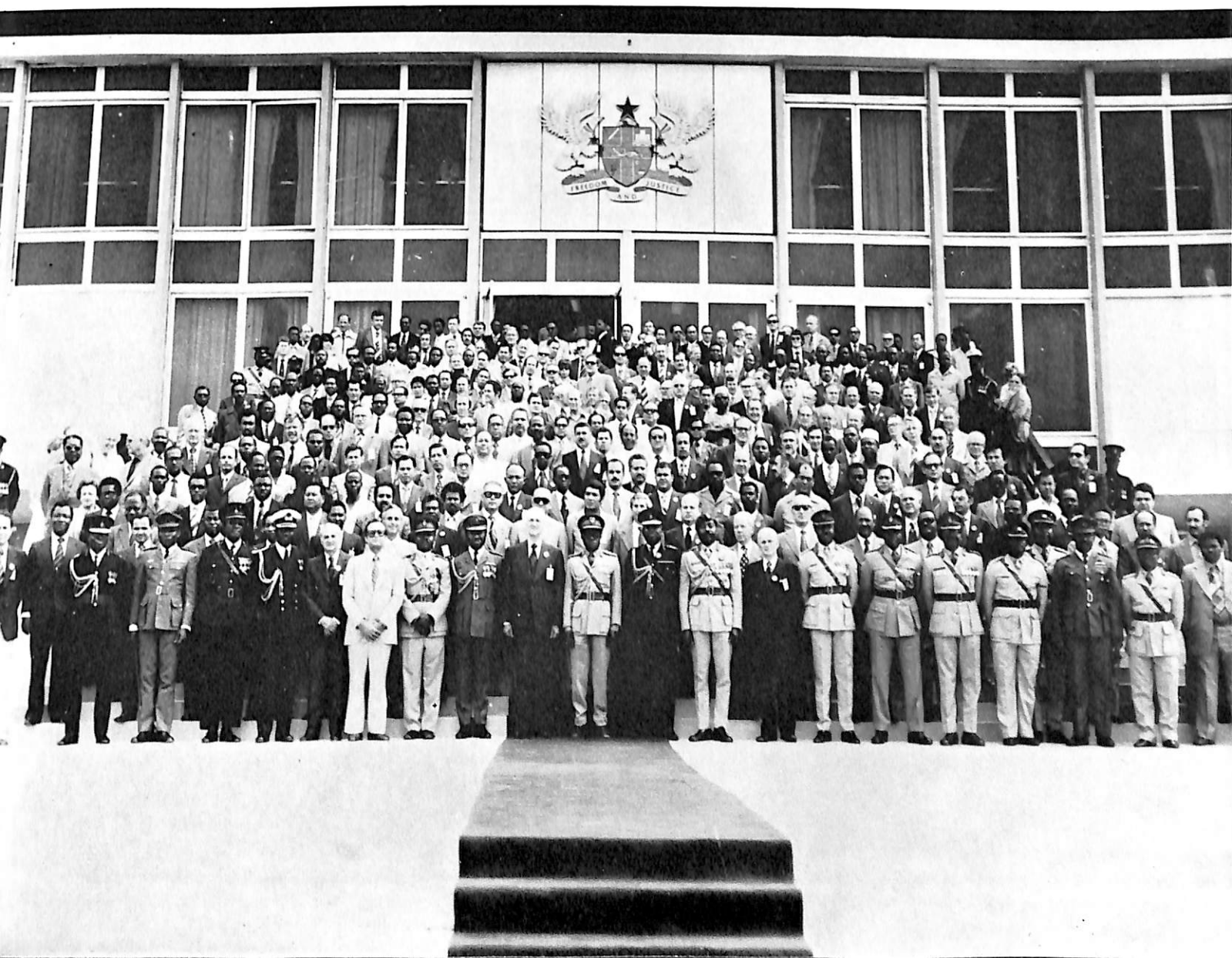


# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14TH TO 20TH OCTOBER 1976

*45<sup>th</sup> session*

ACCRA - GHANA







THE GUARD OF HONOUR WITH THE HEAD OF STATE TAKING THE SALUTE

## OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The 45th session of the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly was held in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976.

