, depending on the progress of the project;
- Training courses: a post would be created for NCB staff training;
- All or part of the Sub-Regional Bureaus' operating costs.

The Fund would be financed as follows:

- By direct financing by the member countries for carrying out specific projects;
- By allocating budget surpluses or carrying over unused credits;
- By outside financing received from international bodies (in line



The Indian Delegation

with the procedure already used with the UNDCP for the Caribbean).

Along those lines, Interpol had made approaches to the OECD Development Assistance Committee and managed to get the ATSFDC included in the list of organisms to which the donor countries' contributions could count as part of their Public Development Assistance (it should be noted that all the OECD States were Members of Interpol). In that way, those Members would be able to pay contributions to the ATSFDC drawn on their public development assistance budgets, while their contributions to Interpol were usually included in their police budgets.

In order for the Fund to be able to function as from 1st January 1995, it was proposed to make an initial allocation by transferring a sum from the Capital Investment Fund already set aside for regional modernization.

Resolution AGN/63/RES/5 was adopted.

Setting up an Indemnities Fund

The General Assembly adopted Resolution AGN/63/RES/6.

LEGAL MATTERS

Amendment of Interpol's Constitution

The work of the Expert Group on Amendment of Interpol's Constitution was suspended until the General Assembly decided otherwise, and draft resolution AGN/63/P.RES/2 expressing that decision was submitted.

The General Assembly adopted the Resolution.

Consequences of the establishment of the 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

Report No. 13 was presented. It dealt with relations between Interpol and the International Tribunal created on 25th May 1993 by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 827, and Interpol's involvement in the handling of criminal cases dealt with by the Tribunal. The question of the use of Interpol's communications channels by the Tribunal had been raised, in particular in the context of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. Furthermore, Article 39 of the International Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence stated that "in the conduct of an investigation, the Prosecutor may seek ... the assistance ... of any relevant international body including the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)". Interpol therefore had to define its position with regard both to co-operation with the Tribunal and to the application of Article 3 of the Constitution to the cases the Tribunal had to deal with. That was the aim of the report submitted

by the Executive Committee to the General Assembly, and to which a preliminary draft resolution was appended.

After recalling the long-standing international conventions on which the Tribunal's activities were based, the Head of Division III explained that careful consideration of the offences which the International Tribunal was competent to judge, had led to the conclusion that relations between the Tribunal and the ICPO-Interpol would not be in contradiction with Article 3 of Interpol's Constitution. It was politically very important for the preliminary draft resolution to be adopted, bearing in mind that the General Secretariat would unfailingly continue to apply the principle of predominance. In any event, it would be up to each NCB, as usual, to decide on the degree of its co-operation.

The Cameroonian and Namibian Delegates suggested amending the last paragraph of the preliminary

draft resolution by replacing the phrase "should their co-operation be requested" by "whenever their co-operation is requested".

The Secretary General recalled that Article 3 of the Constitution had never prevented Interpol from taking action in connection with the 1939-45 war, so there was nothing to prevent such action being taken. It was simply a question of taking advantage of the establishment of the International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia to make intervention procedures absolutely clear. The last paragraph of the draft resolution had been worded precisely to give a general statement of the Organization's position. The Tribunal's representatives had themselves said that there would unfortunately be occasions when the scope of the Tribunal would have to be widened. The draft resolution was intended to cover all eventualities.

The General Assembly adopted Resolution AGN/63/RES/9.

The Lebanese Delegation



INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING

The meeting was chaired by Mr Soggiu (Italy). He asked Mr Ward, Head of the Drugs Sub-Division, to report on the activity of his Sub-Division and on the international drug traffic situation.

A summary of the report is given below.

Development of the traffic

1993 witnessed a continued increase in the production of heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and psychotropic substances. The drug trade remained enormously lucrative. Traffickers consolidated previous activities and lost no time in developing and exploiting new methods and routes. Increased quantities of morphine and heroin were shipped from source areas in Southwest Asia via the usual land and sea routes. Southeast Asian heroin remained the dominant product available in North America

and Australia. Heroin from Colombia continued to be available in North America.

Cocaine followed the same upward trend. Substantial seizures were made but they appeared to have had no noticeable effect on availability. In Colombia the vacuum created by the demise of Pablo Escobar and the consequent weakening of the Medellin Cartel was rapidly and efficiently filled by the Cali Cartel. European cocaine seizures exceeded 1992 figures. Traffickers continue to expand their activities in former Eastern Bloc countries.

Cannabis remained the most ubiquitously abused drug. Seizures worldwide were estimated to have risen by 20% to 40%. The huge increase in the THC content of hydroponically grown cannabis gave cause for concern. That form of cultivation was prevalent in the United States, Canada, and the

Netherlands. Dramatic increases in cannabis cultivation were observed in the Central Asian Republics. Those areas were increasingly being utilized as transit routes for cannabis from other source areas.

Amphetamine seizures for the period almost doubled. The production of methamphetamine in the United States continued apace with record seizures reported. Methaqualone posed a significant threat with India being the primary source and Southern Africa the consumer. 1993 also saw a renaissance in LSD use, primarily in Europe.

Opiates

During 1993, the Near East, Southwest Asia, Southeast Asia, Mexico and Colombia remained the principal regions of illicit poppy cultivation.

In spite of eradication and crop substitution programmes carried out in those regions, the total illegal production of opium was estimated to exceed 4,000 tons. There was regular transnational opium trade between Afghanistan and Iran in Southwest Asia and between China and Myanmar in the Southeast Asian region. There were increasing reports of the conversion of opium into morphine and heroin in clandestine laboratories in and around the production areas. Principal source and transit countries reporting significant opium seizures were: Iran (59 tons), Pakistan (4.4 tons), India (2.9 tons), China (3.5 tons), Myanmar (2.4 tons), Thailand (2.1 tons), Vietnam (1 ton). In the western hemisphere, Mexico and Colombia were the principal producers of opium.

The Delegates from Kuwait



Mexican authorities estimate the annual production at 40 tons. Colombia's opium production for 1993 was estimated at 200 tons.

Illicit traffic in morphine base escalated during 1993. Information received by Interpol indicated that enormous quantities of morphine base, produced in clandestine laboratories in the Afghanistan/Pakistan border region, were transported overland through Iran/Turkey, and by sea from the Pakistan coast via the Suez Canal, to Europe. Iranian authorities intercepted over 20 tons of morphine base along Iran's eastern borders with Afghanistan/Pakistan and on its western border with Turkey.

During 1993 there was a significant escalation in heroin production and cross-border transportation in spite of improved international law enforcement co-operation. Southwest Asian heroin production and traffic were more prevalent than in previous years. That was ostensibly to meet the great demand by consumers in Southwest Asia as well as in Europe and North America.

The "opening up" of Central and East European countries proved advantageous to drug trafficking organizations who were utilizing the countries in the region for storage and transit. Turkish drug syndicates continued to be active transporting heroin and working in close collaboration with organized crime groups based in several European countries.

With the bulk of the heroin from Southwest Asia transiting over the Balkan Route to Europe, there were fewer heroin seizures at European airports. Asian and African nationals were among the main groups arrested at European airports when seizures did occur.

In a developing trend, China emerged as an alternative route for opium and heroin smuggled from Myanmar to Hong Kong. China's Yunnan Province is at the heart of the trafficking route. During 1993, Chinese authorities seized four tons of heroin, the bulk of it in Yunnan



The delegation from Liechtenstein

Province. Hong Kong, because of its strategically located border in close proximity to mainland China, continued to be a staging area in the Far East region. Taiwan/China emerged as a major transit area for heroin shipments bound for North America. The agencies in Taiwan/China seized a total of one ton of heroin, mainly smuggled from Thailand. Based on 1993 reports received from United States drug law enforcement agencies, approximately 68% of the heroin seized in the United States originated from Southeast Asia. Countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Indonesia, where there is domestic heroin consumption, were also utilized as transit countries. Australia was also a major recipient of Southeast Asian heroin and organized criminal groups of Chinese origin played a major role in the heroin trade.

North America remained the principal heroin market in the world. As noted above, heroin in the United States and Canada arrived mainly from Southeast Asian countries with well-knit networks in the United States. Mexican heroin traffic to the United States continued to be controlled by

Mexican criminal groups. Colombian heroin was *increasingly* transported by Colombian nationals using commercial airlines flying to New York and Miami. Intelligence reports also suggested that South American cocaine cartels might be using existing cocaine smuggling networks to facilitate the shipment of Colombian heroin to North America and Europe.

Cocaine

The amount of cocaine seized worldwide, as reported to Interpol, exceeded 288 tons. Keeping in mind that this figure only represented seizures that were reported, it is clear that the spread of cocaine continued. Although total cocaine production might have decreased slightly in 1993, availability continued at high levels. This was confirmed by the fact that seizures in Colombia increased from 32 tonnes in 1992 to nearly 87 tonnes in 1993, yet market prices for cocaine hydrochloride remained virtually static during this period. Despite this increase, record-breaking individual seizures were made throughout North America and Europe in the course of the year. That indicated, particularly for Europe, not only the results of increased interdiction efforts but also a rising demand for cocaine HCl.

Eradication efforts by the governments of coca-producing countries notwithstanding, the supply of coca leaf was reportedly stable due to shifts in growing and harvesting. Source countries faced continued resistance to elimination of coca cultivation due to their inability to provide profitable agricultural substitutes for impoverished farmers, and the terrorist tactics of cartel suppliers.

Based on regional liaison visits by General Secretariat officials and information from intelligence sources, Brazil, Guatemala, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, and several Caribbean countries saw significant increases in cocaine transiting to North America and

Europe. Estimates indicated 100 to 150 tons passed through Venezuela and 50 to 75 tons through Guatemala. Nicaraguan authorities indicated that, due to the dismantling of the national security apparatus, the drug trade and cocaine transiting there had doubled.