The official opening ceremony took place at the Kwame N'KRUMAH International Conference Centre on 14th October 1976, and was honoured by the presence of General I. K. ACHEAMPONG, Head of State and Chairman of the Supreme Military Council. His attendance was felt to be a clear mark of his interest in the aims and activities of Interpol and of the Ghanaian Police.

General ACHEAMPONG's arrival was greeted by the playing of the national anthem by the police band. Then, before the gathering of top Ghanaian officials and the

delegates of the countries represented at the General Assembly, he welcomed participants and made the following speech:

"It is with great pleasure that on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of the Supreme Military Council, I heartily welcome all the delegates of member countries to this 45th session of the International Criminal Police Organization General Assembly being held in Accra, Ghana.

Today, in the history of Interpol, history is made here in Ghana. This is significantly the first time that a General Assembly session takes place in Africa. The choice of venue for the conference is a pride to Ghana and an honour to the continent of Africa. But underneath

the surface of the pride of Ghana and honour of Africa is Interpol's great strength of co-operation which transcends all international boundaries and binds all member countries together. All delegates should therefore consider Ghana as a sister-country.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, you are fully assured that Ghana, as the host country, will at all times play a meaningful role by co-operating with Interpol countries at the international level to combat crime.

Interpol is now virtually synonymous with unity. The international character of most crimes undoubtedly calls for a united front and, with a singleness of purpose, the police forces of various countries in their wisdom co-operate to fight crime. Organised crime of our day has assumed a sophisticated character and a new complexion, and it is my view that organised crime cannot be prevented, detected or contained with disorganised thoughts, badly conceived measures and defective equipment. The scientific analysis of crime, the study of the characters involved, the mode of operation, the disposal of the booty and the influence of criminals on some professional bodies and organisations of influence in society, pose a great challenge to law enforcement officers. It is strongly recommended that you here assembled, with all the expertise at your command, continue to be organised in your approach to fight crime. It is hoped that you will continue to equip yourselves with more useful and most modern scientific devices that shall defeat the criminal in his battle against reason, law, peace and order.

Interpol's brand of co-operation, I am pleased to note, transcends all political, religious, geographical and linguistic barriers, and this principle of universality is a powerful weapon in your fight against all crimes.

Mr. President, you are not unaware that to the criminal, the world is a small place. It is often said that "no man is an island". It is, of course, equally true that mankind today has realised that crime is not solitary. In fact, man in many respects and to a large

extent is inseparable from crime, for the former almost always causes the latter. In a scientific and technological world, criminals move fast in a day of twenty-four hours; so fast that at breakfast time crime is hatched in one country, at lunch time executed in another country, and at supper time the proceeds disposed of in yet another country. It will be no exaggeration to say that the criminal could even conveniently return to base before dinner time. This swift mobility of the criminal underlines what I consider to be one of the areas where Interpol should pay further attention, and that is the need for the establishment of a more rapid and reliable communication network - a communication system that will assist immensely in the dissemination of information concerning highly mobile and international criminals.

Ladies and gentlemen, we in Ghana, as in some other countries, have recently been staging a relentless battle against smuggling, trafficking in drugs, marijuana or cannabis, and illegal exchange of currency. It is hoped that with your professional training you will work out a machinery to counteract the activities of criminals in these areas of the "crime industry". I am happy to note that the illicit trafficking in drugs, forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, with special interest in areas in Africa where the economic interests of developing countries must be protected against "white-collar criminality", feature prominently on your agenda. These are areas which are of immense interest and importance not only to us in Africa but also to people in other parts of the world.

The Government of the Supreme Military Council believes that the police is an indispensable organisation geared to creating the right atmosphere and a peaceful environment in which law-abiding citizens can live in peace and enjoy their liberty within the framework of the laws of member countries.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to draw your attention to one area of contemporary violence, and that is hijacking, which is sometimes referred to as "air piracy". As law

enforcement officers, you should not necessarily be occupied with the political overtones of this type of crime. I am primarily concerned with hijacking as a crime and nothing else. It will be very much appreciated if law enforcement officers will devise some means which can surprise the hijacker and take the wind out of his sails before he is able to strike.

As far as Ghana is concerned, the fact that we are hosting this conference is ample evidence of our total commitment to the doctrine of international brotherhood as enshrined in our Charter of Redemption. We shall continue to join forces with all countries of the world in our bid to find solutions to combat crime. It is my hope and conviction that the work of the Assembly will go on in an atmosphere of friendliness but with the tenacity of purpose which is characteristic of your Organisation. It is also my cherished hope that your discussions will be fruitful and lead to meaningful and practical resolutions.

I wish you a happy stay in Ghana and hope that you will return to your respective countries with happy memories of the typical Ghanaian hospitality. May God guide and bless you in all your deliberations.

On behalf of the Supreme Military Council and on behalf of Interpol, Ghana, and on my own behalf, I formally welcome you all to Ghana. I declare the 45th General Assembly of Interpol open.

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In reply to General ACHEAMPONG, Mr. William HIGGITT, President of the ICPO-Interpol, read the following address:

Sir, to share a part in these opening ceremonies with you in this beautiful Conference Centre in Accra is an honour for me that I will not soon forget. More significant, however, were your words of welcome. I am sure the delegates will agree that their warmth could have come only from an unusual depth of understanding of our principles and of our problems. I thank you for both.

You mentioned that this is an historic occasion in that it is the



first time that a General Assembly of Interpol has been held on the continent of Africa. This is true. Others will follow in the years that lie ahead but there is always a degree of honour in being the first. That honour will be forever Ghana's. Your country will always be remembered as being the host of our first General Assembly to be held on this great and exciting continent.

For Interpol, 1976 has been our "African year". In July, we held a wonderfully successful and productive Regional Conference in Nairobi; today, we meet in General Assembly session in Accra, with you, Sir, as Head of State, honouring us with your presence and with your encouragement.

As you welcomed us, you spoke of the new levels of sophistication that have been reached by organised crime and of the increased challenge this presents to all of us who bear responsibility for law enforcement. Because I know something of the resolve of Interpol and of the resolve of the police and law enforcement agencies of its member countries, I can, with confidence, assure you, Sir, that we will be equal to our ever-enlarging tasks. We will be equal to these tasks because to fall short would be to betray the trust the people of our respective countries have placed in us. We will be equal to our tasks because our own dedication, strengthened by the dedication of Interpol, will not allow us to accept defeat.

Those who have voluntarily chosen to follow a life of crime by preying upon the innocent and the weak must not be allowed to prosper. Always it must be clear that there is great virtue in honesty.

Four years ago, the delegates assembled in plenary session in Frankfurt, Germany, did me the greatest possible honour by electing me to be your President. Those years have passed quickly but during their passing much has been accomplished. We have continued to grow and to mature.

In 1972, Interpol had 114 member countries. Today, we have 122, with the prospect of three more being added during this session. We are growing up indeed.



Mr. HIGGITT,  
the outgoing President  
of the ICPO-Interpol

Because international crime has increased, as has international co-operation, the work of our Secretariat has risen enormously since 1972.

Our activities have become more sophisticated too as we have adjusted and improved our methods to better cope with international crime trends.

The increasing mobility of criminals has encouraged us to press forward with the expansion and modernisation of our worldwide telecommunication network. We have further to go but at the moment we have a truly magnificent system and a Central Station near Paris that can virtually reach around the world. This has brought great benefits to all of our members because in today's fight against crime and criminals rapid and efficient communication is the key to success.

We have encouraged the closest possible working arrangements between our National Central Bureaus in order that they might be better able to overcome emergent problems with speed and efficiency. I am proud to say that the closeness of these arrange-

ments guarantees our continuing success well into the future.

We have pursued a policy of giving the General Secretariat staff a more international character. Several of our dedicated and long-term employees have reached retirement age recently. They have been responsible in large measure for building our Organization to what it is today. They are being missed. But the tasks they performed so well have now fallen to younger hands who bear the responsibility of building further upon the solid foundations they have inherited. These younger people have been specially chosen from different countries; thus Interpol's Secretariat staff has been getting younger and more truly international. They will serve us well.

I could say much more but that would be to impose unreasonably upon your time and your patience. But let me remind you, because I never tire of reminding others, that Interpol, the Organization we are pledged to serve, is truly a great Organization. I have a deep conviction that it will yet be recognized as a significant stabiliz-

ing influence upon our sorely troubled world. How can it be otherwise when representatives from 122 nations, from all parts of the world, come together as you see them here today, once each year, meeting in harmony and in friendship to seek each other's co-operation in the solving of mutually vexing problems. It is impossible for us to return to our homes without taking with us deeper understanding of each

other. This cannot help but be an influence for the good of all.