The demise of Pablo Escobar appeared to have shifted the dominance in cocaine distribution permanently from the Medellin to the Cali Cartel. The Cali Cartel and its sub-units intensified efforts to establish new distribution networks in Europe. Seizures of cocaine in Europe rose from 17 to 19 metric tons according to data supplied to the General Secretariat. Shipments to traditional distribution points in the Iberian Peninsula continued to increase.

Spain, constituting about five-sixths of the Iberian Peninsula, continued to be the primary entry point for cocaine destined for Europe, accounting for an estimated 75 percent of the cocaine traffic to the region. In 1993 Spanish authorities surpassed their record seizure of one ton set in 1992, when they seized two tons at Pontevedra/La Coruña. They seized 5.3 tons in all in 1993 as compared to 4.4 tons in 1992, representing a 20% increase.

An interesting aside to the unabated flood of cocaine being shipped to consumer countries was noted. It appeared that, due to enactment of anti-money laundering statutes worldwide and heightened awareness of money laundering by law enforcement and banking officials, the cartels were finding it increasingly difficult to retrieve their illicit profits. Information received by Interpol indicated that Colombian traffickers were solving this problem by shipping bulk cash, and/or valuable commodities such as electronic, automobiles, and durable goods back to Colombia. Witness of this phenomenon were two recent seizures in the United States using detector dogs which discovered US\$ 9.2 million hidden in stereo speakers, compressors, and well pumps. One news source



One of the delegates from the Sub-NCB in Macao

reported that Colombian officials claimed that billions of dollars were flowing into the country and that the price of television sets and VCRs was lower in Colombia than in duty-free Panama.

Cannabis

During 1993, cannabis and its products continued to be the most trafficked and abused drug worldwide. Native to the mountainous areas of South and Central Asia, cannabis also grows in large areas in the Far East, the Americas, Africa, Asia and, to a lesser extent, in Europe.

During the year, cannabis and its products remained the most abused drug in the North American region and Africa. It was also the main drug of abuse in Asia, Scandinavian countries and Europe. Its abuse was noticed to be on the increase in East European countries.

The enormous profits accruing from its trafficking spawned into a multi-billion dollar business, further encouraging traffickers to use the latest scientific advances in cannabis production.

The Interpol database and the annual statistics for 1993 received from the NCBs that year showed that worldwide, cannabis and its products were seized from 104 countries. The seizures totalled a staggering 2,665 tons and 504 kg.

During the year, it was also observed that:

(1) Sea ports in Northern and Eastern Africa were often used as transit points for cannabis being transported from Western Asia to Europe.

(2) Traffickers continued to take advantage of the strategic position of the Caribbean sub-region to ship substantial quantities of cannabis to North America and to a lesser extent to Europe.

(3) Cannabis traffickers increasingly targeted Eastern European countries by taking advantage of the lack of sufficient legal infrastructure and drug enforcement resources. During the year, tons of cannabis originating from countries in South America, Africa and Asia were seized in that area.

(4) The same was also true for the Central Asian Republics which were increasingly being targeted as a strategic opening into the Western cannabis market by the well known cannabis-growing region nearby.

(5) Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States emerged as known producers of indoor-cultivated cannabis utilizing hydroponic methods. Domestic production was becoming increasingly significant in these countries because of the high THC content of up to 20% found in these plants.

Psychotropic substances

In 1993, as in 1992, there was an increase in the illicit production, traffic and use of psychotropic substances. This situation was reflected by the quantities seized throughout the world and reported to the General Secretariat.

In order to give as clear a picture of the world situation as possible, the report uses the national statistics

received by the General Secretariat in 1993.

Generally speaking, there was an increase in seizures of amphetamines (2,202 kg in 1993 compared with 1,355 kg in 1992) and methamphetamines, with over 85 million dosage units of LSD and MDMA seized (compared with 4.5 million in 1992). Over 15 tonnes of methaqualone were seized in 1993 and 412 laboratories were dismantled, 279 of them in the United States and 133 in Europe (50 of the latter in the Czech Republic).

Depressants

A total of 190,340 dosage units of barbiturates were seized throughout the world in 1993. That figure included 137,101 dosage units of secobarbital seized in Saudi Arabia, 16,547 dosage units of secobarbital in Côte d'Ivoire and 27,000 dosage units of unspecified barbiturates in Sudan.

The many forms of benzodiazepines were as popular in 1993 as in 1992, particularly in North America, Africa and Europe.

727,000 dosage units and 115,000 tablets were seized worldwide.

Diazepam came at the top of the list with 253,497 dosage units seized in the United States, 72,040 in Sweden, 28,143 in Indonesia and 19,341 in Hong Kong.

Flunitrazepam (rohypnol) was still as popular and came second in the list of products consumed.

There were also seizures of oxazepam, triazolam, nitrazepam (mogadon) and midazolam. 25 countries from all regions of the world reported seizures of benzodiazepines.

In 1993, 17 countries around the world reported seizures of methaqualone: 5 African countries: (Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe), 3 American countries (Canada, United States and Venezuela), 6 European countries, (Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Russia and Spain). Nevertheless, India was by far the

largest producer and exporter in the world. In that country alone, seizures in 1993 amounted to 15,000 kg out of a world total of 15,320 kg and 340,000 dosage units.

Stimulants

With 2,202 kg and 3,604,222 dosage units of illicitly produced amphetamines seized in 1993, the quantities practically doubled compared with 1992.

Hallucinogens

LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) continued to be very popular in 1993, particularly in Europe and the United States.

In Europe, the United Kingdom remained the centre of the traffic, the LSD being produced in the Netherlands. Of the 3,165,795 dosage units seized in the world, 2,126,692 were seized in the United States, 430,617 in France (including 411,000 dosage units in transit), 276,074 in the United Kingdom, 187,082 in the Netherlands, 22,154 in Argentina, 20,361 in Italy, 18,476 in Canada and 10,969 in South Africa.

As in previous years, this drug had a "safer", "purer", inexpensive image.

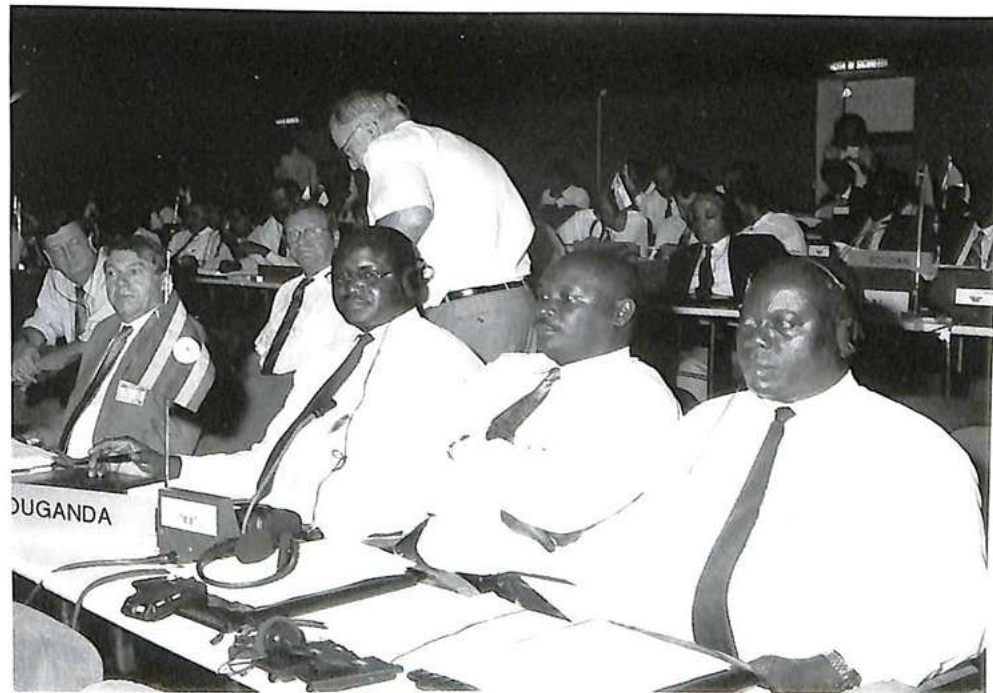
Two laboratories were dismantled in 1993, one in the Netherlands and the other in the United Kingdom.

Unlike in previous years, the quantities of MDA (Methylenedioxyamphetamine) and MDEA (Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine) seized decreased dramatically. However, seizures of the similar drug MDMA (Methylenedioxy-methylamphetamine) increased considerably.

The quantities seized worldwide corresponded to the quantities communicated by the European countries. Seven European countries reported seizures amounting to 142,315 dosage units of MDA, 281,414 dosage units and 57 kg of MDEA and 1,625,391 tablets, 830,038 dosage units and 186 kg of MDMA.

Of those seven countries, the main consumers were the United Kingdom, followed by the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, France and Italy.

The delegation from Uganda



17 laboratories were dismantled throughout the world (United States — 5 MDA/MDMA laboratories; Netherlands — 3 MDMA, 3 MDEA and 1 MDA laboratories; Germany — 2 MDMA laboratories; United Kingdom — 2 MDMA and 1 MDA laboratories).

New Zealand and Germany seized very small quantities of psilocybine. Only the United States and Canada reported seizures of PCP (Phencyclidine). Canada seized 13 kg 983 and the United States seized 898,962 dosage units.

Opioid analgesics

In 1993, 24 countries around the world seized substances containing codeine, morphine, pethidine and methadone.

Europe came first with 12 countries making seizures, mainly 3,017 litres of methadone seized in Belgium.

Anabolic agents

Despite the fact that few seizures were reported, anabolic agents became increasingly popular in 1993.

Those substances were most popular in Europe and North America but the other regions of the world were not spared.