Interpol is not held together by compulsion. It is held together by the goodwill and generosity of thought we share equally amongst ourselves. It is in reality a delicate thing that can be damaged by a moment of carelessness or a thoughtless action. That this has not happened speaks volumes for our capacity for genuine under-

standing. Treat Interpol with care, give it your best and you will reap ever-increasing rewards.

If we keep these thoughts before us as we move into the work of this General Assembly, I am sure our deliberations will be crowned with success.

The warmth of our welcome to Ghana, by the police and by all others we have met, will also do much to inspire us to do our best.



## APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Assembly was called upon to approve applications for membership from the following countries: BANGLADESH, the ARAB REPUBLIC OF YEMEN and PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

The Bangladesh Delegate thanked the President for submitting his country's application and assured the Assembly that his country would contribute to the best of its ability to the success of Interpol's work.

The SECRETARY GENERAL then read out the letters which had been sent to him by the authorities of Papua New Guinea and the Arab Republic of Yemen applying for membership in the ICPO-Interpol.

The three applications were put to the vote, with the following results:

**BANGLADESH:**

80 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:**

80 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

**ARAB REPUBLIC OF YEMEN:**

79 votes in favour, two against and one abstention.

The three countries were duly admitted as members of Interpol.

# PROGRESS REPORT

- Relations with countries
- International criminal cases
- Dangerous drugs
- Studies and seminars
- International Criminal Police Review
- External relations
- Resources
- Technical assistance

The SECRETARY GENERAL read out a report describing the main activities of the ICPO-Interpol and its General Secretariat for the period from October 1975 to October 1976.

## ● Relations with countries

By its vote, the Assembly admitted Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Yemen and Papua New Guinea as members. However, the Republic of Vietnam no longer existed as such and Interpol therefore now has 124 member countries.

The 5th European Regional Conference was held at the Organization's Headquarters in February 1976; the 5th African Regional Conference was held in Nairobi (Kenya) in July 1976.

## ● International criminal cases

The fight against international crime is the Organization's *raison d'être* and the permanent concern of the National Central Bureaus and the General Secretariat.

The General Secretariat dealt with a larger number of cases than in the preceding year, mainly as the result of improved co-operation. Since the introduction of the M.O. form, details of 35 *modus operandi* used by criminals have been circulated to the NCBs.

The General Secretariat's activities can be summed up as follows: 27,584 cases were handled; 517 international notices were issued about persons; 161 international notices were issued about stolen property; 363 individuals were arrested in connection with cases being examined at the General Secretariat; 231 persons were identified by the General Secretariat and 11,084 items of information were supplied to NCBs.

Circulation figures for the Review "Counterfeits and Forgeries" continued to rise. Between 1st June 1975 and 1st June 1976, 138 new types of counterfeits, 2 counterfeit cheques, 246 new genuine notes and coins and 11 genuine travellers cheques were described in the

Review. The specialists at the General Secretariat analysed 141 suspect notes and drew up cards with the specifications of 56 genuine notes for comparison purposes.

A report on currency counterfeiting during 1975 was compiled.

## ● Dangerous drugs

The Drugs Sub-Division has perfected its working methods with a view to achieving its ultimate aim: to become a truly international information centre on illicit drug traffic. The five liaison officers assigned to the Sub-Division, all from Europe, each carried out one general mission — visiting the National Central Bureaus in their zones — and several specific missions in connection with particular cases. The liaison officer for Latin America carried out two missions in his zone. The liaison officer for South East Asia took up his post in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17th February 1976 and carried out a mission in the countries in his zone. The number of cases handled by the General Secretariat between 1st June 1975 and 1st June 1976 (15,808) was higher than the figure for the preceding year (12,894).

Further sets of the audio-visual teaching material were sold, bringing the total number of sets distributed to 450. This teaching material was now in the process of being revised and updated. The revision of the Guide for Drug Law Enforcement Officers was completed, with financial assistance from the United Nations Special Fund. A brochure on the various types of equipment of use during drugs investigations is being prepared, together with studies on the use of dogs in drug detection and on drug terminology; the brochure on clandestine laboratories is being revised and updated.

Co-operation with the United Nations has continued: the General Secretariat was represented at the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (February 1976) and trainees attending courses at the centre in Geneva visited the General Secretariat.

In February 1976, a conference

was held at the Organization's Headquarters for the European Heads of National Drugs Services.

In July 1976, a working party was held in Chiang-Mai, Thailand, for the heads of drugs services from South East Asia and Europe.

Finally, experts from the General Secretariat attended several meetings of the Customs Co-operation Council, as well as a number of international conferences on drugs.

#### ● Studies and seminars

Two training courses for National Central Bureau officers were held at the General Secretariat, one in English, the other in French and Spanish. In general, reaction to the courses was favourable and they were felt to be a useful contribution to improving co-operation; the General Secretariat is therefore considering organising other similar courses in the future.

Several symposia and working meetings scheduled in the Programme of Activities were held at the General Secretariat on a variety of subjects, including crime in port and dock areas, violent crime committed by organised groups, crime prediction methods. A symposium was also held for the heads of police colleges.

The General Secretariat helped to organise a seminar for youth magistrates and police officers dealing with juveniles.

Reports were compiled on the following subjects:

International frauds; thefts of drugs from pharmacies/chemist shops; frauds involving arson; prevention of traffic in wild animals; crime prevention; recording and systematic surveillance of international criminals; prices of drugs on the black market; international crime statistics.

Other studies are being prepared: an inventory of research and study projects of interest to the police in various countries; a break-down of police staff by category and the number of police officers in each country, compared with the total population; a collection of texts of

bilateral police agreements concluded between countries.

#### ● International criminal Police Review

Publication of the International Criminal Police Review has long been one of the General Secretariat's standard tasks, although not always one of the simplest. However, the situation has improved over the past year. The Review has been published without interruption since September 1946 and Number 300 appeared in September 1976. The Spanish edition of the Review now appears regularly and on time, thanks to the assistance of the Spanish Police. The English edition continues to appear without too much delay.

We have an adequate number of articles on forensic science subjects but more articles on cases illustrating crime investigation techniques and on new working methods or equipment tested by various services would be welcome. Everyone is interested in new developments and in the experiences of others and it is hoped that the International Criminal Police Review will play a fuller role as a vehicle for professional information in the future.

#### ● External relations

Between 1st June 1975 and 1st June 1976, 297 individual visitors from 60 countries and 12 groups from 7 countries came to the General Secretariat. In addition, journalists, writers and reporters from 13 countries visited the General Secretariat.

#### ● Resources

##### Telecommunications

The 6th Interpol Telecommunications Conference was held in March 1976.

During 1975, the volume of traffic carried by the international police radio network was approximately 12% higher than in 1974. In all, 246,233 telegrams, were broadcast.

Three new stations opened officially in 1975: Bangkok, Lusaka and Zomba. The New Dehli Station and the Hong Kong Station opened in 1976.

#### ● Technical assistance

Since the General Assembly session in Buenos Aires, the Organization has given technical assistance in the form of maintenance or travel grants awarded to officers to enable them to attend training courses or symposia.

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The General Assembly was asked to vote on the Progress Report and adopted it unanimously.



## FINANCE

The report on the 1975 financial year was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly after the auditors had reported on their findings. The standard policy of careful management had continued and was becoming even more necessary in view of the ever-increasing rise in the cost of living.

The draft budget had been drawn up for the three-year period 1977-1979, bearing in mind general economic instability throughout the world and the inflation which this inevitably entails.

The General Assembly approved the draft budget submitted by the Secretary General and adopted a resolution whereby it decided that:

1. For the purpose of calculating annual financial contributions, countries should join one of the following groups and pay the number of budget units (per country) indicated:

Group 1	80 units
Group 2	60 units
Group 3	40 units
Group 4	35 units
Group 5	30 units
Group 6	20 units
Group 7	13 units
Group 8	8 units
Group 9	5 units
Group 10	3 units
Group 11	2 units
Group 12	1 unit

2. From 1st January 1977, the value of the budget unit should be fixed at 8,900 Swiss francs.

## INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC IN 1975

- Evolution of the traffic
- Some cases of international co-operation
- Thefts of drugs from pharmacies
- Black market prices in view of analysing the illicit traffic

At the decision of the Assembly, a Committee was set up; Mr. VAN STRATEN (Netherlands) was elected Chairman.