The largest seizures were made in the United States, Canada, Sweden and Finland.

Eastern Europe seemed to be one of the main supply sources.

The clearest danger was that consumption of these substances would not remain limited to sporting circles, but would tend to affect society as a whole, particularly school and student circles.

Precursors and Essential Chemicals

In August 1993, the Precursors and Essential Chemicals (PECS) Seizure Report Form was distributed to all member countries to enable the General Secretariat

to fulfil its obligations under the 1988 Convention.

At the end of the year the results were extremely disappointing. Only one country used the form in 1993.

Given the lack of information and the inertia of member countries, a circular letter of reminder was sent out in the Spring of 1994.

Discussion

Following that report, the Head of the Drugs Sub-Division mentioned the different meetings which had been attended by members of the Sub-Division. The discussion was then opened to the floor.

The Iranian Delegate reported that cultivation of the opium poppy had increased on Iran's eastern borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. Extensive police efforts had forced traffickers to divert their routes, but a new trend had emerged: drug trafficking by sea. In Iran, excellent results had been achieved by strengthening the police

presence at international borders and making use of informants.

Delegates from India, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Korea and Bahrain, reported satisfactory results.

The Kenyan Delegate explained that his country, and Nairobi airport in particular, were transit points for drugs of Asian origin intended for West Africa and Europe. Compared with previous years, when heroin traffickers were mainly nationals of African countries, most traffickers currently tended to be Indian or Pakistani nationals who delivered their drugs in Nairobi to West Africans who would then transport the heroin to destinations in Europe.

Kenya had adopted new laws in 1994 which provided stricter penalties for traffickers, and the government was firmly committed to the fight against drugs. The Kenyan authorities had asked UNDCP for a report on the drug addiction situation in Kenya in order to target prevention campaigns more accurately. The statistics for the first eight months of the year showed seizures of 904 kg of cannabis, 22.23 kg of heroin, 15 g of cocaine and 22,800 mandrax tablets. The Kenyan Delegate emphasized the need for material assistance to improve the efficacy of his country's law enforcement services. As an example he mentioned that, at the Interpol conference held earlier in Johannesburg, the South African government had offered Kenya and other African countries fax and telephone equipment connected to a database on methaqualone, to improve the sharing of information in that area.

The Delegate of Kazakhstan gave some statistics about traditional drug production in his country. Whereas the opium poppy was cultivated mainly in the north of Kazakhstan, some 500 tonnes of cannabis were produced annually in an area of about 30,000 hectares in the south of the country. In 1993, 12 tonnes of cannabis had been seized, and 15 tonnes had been seized during the first 9 months of 1994. A recent conflict

The Iraqi Delegate



with Tajikistan had prevented strict and effective control of the trafficking routes into Pakistan, and had apparently allowed the development of a transit traffic of an estimated 20 tonnes of opium poppies intended for Ukraine, Russia and the Baltic states.

Kazakhstan's authorities, assisted by the United States DEA, had however organized two training courses for officers employed in drug law enforcement departments.

The Nigerian Delegate reported on trafficking trends in his country and made an urgent appeal for international co-operation.

The Chinese Delegate expressed his satisfaction following the success of his country's new anti-drug strategy (prevention campaigns).

The UNDCP Observer drew attention to the main points of that organization's assistance plan.

The Delegates of Pakistan, Cyprus, Benin, Nepal, Cameroon and Vietnam reported on the situation in their countries.

At the end of the discussions, the preliminary draft resolution was amended. Resolution AGN/63/RES/10 was later adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in plenary session.

CURRENCY COUNTERFEITING AND ECONOMIC CRIME

Currency counterfeiting

The Head of Division II reported on the activities of the General Secretariat's Counterfeit Currency Group. The Group had noted that the number of counterfeit banknotes did not vary much from one year to the next. On the other hand, counterfeiting techniques were becoming more and more sophisticated, and involved the use of colourcopiers, desktop publishing computers, scanners and laser equipment. All the technology was readily available, which made it extremely difficult to identify counterfeiters.

The United States dollar accounted for approximately 85% of counterfeit currency produced worldwide, and the note most often seized was the 100-dollar note. Other currencies of which significant quantities had been seized, particularly in Europe, included the pound sterling, the Deutschmark, the lira, the peseta, the French franc and the guilder. Statistics had been compiled on

the basis of information sent to the General Secretariat by member countries, and the Head of Division II said he was pleased at the progress which had been made in reporting seizures.

He emphasized that currency counterfeiting was closely linked to other forms of crime, such as trafficking in drugs and weapons, terrorism and forgery of travel documents. He urged all delegations to do everything they could to stamp out a form of crime which was of considerable concern to the General Secretariat, to the manufacturers of the various types of equipment he had mentioned and to the issuing institutes. Considerable efforts had been made, for example, to insert new security features in paper used for printing banknotes, to use new inks and new printing methods, and to devise new security systems for photocopyers. Co-operation between the police and the private sector would certainly help with the problem.

As already mentioned, currency counterfeiting and the use of forged travel documents were often linked. A first meeting on the subject had been organized in Ottawa in 1992, and a second meeting had just been held in Harare. The Head of Division II thanked the Zimbabwean authorities for the welcome they had given participants. During the meeting, the cost of combating fraudulent travel documents had been discussed at length and it had become clear that some countries would never be able to afford the complex technology needed to combat counterfeiting. However, all the participants had agreed on the need for international co-operation in that area, and the equipment manufacturers had expressed their willingness to devise less expensive techniques. In addition, the General Secretariat could help the most needy countries, particularly by defining the minimum security criteria needed for printing banknotes and travel documents.



Members of the Philippine Delegation

The first European meeting on fraudulent travel documents would be held in 1995 to discuss trends in counterfeiting. What was important in the current situation was to set aside differences in culture and technological developments and remember that strength lay in unity.

The Head of Division II reported that Interpol representatives attended various meetings organized by the banking institutions, and did everything they could to make the other participants fully aware of all aspects of the problem.

International organized crime and economic offences

Prior to the discussions, the Russian Delegate submitted draft resolution AGN/63/P.RES/18, on international co-operation in tracing, freezing and confiscating the proceeds from crime. Interpol Member States were urged:

- to consider adopting or reinforcing national laws allowing the tracing, freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime;
- to be vigorous in concluding bilateral and multilateral international agreements on co-operation in that field;

- to consider including, in their national organized crime control programmes, provisions stipulating the effective use of co-operation systems, such as the Interpol telecommunications network, for rapid delivery of requests for such assistance.

After discussion and several proposed amendments, draft resolution AGN/63/P.RES/18 was adopted.

The General Secretariat representative then introduced the reports on economic crime, environmental crime, counterfeiting and piracy of industrial products. He said the number of economic crime cases reported to the General Secretariat had increased by 6% the previous year. 70% of those cases concerned European countries. In particular, all the offences involving nuclear and radioactive substances had been reported by European countries (31 reports received so far).

In January 1993, the General Secretariat had organized a European Working Party to combat that type of crime. 25 countries had been represented, 8 of them from the former Eastern bloc. The General Secretariat had prepared a list of officers in charge in each

member country. Sub-Group 2 of the Working Party on environmental crime had prepared a recommendation on the "Eco message", which was the subject of Draft Resolution No. 11.

Mr Takizawa (General Secretariat) read out Report No. 17 on the counterfeiting and piracy of industrial products, and Draft Resolution No. 13.

The German Delegate stressed the seriousness of offences involving nuclear and radioactive substances. The seizures made in 1994 had never involved sufficient quantities to produce nuclear weapons, but the possibility of offenders having access to larger amounts could certainly not be discounted. Germany was therefore satisfied with Interpol's initiative and with the inclusion of that very important item on the General Assembly Agenda. It also approved of the "Eco message", which was an excellent way of highlighting the situation and making sure other measures were taken, should the need be felt. Germany had asked for the item to be included on the agenda for the forthcoming European Regional Conference and vigorously supported the draft resolution.

The resolution on Product counterfeiting and piracy (AGN/63/RES/13) was adopted unanimously.

The resolution on the "Eco message" (AGN/63/RES/12) was adopted unanimously.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

The Head of Division II reminded the Assembly that the General Secretariat's Anti-Terrorist Group had begun its activities in January 1987 after the General Assembly had adopted two resolutions (one in Luxembourg in 1984 and one in Washington in 1985) which made it possible to concentrate on the criminal nature of terrorist acts.

The Group comprised four specialized officers. It replied to member countries' requests, circulated information about modus operandi, organized meetings and analysed trends.

The General Secretariat asked all members to follow the

instructions in the "Guide for combating terrorism" when sending basic information on terrorist incidents, in order to build up the database.

The members of the Group had participated in several international conferences during the current year and had organized the 8th Symposium on Terrorist Activities, at the Organization's Headquarters in November 1993; the main topic had been civil aviation security. The theme of the 9th Symposium, in November 1994, would be "Tourism and terrorism". The General Secretariat invited all member countries to send representatives.

Since the previous General Assembly session, the Group had facilitated the processing of 35 red notices. Warnings and notices should make it possible for the recipients to take urgent measures tailored to the reliability of the source and the risks attached to the target. The warnings therefore had to contain as much detail as possible.

The recent arrests of well-known international terrorists were good examples of what international co-operation could achieve.

COMPUTERIZATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The report on Computerization and Telecommunications was submitted to the General Assembly in plenary session, as no committee was meeting on the subject.

The purpose of the report, which is summarized below, was to keep member countries informed of developments in the following areas:

- Regional modernization;
- The Automated Search Facility, although the preliminary draft resolution concerning stolen motor vehicles was submitted to the meeting for Heads of NCBS;
- Information technology strategy;
- X.400 communications and costs;
- A draft resolution concerning the Telecommunications Regulations.



PEROU

The Peruvian Delegate

Regional Modernization

Master Contract — South American Project

The master contract, whose terms and conditions were designed to help 110 NCBS to maintain efficient and up-to-date means of communication, had been signed by the Secretary General with the SITA international telecommunications network.

The master contract covered the pilot project which would be implemented in South America towards the end of 1994. At the time of drafting the report (July 1994), the computer facilities for both the Regional Stations and the NCBS were being tested by Division IV engineers at the General Secretariat, prior to transportation to the Region.

NCBs and Regional Stations — Computer equipment and costs

The services proposed for both Regional Stations and NCBs included:

- Installation of the computer equipment software and network facilities;
- Staff training at the Regional Station for an initial period of one week;
- Maintenance of the system;
- Rental charges for the local network and the SITA network;
- The cost of communications to the Regional Station and worldwide via the server at the General Secretariat in Lyons;
- The cost of communications, bilaterally to NCBs in the same region (excluding fax);
- Electronic mail access to the ASF.

The investment cost per NCB amounted to CHF 55,000 (3.1 budget units) and the yearly running costs were estimated at CHF 28,000 (1.6 budget units).

The total investment costs for Regional Modernization amounted to CHF 7.2 million and the running costs were estimated at approximately CHF 3.5 million per year.

Legal conditions to be fulfilled by NCBs

In order to participate in the Regional Modernization Project, Heads of NCBs must sign the following legal documents:

- An agreement between the NCB and Interpol (2 copies);
- A letter of acceptance by the NCB for SITA (2 copies);
- A letter stating that the equipment would not be re-exported, for the department dealing with exports.

It was important that Heads of NCBs process, sign and return the documents to the General Secretariat as quickly as possible. The documents were of vital

importance in order to proceed with the projects.

The environmental conditions for the installation of the equipment were specified in the material provided. The majority of European NCBs were expected to provide and pay for their own telecommunications lines.

The Automated Search Facility (ASF)

ASF Mail

In June 1994, the Secretary General had sent NCBs a circular, informing them that "...In the context of the Regional Modernization Plan and with the aim of expanding the scope offered by the ASF, the General Secretariat has developed a product called "ASF Mail", intended for NCBs which have acquired X.400 systems...". The letter went on to explain that ASF Mail provided a gateway facility between the X.400 network and the ASF data stored in the database of selected information at the Organization's Headquarters.

General principle

NCBs with X.400 equipment would be able to consult the ASF by preparing a formatted, structured message.

This message would be routed by the X.400 network and placed in a special electronic mailbox located at the General Secretariat.

A computer application, known as ASF Mail, would regularly check this mailbox and translate the formatted message into a query which could be understood by the ASF server. All the semantic provisions had been made, which meant that the message could be drafted in English, French or Spanish, since the gateway would automatically recognize the language used.

The same process would then be used to convert the reply from the ASF into an X.400-message, which would repeat the question

asked and give the response in the form of enclosures in the corresponding language.

ASF Mail allowed a standard interactive ASF consultation to be transformed into an electronic message transmitted in unconnected mode. Transmission times were kept to an absolute minimum since communications were discontinued during the ASF search.

Although it would be technically feasible to make the image-transfer function available, it had been decided not to offer this service initially because transfer times were long and communication costs correspondingly high.

ASF Mail did not replace any of the ASF options available but, on the contrary, supplemented them. NCBs which were not yet equipped with the ASF system would be able to access the data which had been extracted from Interpol's criminal database and entered in the ASF database.

Information technology strategy

A study carried out by Division IV and approved by the Standing Committee on Information Technology showed that in the years ahead it would be important to:

- Maintain and provide strategic applications, in accordance with the future aims and objectives of the Organization;
- Provide a cost effective replacement policy for the existing systems;
- Take advantage of the changes that had taken place, or were likely to take place, in Information Technology.
- Provide an architecture that facilitated rapid development in accordance with Interpol's needs and avoided dependence on any one hardware or software supplier;
- Maintain a cost effective policy regarding insourcing and outsourcing, as requested by the Executive Committee in Aruba.



The delegation from Togo

X.400 communications and costs

Automated Message Switch System (AMSS)

The Automated Message Switch System (AMSS) which had been in continuous operation since 1987 was taken out of service on 31st December 1993.

The radio station at Saint Martin d'Abbat had been closed and the two members of staff working there had been transferred to Lyons.

The use of radio had been discontinued at the Central Station and the equipment and radio station would be sold, as agreed by the Executive Committee.

X.400 system — Traffic and communication costs

The X.400 system was currently in full working order and available to NCBs linked directly to the Central Station in Lyons: it was processing approximately 1.2 million messages per year. During the last quarter of 1993 nearly 302,000 messages had been processed, an increase of 32% compared with the same period in

1992. The policy based on adoption of the international X.400 protocol had proved to be correct and would be continued in the future.

The high cost of telex was illustrated by the fact that for the period January to April 1994 there had been 17,823 telex messages which had cost FRF 966,480, compared with 175,891 X.25 messages which had cost FRF 555,200.

The high cost of telex — on average FRF 54.22 per message — justified the recommendation to change to X.400 (X.25) communications.

ICPO-Interpol Telecommunications Regulations

The ICPO-Interpol Telecommunications Regulations currently in force had been adopted by the General Assembly at its session in Lyons in 1989.

The development of the X.400 communication network and the elimination of radio at the Central Station in December 1993, had made it necessary to revise the Regulations, working with the Standing Committee on Information Technology.

The proposed new draft of the Telecommunications Regulations introduced X.400 procedures relating to service elements, the structure of messages, a naming and addressing plan and image transmissions. The ASF and Regional Modernization procedures were outlined. The NCB Help Desk service was described and procedures for the Regions would be included, in consultation with the SCIT.

Discussion

The discussion which followed presentation of the report mainly concerned the master contract for the South American Project which had been signed by the Secretary General with the SITA international telecommunications network.

Resolution AGN/63/RES/7 concerning the new version of Interpol's Telecommunications Regulations was adopted by the General Assembly.

MEETING OF HEADS OF NCBS

Mr Kanemoto (Japan) was elected to chair the meeting.

The meeting began with reports on the activities of the various working parties set up by the General Assembly. The Head of the Liaison and Criminal Information Division reported on the work of the Standing Committee on Disaster Victim Identification, and talked about the revision of the Disaster Victim Identification Manual. NCBS should be asked to give the names of the officers responsible for disaster victim identification in their countries, in order to facilitate international co-operation.

Presentation of the Report entitled "Interpol 2000"

The theme of the report was one aspect of the direction the General Secretariat should take in future years. Presenting the report, the Head of the Administration Division emphasized the importance of evaluating the activities of the various working parties, symposia and other meetings held under the Organization's auspices. There had been a substantial, regular increase in the number of such meetings, and very few working parties decided to put an end to their own activities. Obviously, the increased number of meetings had serious financial implications, which were not always taken into account when it was decided to set up new working parties. The only rule which could be referred to in that respect was Article 31(3) of the General Regulations which stated that the Executive Committee was requested to give its opinion when a draft resolution had financial consequences. However, that rule



The Romanian Delegation

— which might appear restrictive — had very seldom been observed.

Consequently, the General Secretariat was submitting a draft resolution designed to introduce specific terms of reference for all committees set up by the Organization, to emphasize the importance of the provisions of Article 31(3) of the General Regulations, and to institute a system whereby any country wishing to host a meeting, symposium or working party — with the exception of the General Assembly and the Regional Conferences — paid all costs in excess of those that would be incurred for an equivalent meeting held at the Organization's Headquarters.

The meeting rejected the draft resolution.

NCB policy and service standards

The meeting unanimously adopted draft resolution AGN/63/A.P.RES/7 concerning the application of rules which had been adopted by the European Regional Conference in Sinaia in May 1994 to the European NCBS.

Draft Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee did not have a set of rules of procedure and, to remedy that, a short text had been drawn up, summarizing the provisions of the Constitution and General Regulations and enshrining certain current practice.

The resolution on this subject was adopted unanimously.

Police training: Human rights training in police colleges

The resolution submitted was adopted unanimously.

International co-operation to combat offences against minors

The Working Party on that subject had met for the first time in Lyons in March 1993. At its second meeting in October 1993, it had been decided to ask member countries for supplementary statistics which would make it possible to produce a revised manual. Unfortunately, to date the General Secretariat had received only 24 replies to the questionnaire it had sent out. NCBs which had not already done so were therefore urged to send in the questionnaire, duly completed.

The Working Party had enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the United Nations Committee on Human Rights, and hoped to step up its co-operation with the United Nations on statistics, prevention,

assistance to victims, and searching for missing children, and to draw up a joint training programme.

Some countries had adopted new legislation incorporating extra-territorial criteria, which meant that one of their nationals could be tried in his own country for an offence committed abroad.

1993 Annual Report of the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives

The Supervisory Board's most important task was to ensure that the personal information in the Organization's archives was held in conformity with the conditions laid down in Article 5 of the Exchange of Letters. In 1993, as in previous years, the Board had carried out verifications at the request of private individuals — thus providing them with a right of indirect access — and spot checks. It had handled eleven individual requests for verification, and had replied to the persons concerned that it had conducted all the verifications. The Board had requested the

cancellation of one notice after obtaining the approval of the NCB concerned and, in another case, had asked for supplementary information to be added to a notice. The Board had also given persons whose requests it could not deal with information about the authorities they should contact to ask for further information on their cases.

The Board had made spot checks on a total of 30 files in 1993: none of the checks had given rise to any comment.

The Board had noted that, generally speaking, the files were managed with scrupulous observance of the rules in force. It had nevertheless drawn the Executive Committee's attention to the defects in the system providing a right of indirect access to personal information held in the files. In addition, it had felt that the people who could benefit from the right of indirect access were not sufficiently aware of the possibility.