It was explained that the General Secretariat's report gave an indication of:

- a) The extent and nature of the flow of international drug traffic;
- b) The extent of the changes in this flow from year to year;
- c) The level of co-operation achieved by member countries between each other and with the General Secretariat;
- d) The possible nature of future developments, these predictions being based upon the experience of and information received by members of the General Secretariat in addition to reports received.

During the twelve months in question, an increasingly high standard of co-operation and of reporting had been achieved by many countries. The beneficial effects of the work of the liaison officers in the specialist Drug

Service at the General Secretariat were now clearly apparent.

### ● Evolution of the traffic

#### OPIUM AND ITS DERIVATIVES

For the second year running, opium seizures dropped significantly, especially in countries in the Far East. However, in view of the increase in the quantity of heroin of Far-Eastern origin which reached other continents, it was obvious that the opium plantations were still flourishing and the trend, first noted in 1974, for opium to be converted into morphine and then heroin nearer the centres of cultivation appeared to be confirmed.

The quantities of morphine seized also dropped considerably.

With regard to the Turkish decision to re-authorise cultivation of the opium poppy in 1974, information collected pointed to the virtually complete success of the Turkish Government's control measures.

With regard to heroin, there was an overall reduction in the total

quantity seized in 1975, although the number of seizures and number of persons involved rose considerably.

#### COCAINE

The illicit traffic in the coca leaf and its derivative cocaine remained centred upon the American Continent. While the total quantity seized in 1975 increased by 79%, the number of seizures and of persons involved rose only slightly, indicating larger consignments.

In recent years, there has been a trend towards increased traffic directed at the European Continent (United Kingdom, Spain and France).

#### CANNABIS

Cannabis in its various forms has long been the most widely abused drug and the most popular with traffickers; in 1975, there was a spectacular increase in the quantity seized (in particular, in Colombia and Mexico).

Little change was noted in trafficking routes, each continent having its usual sources of supply.

However, cannabis of Colombian origin was reported frequently outside the American Continent and herbal cannabis from Thailand, in the form of "Thai sticks", has become very prevalent in Europe and Australasia. Cannabis resin retained an almost universal appeal and all the areas producing this form of cannabis supplied the North American, European and Australasian markets, to varying degrees.

It is still difficult to ascertain the true extent of traffic in liquid hashish. Predictions of wide-ranging increases in traffic and consumption due to its potency and comparative ease of concealment have not been borne out so far.

Because many countries have intensified law enforcement with regard to "hard" drugs at the expense of "soft" drugs, a steady increase in cannabis traffic seems inevitable.

#### PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

Since there is not yet the same



Mr. VAN STRATEN,  
Netherlands,  
the Chairman  
of the Drugs Committee

degree of uniformity of national legislations with regard to psychotropic substances as there is with regard to other narcotic drugs, it is difficult to obtain a clear picture of the extent of abuse.

1975 saw an increase in the number of thefts of depressants and central nervous stimulants from pharmacies, especially in Europe.

#### CENTRAL NERVOUS STIMULANTS

The number of seizures continued to rise, with the majority being reported by the Scandinavian countries, Federal Germany and the United Kingdom.

The appearance of clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamines was probably due to tightened controls, in certain countries, of the manufacture, distribution and retailing of these substances, making it more difficult for them to find their way onto the black market.

#### HALLUCINOGENS

For the second year running, the number of seizures of hallucinogens increased slightly; the areas affected were still America and Europe.

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In the fight against illicit drug trafficking, it is of prime importance that all law enforcement activities be co-ordinated at national level and, where this is not already the case, countries are urged to set up a national control co-ordinating body. Real success can only be achieved in the international field through comprehensive co-ordinating at national level.

The General Secretariat urged member countries to try to:

- Elicit maximum information from each case of illicit traffic and communicate this information, wherever necessary, to the interested countries.
- Pass on maximum information to other countries and the General Secretariat;
- Exchange information and send in reports as quickly as possible;
- Collect information on aspects of illicit traffic about which too little is known at present.

#### • Some cases of international co-operation

The General Secretariat report quoted several cases solved successfully through international co-

operation; the following are two examples.