Amendment of the Rules on International Police Co-operation and on the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives

The General Assembly amended the Rules on Police Co-operation by adopting Resolution AGN/63/RES/17 which read as follows:

“CONSIDERING that the failure to update police information held by the General Secretariat is prejudicial to international police co-operation and, consequently, the cancellation of such information is justified,

WISHING that the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives be empowered to grant those persons who so request, access to personal information under the same conditions as the General Secretariat, namely with the consent of the NCBs concerned,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly meeting in Rome from 28th September to 4th October 1994 at its 63rd session:

The delegate from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



ADOPTS the following amendments to the said Rules:

- The second sentence of Article 5(3) shall read as follows:

“It is not allowed to modify or delete such information on its own initiative except in the circumstances covered by paragraphs (5) and (6) of the present Article.”

- A new paragraph (6) shall be added to Article 5, to read as follows:

“If information held by the General Secretariat can no longer be updated by the NCB which supplied that information, or by another NCB with territorial competence, the General Secretariat may, on its own initiative, delete that information.”

International exchange of information

The aim of the resolution submitted was to avoid duplication of effort liable to arise as a result of the current proliferation of bodies exchanging and analysing police information such as Europol, Schengen, etc.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Annual publication of International Crime Statistics

The resolution submitted was adopted unanimously.

Amendment of the “Rules governing the database of selected information at the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat and direct access by NCBs to that database” and of the “Rules on the deletion of police information held by the General Secretariat”

The main aim of the proposed amendments was to provide Rules which were better suited to practical requirements and new techniques relating to the recording of non-personal police data and the modification, correction and deletion of that data. The resolution on that subject was adopted by the General Assembly.

CONTINENTAL MEETINGS

African Continental Meeting

Mr Mahundi, Tanzania, Vice-President of Interpol, was elected to chair the meeting.

Regional activities

The agreement signed in 1993 between the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the General Secretariat, setting up an Interpol Sub-Regional Bureau in Abidjan, had been ratified in February 1994. The countries served by the Sub-Regional Bureau would be asked to provide the necessary financial and human resources.

Day-to-day co-operation

The Egyptian Delegate offered the services of the Egyptian Training Centre to the North African police forces. Egypt was also prepared to

host a Sub-Regional Bureau for North Africa.

The South African Delegate recalled various meetings which had been held in Southern Africa, particularly mentioning the signing of the Lusaka Agreement which dealt with the fight against the trade in endangered animal species, and a treaty on weapons smuggling which had been signed by three African countries.

The Kenyan Delegate assured his colleagues that Kenya would do everything it could to co-operate to stamp out traffic in stolen vehicles.

Establishment of Sub-Regional Bureaus in Africa

The draft resolution on setting up an Interpol Sub-Regional Bureau in Harare, Zimbabwe, was adopted

unanimously. It became Resolution AGN/63/RES/21.

The draft resolution on setting up an Interpol Sub-Regional Bureau in Nairobi, Kenya, was adopted unanimously. It became Resolution AGN/63/RES/22.

Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference

It was decided that the next Regional Conference would be held in Zambia in May 1995.

American Continental Meeting

Mr Nelson Mery Figueroa was elected to chair the meeting.

The Head of Division IV at the General Secretariat reviewed the regional modernization programme for the Americas. Countries not

only had the electronic messaging system but also ASF software.

The Buenos Aires Regional Station would receive the equipment in November 1994; the United States would be financing the cost of the equipment for the region.

Discussions then focused on problems connected with traffic in precursors and essential chemicals in the region, a subject which had also been discussed at the Drugs Committee meeting.

Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference

It was decided that the next American Regional Conference would be held in Phoenix, United States, from 24th to 27th April 1995.

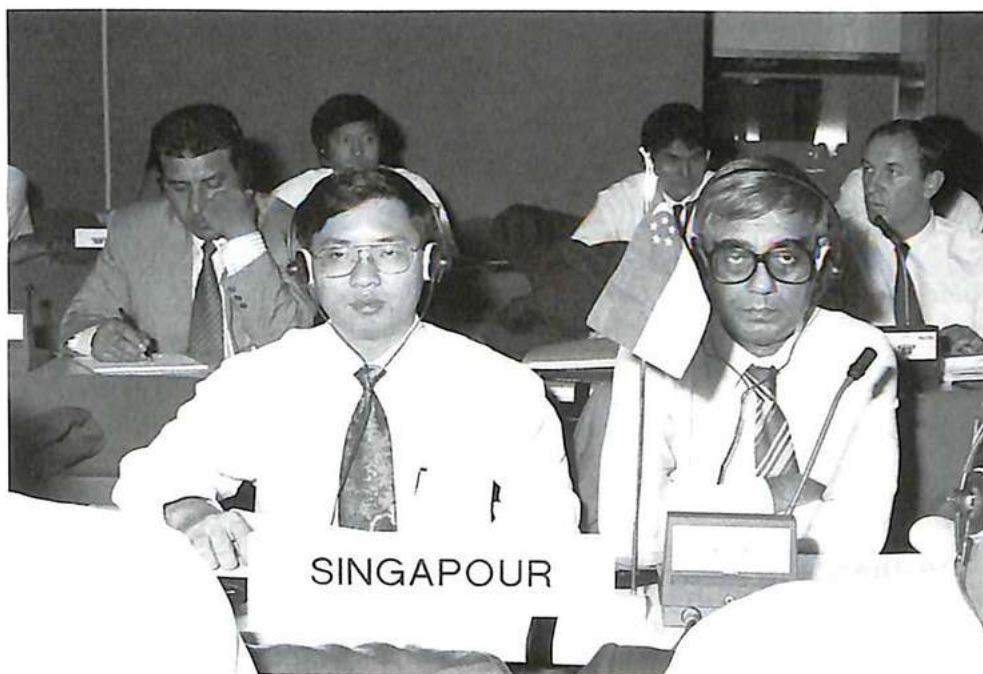
The co-ordination meeting proposed by the United States Delegation was held on the morning of 3rd October 1994 and was attended by delegates from eight countries. They supported the Chilean proposal to persuade the Heads of State who would be meeting in Miami to discuss the help Interpol could provide in connection with extradition and mutual assistance in judicial matters. The co-ordination meeting also specified information which should appear on red notices. The United States Delegation promised to do everything it could to solve problems of day-to-day co-operation with the countries in the southern hemisphere.

Asian Continental Meeting

Mr Latif (Pakistan), Vice-President of Interpol, was elected to chair the meeting.

Report on the latest meeting of the Working Party

A report was given on the latest meeting of the Working Party, dealing with Regionalization (Abidjan, Harare and Nairobi projects). During the Working Party meeting, the Head of Division II had explained that sub-regional bureaux should be considered as "mini" General Secretariats with



The delegation from Singapore

various responsibilities. Asia had its own specific characteristics and it would be interesting to see if the Asian countries could be put into more or less homogeneous groups. At the suggestion of the Australian Delegation, the countries in the region would be sending their proposals to the Regional Co-ordinator at the General Secretariat. Iran had proposed setting up a Bureau in Tehran, to deal with drugs offences. Japan and other countries had stressed the importance of defining zones. The problem of financing for sub-regional bureaux had been discussed.

Day-to-day co-operation

Some countries reported on certain difficulties experienced with regard to day-to-day co-operation, such as the rapidity of communication of information, difficulties in obtaining identity details, etc.

Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference

It was decided that the next Regional Conference would be held in Delhi, India, from 13th to 16th December 1994.

European Continental Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Eriksson, Vice-President of Interpol.

The Head of the United Kingdom NCB, Mr Barry Taylor, reported on the activities of the Interpol European Committee within the context of the European Business Plan. Reminding delegates of the five priority areas (relations with other organizations, development of key operational activities, providing a quality service, information systems/technology, and managing the significance of a wider Europe), he dwelt in particular on the development of key operational activities. He stated that the achievements of the Computer Crime Working Group included the preparation of a handbook, which was now available in three languages. A manual should be available in 1995. Two levels of training courses had been devised and held. National Central Reference Points had been set up for the rapid transmission of information on computer crime between specialist investigators. Message formats had been created and work on them was continuing in a number of areas.

Mr Taylor then reminded delegates of the objectives of the Working Party on Fingerprint Standards which had already produced a standard form for the international exchange of fingerprints. Work was continuing on the quality of paper and ink, assessing the feasibility of defining standard equipment, latent marks and fingerprint standards.

Mr Taylor also reminded delegates that work in the context of the Motor Vehicle Action Plan included examination of the possibility of putting relevant data on the ASF.

He then outlined terms of reference for a Working Group on Crime Analysis, to be chaired by the Head of the Polish NCB, as follows:

“To identify the key factors that will impact on the development of a crime analysis strategy for Interpol, including:

- the current crime analysis techniques/methods/work procedures employed by the General Secretariat and member countries,
- the current computer system or technology used by the General

Secretariat and member countries for crime analysis purposes,

- the nature of the information that exists in member countries suitable for development by crime analysis,
- the availability of training for staff engaged in crime analysis;

To identify any areas of commonality and best practice for promulgation to member countries;

To formulate a method of evaluating and grading information suitable for analysis;

To develop a common format for the exchange of information for crime analysis purposes between member countries and the General Secretariat;

To standardize terminology and definitions used in the science of crime analysis;

To produce the outline of a handbook of best practice.”

The Working Group would provide progress reports to the Interpol European Committee in February 1995 and to the European Regional Conference in May 1995. The meeting took note of the study.

The Head of the European Liaison Bureau then reported on the activities of the Bureau and said that, although the number of liaison cases dealt with had increased significantly, the services of the Bureau could be solicited in many more cases. He stressed the importance of NCBs' promoting the possibilities offered by Interpol within their national law enforcement bodies.

Date and meeting place of the next Regional Conference

It was decided that the 24th European Regional Conference would be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 12th to 15th March 1995.

A Sub-Regional Meeting would be held in Budapest, Hungary, from 16th to 18th November 1994.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1995

The following Programme of Activities was submitted to the General Assembly and adopted.

Secretary General

- Interpol 2000
- Study on reorganization of the Public Relations Department
- Video on Interpol
- Computerization of the Public Relations Department

General Administration

- Study on the installation of a computer-assisted translation system at the General Secretariat, in liaison with Division IV.
- Improvement of the classification and presentation of General Secretariat documents.
- Study on post classifications and salary scales, in liaison with Division III.

- Study on the institution of an independent social insurance and welfare system, in liaison with Division III.
- Revision of the Staff Rules, in liaison with Division III.
- Review and updating of internal administrative and financial procedures, in liaison with the Financial Controller and Division III.
- Adapting the computerized accounting programme to take



The delegation from Venezuela

account of the decisions on the reference currency taken by the Organization's governing bodies.

- Study and construction of a new External Security Post better suited to receiving delegates and visitors arriving at the Organization's Headquarters, given the access modifications connected with work on the international complex.

Liaison and Criminal Intelligence

Projects and in-depth studies

- Works of art

- Back-record conversion of stolen art records (ongoing project).

- Transfer of data from PROPERTY and CASE files to the stolen art file for future use with the ASF, with the assistance of Division IV and SD4.

- Production of a brochure dealing specifically with stolen art, stolen cultural property, and other property where international circulation is requested.

- Increased emphasis on the analysis of art theft trends.

- Participation at conferences, e.g. those organized by UNESCO, the

European Council, ICOM, etc. for the protection of the cultural heritage

- Focus on awareness and training in Eastern European countries.

- Updating of pickpocket manuals and circulation, on request, to member countries (ongoing project).

- Regular updating of the motor vehicle registration manual.

- Production of a brochure on motor vehicle registration documents for Europe (first phase before including all member countries).

- Furtherance of the following projects (notably with regard to the individuals implicated and wanted internationally):

- Creation of an "identification manual" pertaining to motorcycle club colours.

- Preparation of a report on the European chapters of "Hells Angels", describing their development, evolution, structure and a breakdown of the criminal activity involving its members worldwide.

- Special analysis and monitoring of all drug movements along the Balkan Route, as brought to the attention of the General Secretariat Drugs Sub-Division.

- Study of the current situation and possible developments on drug trafficking routes between Poland, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

- Studies on the illicit manufacturing of amphetamines in the Baltic States.

- Follow-up of the Pompidou Group initiatives with regard to drug trafficking by sea.

- Furtherance of the psychotropic programmes:

- the legitimate narcotic drugs programme

- the legitimate psychotropic substances programme

- the illicit psychotropic substances programme

- the clandestine laboratory, precursors and essential chemical programme

- the anabolic agents programme

- the methaqualone project.

- Monitoring of West African drug trafficking organizations (West Africa project).

- Cocaine packaging markings/logos programme.

- Study of the impact of illegal migration from Eastern to Western Europe in relation to drug trafficking.

- Monitoring of the 1988 Convention in relation to mutual assistance in legal matters and other special provisions.

- Monitoring the transportation of hashish by truck from North Africa to Europe.

- Monitoring of the European maritime situation in relation to drug trafficking.

- Circulation, throughout Europe, of the "All-aspect Crime Analysis" technique. This would include the "Interpol Crime Analysis Model", which has been developed in-house and is based upon existing models (Canadian, Dutch, etc).

- Overseeing the implementation of Service Standards at European NCBS.

- Together with DII/SD1, implementation of an Action Plan to deal with the problem of traffic in stolen motor vehicles presented to the 23rd European Regional Conference.

Training

- Further work on hosting a training school in Asia, with UNDCP.

Legal Matters and Training

Projects and in-depth studies

- Amendment of the Organization's Constitution and General Regulations.
- Amendment of the Staff Rules.
- Work connected with the institution of an independent social insurance and welfare system.
- Legal monitoring of the Agreements concluded in respect of departments located outside the Organization's Headquarters.
- Monitoring of resolutions.
- Preparation of part of the general reference resources for electronic storage.

Training

- Implementation of internal training (new arrivals, use of internal computer systems, etc.).
- Management of training grants.
- Organization and/or co-ordination of external training (requests from NCBs, etc.).

Computerization and Telecommunications

- Setting up of the telecommunications system for the General Assembly session.
- Regional modernization: bringing into service the networks in the Caribbean/Central America and West Africa.
- Development of the X.400 network:
 - General Secretariat server (directories)
 - Equipping of European NCBs: elimination of telex
 - Image transmission.
- Implementation of a Windows version of the encryption software.

- Study and implementation, in stages, of a three-tier client/server system.

- Study to replace or further develop the CIS and EAS systems in the client/server context.

- Feasibility study on archiving, in the general sense of the term, of documents circulating within the General Secretariat.

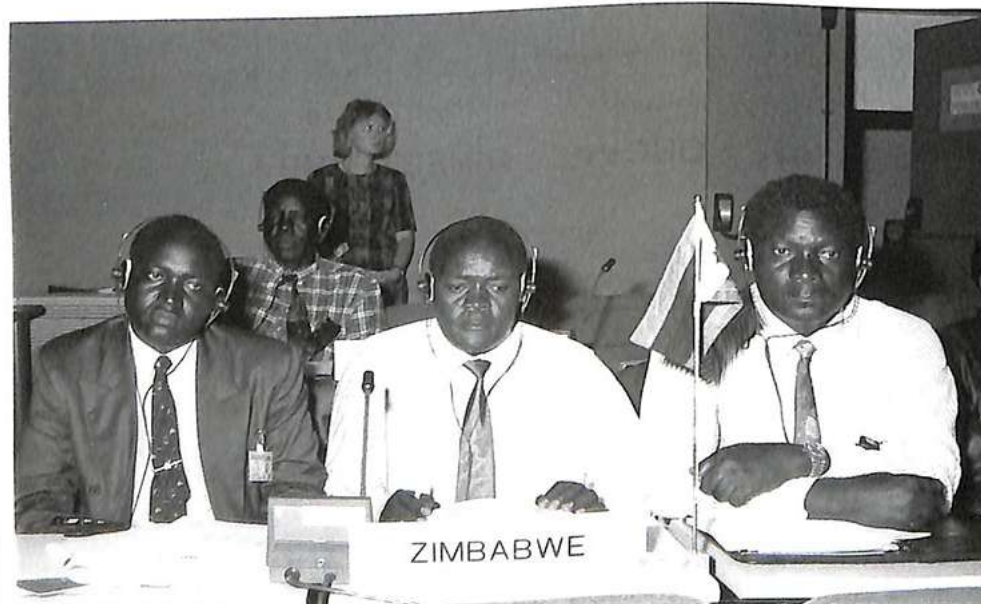
- Introduction of a word-processing system for all languages (including Arabic) incorporating the latest features and facilities.

- Study on the development of automatic document transmission and electronic signatures.

- Study of a computer-assisted translation system.

- Study on integrating an application for stolen works of art and counterfeit currency.

The delegations from Vietnam and Zimbabwe



ELECTIONS AND CHOICE OF A MEETING PLACE FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Executive Committee elections

Mr Eriksson was elected President of the Organization. Mr Mery Figueroa (Chile) was elected as Vice-President for the Americas.

Elections for Delegates to the Executive Committee

Two Delegates were elected for the Americas:
 - Mr Noble, United States (three-year term of office)
 - Mr Gomez Esquivel, Mexico (two-year term of office)

Two Delegates were elected for Asia:
 - Mr Kanemoto, Japan (three-year term of office)
 - Mr Tariam, United Arab Emirates (three-year term of office)

Mr Ibrahima Bah, Guinea, was elected Delegate for Africa.

Mr Simone, Italy, was elected Delegate for Europe.

Choice of a meeting place for the 64th General Assembly session

The President pointed out that China had invited the General Assembly to hold its 64th session in Beijing. The invitation was accepted unanimously.

The new members of the Executive Committee. From left to right and top to bottom: Ronald K. Noble, Enrique Gomez Esquivel, Toshinori Kanemoto, Mohamad Omran Tariam, Ibrahima Ba, Nicola Simone.



THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ICPO-INTERPOL, BJORN ERIKSSON

Björn Eriksson, born on 7th December 1945 in Stockholm, is the Commissioner of the Swedish National Police. After graduating from the Stockholm School of Economics, he held various posts in the Ministry of Finance from 1969 to 1983, including the post of Budget Director for the last two years. In 1983, he was appointed Director General of Customs and Head of the Swedish Coast Guard. In November 1988, he became Commissioner of the Swedish National Police.

While he was at the head of the Swedish customs service, Mr Eriksson served as a member of the Policy Commission (the executive body) of the Customs Co-operation Council (now the World Customs Organization), and subsequently became its Chairman.

In 1991, Mr Eriksson was elected to Interpol's Executive Committee as a Delegate. He was then elected Vice-President for Europe in 1994.