In February 1975, the Swedish National Central Bureau informed the appropriate Liaison Officer that a Finn wanted by the Swedish authorities for drug traffic would probably be stopping at Las Palmas for two hours on his way to Madrid. Interpol Stockholm asked the General Secretariat to contact the Spanish authorities with a view to having the Finn kept under discreet observation. The Liaison Officer covering Spain took the necessary steps and learnt a few hours later that the individual in question had left Madrid for Stockholm by air, accompanied by a woman. Interpol Stockholm was informed and arranged for the person to be arrested on his arrival in Sweden.

In October 1975, an officer of the Royal Hong Kong Police Narcotics Bureau telephoned the General Secretariat to report that information had been received that a group of heroin couriers would be leaving Hong Kong the following day for Paris, carrying heroin destined for Amsterdam. This information was relayed to appropriate National Central Bureaus in Europe and two Hong Kong Chinese males were arrested at Orly Airport late on 30th October for trafficking in approximately 730 grams of No. 3 heroin found inside the hollowed-out soles of a pair of boots worn by one of them.

#### ● **Thefts of drugs from pharmacies/chemist shops**

Several countries reported a new trend whereby the black market in dangerous drugs was being supplied with drugs obtained by thefts or burglaries of chemist shops, pharmaceutical manufacturers or wholesalers. As an indication, we quote the following figures: Federal Germany: 1291 cases; France: 900; Ireland: 120; Italy: 150; United Kingdom: 769.

Steps to prevent this type of crime have been taken in several countries and in some cases have been written into the legislation on drugs.

In view of a certain amount of evidence that drugs obtained in this way find their way onto the inter-

national market, the Interpol General Secretariat formulated a proposal designed to facilitate the fight against such traffic; in particular it suggested that there should be regular and comprehensive exchange of information between member countries and the General Secretariat, that annual statistics on thefts of drugs be submitted to the Secretariat and that the police should undertake preventive and deterrent action wherever necessary.

#### ● **Black market prices in view of analysing the illicit traffic**

At the 1975 General Assembly, the General Secretariat undertook to consider the possibility of providing information, through national statistics, on the value and price of drugs which had been confiscated; it was agreed that common values should be adopted, together with a standard system for determining these values, that the prices should be calculated at each stage of the black market, and that the degree of purity of the substance should be taken into account.

The present system of evaluating seizures relies on weight, but nevertheless reports often refer to the number of plants destroyed, to units of volume or area, or to numbers of pills, capsules, doses or tablets. In addition, no account is taken of the degree of purity of the drug. Standardisation of units of measurement for reporting drug seizures would seem to be of prime importance.

Could such a system of evaluation offer any advantages? In addition to providing valuable information about many aspects of drug abuse, these indications could also assist in deciding future law enforcement measures.

However, black market prices are extremely variable and are difficult to apply for comparison purposes on a world-wide level because of differences in geographical origin, purity, supply and demand, and transport requirements.

The General Secretariat came to the conclusion that the information obtained by investigators making a

seizure would probably not make it possible to establish a reliable and scientifically-sound system of documentation based on the prices of drugs on the black market. However, the documentation already published, supplemented by the addition of information on prices, would be valuable for making an overall study of the drug market.

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It emerged from the discussions between delegates that several countries, when faced with the serious problems posed by illicit drug traffic, had tightened their legislation and introduced heavier penalties for traffickers. In some cases, penalties even included capital punishment. In Ghana, an offender's convictions in other countries were taken into account when he was sentenced.

These measures, coupled with stricter control of tourists and a campaign to inform the general public, had apparently produced good results and the severity of the law seemed to have a definite deterrent effect.

Pakistan had asked that the Pakistani NCB be systematically informed of arrests of Pakistanis abroad and of the dates of release of convicted Pakistanis by the NCBs concerned. The General Secretariat, too, would systematically forward all information on such offenders.

Several countries noted the effectiveness of the steps taken by the Turkish authorities; a new system for supervising crops recommended by the United Nations had been set up and implemented under strict control. So far, no violations of the ban to incise poppy capsules had been detected. The Turkish police were well aware of the fact that Turkey formed a bridge between Asia and Europe. Police organisation had been improved and statistics showed a significant drop in drug traffic.

The campaign which was spreading in certain countries to legalize the use of cannabis had been vigorously combated; any such measure would lead to increased production and an extension of cultivation areas. Also, the risk of escalation would remain unchanged.

Some of the people behind this campaign were no doubt sincere and well-meaning but they were acting irresponsibly.