MAIN RESOLUTIONS

AGN/63/RES/5

Subject: Establishment of an Assistance and Technical Support Fund for Developing Countries (ATSFDC)

AWARE of Interpol's need to find sources of financing for its Regional Modernization Programme,

NOTING, within the context of that programme, that developing countries must be given technical and financial assistance to acquire the communications systems needed to ensure worldwide international police co-operation,

BEARING IN MIND the Executive Committee's view that supplementary funds should be found for projects connected with the regional modernization programme in order to ensure that the cost of such projects does not lead to over-frequent steep increases in the value of the budget unit,

NOTING that a possible source of such funds might be the Official Development Assistance (ODA) granted by OECD member countries to developing countries,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Rome from 28th September to 4th October 1994 at its 63rd session:

DECIDES to establish as from 1st January 1995, an Assistance and Technical Support Fund for Developing Countries (ATSFDC), in conformity with Article 19 of the Financial Regulations, the purpose of the Fund being to:

- Increase developing countries' ability to control the transmission, processing and analysis of police information;

- Improve the organizational and operational capabilities of their security and law enforcement institutions within the framework of international co-operation;

- Help introduce new technological resources at Interpol's Headquarters to allow the Organization to respond more effectively to developing countries' concerns with regard to security and the fight against crime;

- Provide equipment and operational assistance for regional institutions in order to improve links between the countries in those regions and the General Secretariat;

FURTHER DECIDES:

- That the Fund will be used, in conformity with Interpol's Financial Regulations, to finance:

- both capital investment costs and recurrent operating expenditure (maintenance, telecommunications, staff, mission and training costs) of projects located both at the Headquarters and outside it within the framework of the Regional Modernization Plan;

- all or part of the functioning of the Sub-Regional Bureaus;

- training for officials from national administrations;

- That the Fund will receive financing which may be obtained from countries that are members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, or from any other source such as member countries, international institutions inter alia the UNDCP in the context of the fight against drug trafficking, and budget applications approved by Interpol's governing bodies, such financing to be assigned to projects to be financed by the Fund;

- That at the end of the financial year a statement of account for the Fund giving details of movements will be included in the financial report; in addition, a report will be made to the OECD Development Assistance Committee and any donor countries and other contributing international institutions;

- That the sums shown in the appendix to this Resolution will be allocated to the Fund, by transfer from the 1995 budget and from the Capital Investment Fund;

- That commitments relating to expenditure on projects financed by the Fund may not exceed the sum actually available in the Fund;

- That, should the balance in the Fund at the end of the financial year not be sufficient to cover ongoing commitments on projects being implemented, a supplementary budget allocation will be made;

ASKS the Secretary General to continue his efforts to obtain the OECD Development Assistance Committee's approval of the Fund as an organism, contributions to which donor countries can count as part of their Public Development Assistance;

URGES the appropriate authorities in countries that are members of Interpol and of OECD to support Interpol's efforts to obtain the financing needed to constitute this Fund and thus contribute to the implementation of projects designed to offer assistance and technical support to developing countries.

AGN/63/RES/9

Subject: Applicability of Article 3 of Interpol's Constitution in the context of serious violations of international humanitarian law

NOTING THE CONTENTS OF Report No. 13, entitled "Consequences of the establishment of an 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",

HAVING DISCUSSED the applicability of Article 3 of Interpol's Constitution in the context of serious violations of international humanitarian law,

MINDFUL of the importance of the establishment of the said Tribunal in the development of international law,

ALSO MINDFUL of the responsibility of States to co-operate with the Tribunal and of the importance of Interpol's position in that context,

CONVINCED of the need to facilitate the interpretation and application of Article 3 of the Organization's Constitution in the area of serious violations of international humanitarian law,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Rome from 28th September to 4th October 1994 at its 63rd session:

ENDORSES the analyses and considerations contained in the above-mentioned Report;

INVITES the Secretary General to follow those guidelines and recommends that the NCBs do likewise, in conformity with their national legislations, should their co-operation be requested in connection with investigations relating to serious violations of international humanitarian law.

AGN/63/RES/13

Subject: Product counterfeiting and piracy

BEARING IN MIND Resolution AGN/46/RES/7, adopted at the 46th General Assembly session, in 1977,

in Stockholm, concerning international traffic in stolen and unlawfully duplicated motion pictures and sound recordings,

CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT international product counterfeiting and piracy have harmful effects on the economies of the countries affected,

AWARE OF the loss of revenue legitimately accruing to the governments of such countries and to persons engaged in lawful production, thus aggravating the problems of unemployment in the industries concerned,

NOTING THAT, as presently implemented, international agreements have not been fully effective in combating this illicit activity,

CONVINCED THAT national enforcement of laws and international police co-operation are absolutely essential for the suppression of illegal product counterfeiting and piracy,

BELIEVING THAT such police co-operation needs to be supplemented by judicial and diplomatic co-operation which should be expanded and facilitated,

TAKING NOTE of the discussions and conclusions of the First Meeting of the Interpol Working Party on Product Counterfeiting and Piracy, Lyons, 22nd - 23rd February 1994;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Rome from 28th September to 4th October 1994 at its 63rd Session:

ASKS the National Central Bureaus to:

1. Co-operate as fully as possible with other NCBs who request assistance in investigating cases of illegal product counterfeiting and piracy;
2. Ensure that local police forces in their countries are aware of this problem and of the channels of communication to be used whenever such international traffic is suspected;
3. Heighten their governments' awareness of the severe consequences resulting from illegal

product counterfeiting and piracy and especially within the field of health and safety;

RECOMMENDS THAT, in the interest of combating illegal product counterfeiting and piracy, Interpol urge its members to adopt and/or reinforce appropriate domestic laws and regulations;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT the General Secretariat continue to build up its computerized Criminal Information System to collect, register and analyse information relating to international product counterfeiting and piracy and that the National Central Bureaus share such information with each other and with the General Secretariat to the greatest extent possible.

AGN/63/RES/17

Subject: Amendment to the Rules on International Police Co-operation and on the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives

HAVING EXAMINED Report No. 12, "Amendment of the Rules on International Police Co-operation and on the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives", and the opinion expressed by the *ad hoc* Committee in application of Article 56 of the General Regulations,

CONSIDERING that the failure to update police information held by the General Secretariat is prejudicial to international police co-operation and, consequently, the cancellation of such information is justified,

WISHING that the Supervisory Board for the Internal Control of Interpol's Archives be empowered to grant those persons who so request, access to personal information under the same conditions as the General Secretariat, namely with the consent of the NCBs concerned,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Rome from 28th September to 4th October 1994 at its 63rd session:

ADOPTS the following amendments to the said Rules:

- (1) The second sentence of Article 5(3) shall read as follows:

"It is not allowed to modify or delete such information on its own initiative except in the circumstances covered by paragraphs (5) and (6) of the present Article."

(2) A new paragraph (6) shall be added to Article 5, to read as follows:

"If information held by the General Secretariat can no longer be updated by the NCB which supplied that information, or by another NCB with territorial competence, the General Secretariat may, on its own initiative, delete that information."

(3) In Article 9(2), the phrase "under the terms of Article 5(3)" shall be replaced by the phrase "under the terms of Article 5(3) and 5(6)".

(4) The following sentence shall be added to Article 23:

"With the express agreement of the NCB(s) empowered to dispose of information under the terms of Article 5(3) and 5(4), the Supervisory Board may communicate to persons who so request, the content of personal information held by the Organization about them."

AGN/63/RES/19

Subject: Amendment of the "Rules governing the database of selected information at the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat and direct access by NCBs to that database" and of the "Rules on the deletion of police information held by the General Secretariat"

HAVING CONSIDERED Report No. 23 entitled 'Amendment of the "Rules governing the database of selected information at the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat and direct access by NCBs to that database" and of the "Rules on the deletion of police information held by the General Secretariat"'

TAKING ACCOUNT OF the opinion expressed by the *ad hoc* Committee meeting in application of Article 56 of the General Regulations,

WISHING to institute rules which are better adapted to practical requirements and to new techniques for recording non-personal police

information in the database of selected information, and to the alteration, correction and deletion of such information,

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Rome from 28th September to 4th October 1994 at its 63rd session:

Adopts the following amendments to:

A. The Rules governing the database of selected information at the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat and direct access by NCBs to that database:

- Article 1(2) to read as follows: No item of personal police information, as defined in Point 1 of the Appendix to the present Rules, ... (thenceforth no change);

- A new paragraph (4) will be added at the end of Article 1, to read as follows:

"Within the limits of the means available at the General Secretariat, an NCB, or an official service which has a police mission and which has been granted direct access by the appropriate NCB, may itself and at its own expense directly enter non-personal police information as defined in Point 2 of the Appendix to the present Rules in the database of selected information, provided the NCB or service concerned does not restrict the access of other NCBs to such information.";

- The order of paragraphs in Article 2 will be reversed, with paragraph (2) becoming (1) and paragraph (1) becoming (2);

- Two new paragraphs, (3) and (4), will be added at the end of Article 2, to read as follows:

"(3) The provisions on alteration, correction and deletion of items of information held in the General Secretariat's general criminal archives shall apply equally to items of information entered in the database of selected information even if such items have not been simultaneously entered in the said records.

(4) In cases covered by Article 1(4) of the present Rules, the NCB or service which entered an item of information in the database of

selected information is responsible for updating and deleting that item directly, at its own expense, in conformity with paragraph (3) above, without prejudice to the application to the database of selected information of the provisions relating to deletion of information from the General Secretariat's general criminal records.";

- Paragraph (4) of Article 6 will become paragraph (6) and two new paragraphs (4) and (5) will be added to Article 6, to read as follows: "(4) In the case of information entered in the database of selected information, in application of Article 1(4) of the present Rules, the NCB of the originating country may refuse to allow a copy of that information to be transferred to specified NCBs or official services which have a police mission.

(5) A copy of non-personal information entered in the database of selected information may only be transferred directly to official services which have a police mission, with the consent of the NCB in the country to which those services belong."

B. The Rules on the deletion of police information held by the General Secretariat

A new sub-paragraph (d) will be added to Article 6(4), to read as follows:

"(d) non-personal information may be kept until it is no longer of any international criminalistic value."

States, Territories and Observers attending the 63rd General Assembly session

States and Territories

Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda*, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands*, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hong Kong*, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao***, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico**, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

* United Kingdom NCB Sub-Bureaus

** United States NCB Sub-Bureaus

*** Portuguese NCB Sub-Bureau

Observers

European Commission
Customs Co-operation Council
Organization of African Unity
International Air Transport Association
Technical Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council
European Drugs Unit

CONFERENCE SIDELIGHTS

by Miguel Chamorro
General Secretariat

With the onset of Autumn, like lovers eager to relive certain happy moments, 491 delegates representing 139 Member States, 6 Sub-Bureaus and 7 international organizations, came together in Rome. The vast majority of delegates were, on this occasion, accompanied by their spouses: there was no denying the attraction of the host country and, no sooner had the magic word "Rome" been pronounced, than police officers from the four corners of the globe converged on the Forum of this ancient city.

As the years go by, the General Assembly sessions continue to bolster and strengthen our Organization: after this session in Rome, from 28th September to 4th October 1994, Interpol's membership stood at 176, with the addition of the two new member countries, Moldavia and Uzbekistan. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to both of them.

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of Wednesday, 28th September. The occasion was made all the more prestigious by the presence of the President of Italy and a number of leading civilian and military dignitaries. The President of the ICPO-Interpol gave the opening speech and was followed by the Italian Minister of the Interior, Mr Maroni who, at the end of his address, declared the 63rd General Assembly session open.

The traditional press conference which followed the opening ceremony was lively and interesting, not only because of the topics

discussed and the personalities present, but also because of the large number of journalists and television crews who had come from all over the world to give the event international coverage.

The first of many events in the busy social programme took place in the incomparable setting of the Grand Hotel in Rome, which this year was celebrating its centenary. Mr Masone, Chief of the Italian police, hosted a supper for Executive Committee members, at which a selection of dishes and wines from the different regions of Italy were served. The exquisite meal was further enhanced by the sumptuous Renaissance decor of the Grand Hotel's private salons: Carrara marble floors and furniture of the finest wood, frescoes and

Italian silk hangings, completed this feast for all the senses.

To help "break the ice" and allow the delegates to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere, the General Secretariat hosted a cocktail party — on the same day as the opening ceremony — in the rooms of the "Casal Lumbroso" Police College, splendidly decorated for the occasion. Copious and tastefully served refreshments contributed to the success of this informal gathering.

The following day, we attended a concert given by the National Police Orchestra in the RAI (Italian television) auditorium, in the presence of the Minister of the Interior and other prominent Italian public figures. Each of the pieces

From left to right: Mr Masone, Head of the Italian Police, Mr Portaccio, Head of the Italian NCB and Mr Kendall, Secretary General of Interpol



was played with mastery and grace, to the delight of the audience, and the extract from «Aida» in the second part of the concert received particularly enthusiastic applause.

Having nourished our spirits to the full, we then partook of more earthly sustenance in the form of a buffet which came up to the highest culinary standards.

On the Friday afternoon, the city authorities hosted a reception on the Capitoline Hill.

The coaches left us at the foot of the steps leading up the hill, the smallest of the seven hills on which Rome was founded. The Romans seized the hill from the Sabines, and it later became the setting for some of the most significant events which marked the glory of Ancient Rome. On reaching the top of the steps, we admired this piazza with its three palaces, an architectural ensemble entirely designed by Michelangelo: in the centre the Senate Palace, on the left the Capitoline Palace, and on the right the Palazzo dei Conservatori, in which the city authorities had organized their reception for the delegates. The palace contains countless art treasures, including works by Bernini and Algardi, and also houses the famous statue of the Capitoline she-wolf, an Etruscan bronze to which the small figures of the twins Romulus and Remus were later added to symbolize the founding of Rome.

Following the reception, we walked over to the Senate Palace, built on the Tabularium, constructed during the Republic to house the laws which were inscribed on «tabulae». Today, the palace serves as Rome's city hall. From the terrace of the Tabularium, we looked down at the Forum which was the very hub of political and religious life of ancient Rome. This was the cradle of Roman civilization, which would later expand to the limits of the known ancient world.

Crossing the piazza again to return to our coaches, our eyes fell upon the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, placed in the centre of the square in 1535 by Michelangelo who took it from the Lateran Palace. It is the only



Concert given by the Italian Police Orchestra in the RAI auditorium

surviving example of an equestrian statue from Imperial Rome.

On the Saturday morning there were no official engagements and the delegates were able to make their own arrangements.

One group decided to visit the Vatican and, suitably equipped with umbrellas (there was a storm in the air) and our street maps of Rome, we arrived at the gates of

Mr Schlanitz, Head of the Legal Division at the General Secretariat, bidding farewell to the General Assembly during the closing session. Mrs Schlanitz is on the right (Photo Véronique Castan)



the world's smallest (44 hectares) but also greatest State: ironically, the Vatican city is too small to accommodate all the diplomatic missions accredited to the Holy See.

We approached by St. Peter's square, crossing the vast piazza and admiring Bernini's colonnade, and pausing in the centre by the Egyptian obelisk taken from Nero's Circus, for the compulsory photographs testifying to our visit. The Basilica itself was constructed on the site formerly occupied by the 4th-century early Christian basilica which the Emperor Constantine ordered built on the very place where St. Peter had died and where the first Christians had suffered so much persecution.

Passing through the bronze gates, which had belonged to Constantine's basilica, we entered the largest church in the world: 211 metres long, 132 metres high, 44 altars, 9 domes and 800 columns of marble, bronze and stucco.

We quietly and reverently began our visit with the first chapel on the right, and were moved by the splendour of Michelangelo's «Pietà». Further on, at the Chapel of the Holy Sacrament, we admired the tabernacle by Bernini, and were even more awe-struck by the sheer magnificence of the central dome, below which stands St. Peter's chair, also by Bernini. We found the energy to climb the steps leading up inside Michelangelo's dome, so that we could gaze down into the

basilica and even go outside and enjoy the panoramic view over the roof-tops of the city. But the highlight of our visit to the Vatican museums was the unforgettable experience of the Sistine Chapel, named after Pope Sixtus IV. Although we had to crane our necks to see Michelangelo's frescoes, it did not prevent us from going on to admire the painter's master work on the central wall behind the altar, the Last Judgment: the central figure of Christ dominates this imposing depiction of judgment day, giving the work a sense of vivacity and drama, and conjuring up images of the apocalypse.

The fine, persistent drizzle which fell throughout the afternoon of 1st October did not succeed in tarnishing any of the brilliance of the exhibition of horsemanship given by the Carabinieri's Horse Regiment in honour of the delegations attending the General Assembly session. From start to finish, we were dazzled by the sheer perfection and precision with which each of the figures of this equestrian display was executed, giving the impression that they were being traced with ruler and compass rather than by skilled riders. One figure gave way to another in an uninterrupted sequence of movements, keeping the delegates spellbound from the moment the

The Trevi Fountain



Photo Roger Houyvet



Photo Roger Houyvet

The Pantheon

riders entered the arena until their breathtaking final charge, with sabres drawn, when the silence was broken by the thunderous applause of admiration for our Carabinieri colleagues.

Horse-lovers had the opportunity to go back to the stables and stroke the fine beasts, whilst the riders - who only minutes before had entertained us with their prowess - unsaddled their mounts, rubbed

them down and prepared them for a well-earned rest. We later enjoyed a splendid reception given at the Headquarters of the Carabinieri's Special Units Division.

Sunday 2nd October dawned rainy and somewhat cooler than previous days. Those who had signed up for the excursion to Florence assembled in the hotel lobby and, suitably attired in raincoats, boarded coaches for the three-hour journey through torrential rain to the city of art and letters.

We were met in the cloisters of a former abbey and entertained with a display of banners, flags and pennants which were twirled and juggled to the strains of medieval music. This was followed by a meal inside the abbey, served under Roman-brick vaults, helping to sustain the illusion that we had travelled back in time.

Because of the inclement weather, we allowed ourselves only a brief visit to a vantage point from which we could see Florence spread at our feet: the River Arno winding its way through the centre, the dome and campanile of the cathedral, the Ponte Vecchio, the Pitti Palace, and the imposing towers of the city's many other famed palaces casting their



The Piazza Navona

silhouettes against the dark, cloud-laden sky.

On a guided tour conducted in the short time available, we managed to see some of the treasures housed in the Uffizi Gallery, and were delighted to see some of Botticelli's works (including the "Birth of Venus" and "Primavera"), as well as paintings by other artists including Leonardo Da Vinci, Verrochio and Rubens.

During the long journey back to our hotels in Rome, we all (except the drivers and security staff!) fell into the arms of Morpheus, exhausted by our visit but most satisfied with the day's outing.

Monday 3rd October was the last day of the Assembly and, before the closing ceremony, the Secretary General, Mr Kendall, announced to the delegates in moving terms that Mr Schlanitz had reached the age of retirement and would be leaving the Organization after twenty-two years' service as Head of the Legal Affairs Division. The Secretary General praised Mr Schlanitz's many qualities, including his outstanding

professionalism, his legal rigour and his loyalty to the Organization. Mr Schlanitz replied with equally moving words of thanks for all the staff of the General Secretariat and especially for Mr Kendall with whom he had shared so many joys and sorrows throughout his professional life.

The gala dinner, given by Mr Roberto Maroni, Italian Minister of the Interior, for all those who had attended the General Assembly, was held in the "Casina di Macchia Madam" restaurant. Since it marked the end both of the official proceedings and of the social events, it was the last chance for delegates to meet with each other. Once the meal was over, some delegates began to say their farewells; for many others, it was one last chance to venture out into the night air of Rome.

Those who were familiar with the city decided to say «arrivederci Roma» by visiting the Colosseum and the Forum; those fond of a more bustling atmosphere made their way to the Pantheon and the Piazza Navona: love-struck couples walked hand in hand to the Trevi

fountain where, in keeping with the tradition, they tossed their coins into the fountain in the hope that their wishes would come true. Gazing into each other's eyes, they could be heard to whisper under the starry night sky, the romantic words: "Roma ...l'amore!"