As a director of research — one of the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs experts — had pointed out, the danger of "soft" drugs remained very real.

It was noted that Scandinavia had become a transit area for drugs bound for various places in Europe, particularly Amsterdam.

Swiss Federal Law had been amended and as a result other countries had been helped considerably. The new Article 24 allowed the State to freeze an account in a Swiss bank when the authorities of some other country were able to

prove that the money paid into the account represented the profits from illicit drug traffic.

The question of communicating samples of drugs seized had already been discussed at the U.N. and would be re-examined at forthcoming meetings of the Control Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Geneva.

A new network for cocaine and cannabis traffic had been developed in the Caribbean, using light aircraft, mainly from Colombia. The whole problem would be discussed at a meeting to be held in the Netherlands Antilles in 1977.

It emerged from discussions about specialist training for police personnel that national police

colleges had an important role to play, but it was felt that the possibilities of bilateral assistance should not be underestimated: the General Secretariat had compiled a report on that subject a few years previously.

The United Nations Central Training Unit had been set up in February 1972 and had held 31 seminars attended by more than a thousand participants (police, customs and gendarmerie officers) from over 100 countries.

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The Drugs Committee drafted three resolutions which were adopted by the General Assembly in the following forms:

## RESOLUTION

### **Combating the consumption of cannabis in all its forms and its illicit cultivation**

**CONSCIOUS** of the fact that more and more young people are being affected by drug abuse;

**CONSIDERING** that cannabis abuse is dangerous, affects behaviour and is detrimental to the health and mental well-being of young people;

**NOTING** that the number of seizures of ever-increasing quantities of cannabis reflects a growth in the traffic and in the consumption of this drug;

**HAVING NOTED** that campaigns are being conducted in support of the view that cannabis consumption is not dangerous;

**AWARE** of the fact that cannabis

consumption involves the risk of progression to the use of more dangerous drugs and can only result in an increase in cannabis production and an extension of the areas of illicit cultivation;

**CONCERNED** by the fact that the illicit cultivation of cannabis appears to be increasing;

**BEARING IN MIND** the Resolutions adopted by previous General Assembly sessions;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

**REITERATES** the principles contained in these Resolutions;

**RECOMMENDS** that member countries:

1. - Pursue preventive education campaigns, to make people aware of the dangers resulting from the consumption of all forms of cannabis;
2. - Exercise constant vigilance in controls, and increase their efforts against the illicit cultivation, traffic and abuse of cannabis and its derivatives;
3. - Intensify investigations with a view to locating and destroying illicit cannabis plantations.



## Substitution crops

HAVING NOTED with satisfaction the progress made by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) in developing with the governments concerned useful programmes in preventing the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture, and illicit trafficking in and use of dangerous drugs, particularly in Thailand, and

RECALLING the conclusions in the report of the Interpol Asian-European Meeting for Heads of Drug Enforcement Agencies held in Chiang-Mai, Thailand, from 12th to 16th July 1976;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

APPEALS urgently to member governments to continue and, where possible, to increase their support to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) in order that projects in all countries concerned and particularly the Crop Substitution Programme in Thailand (which otherwise may come to an end in December 1977) may continue and be effectively extended.

## Mutual assistance in combating drug traffic

CONCERNED with an increasing international problem in the traffic and abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

RECOGNIZING the sociological factors responsible for drug abuse and the demand for drugs as well as the economic factors which foster the illicit production, manufacture and traffic in narcotic and psychotropic substances to meet demand;

RECOGNIZING that some governments with serious problems in drug abuse, illicit cultivation, manufacture and traffic in narcotic and psychotropic substances may require technical and financial assistance to effectively implement progress to eliminate gradually the illicit cultivation, manufacture, traffic and abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

URGES Governments to ratify, if they have not already done so, and to

implement as fully as possible the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 and the Psychotropic Convention of 1971 to bring under control coca and cannabis crops and to cooperate with each other in vigorously suppressing the illicit manufacture and traffic of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

### RECOMMENDS:

1. - That governments which may require technical and financial assistance to more effectively implement narcotic control programmes should consider seeking assistance bilaterally from other interested governments or internationally through the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the U.N. Development Programme and the international financial institutions;
2. - All governments to provide adequate law enforcement resources so as to intensify programmes of illicit traffic sup-

pression and thus effectively reduce the availability of illicit drugs in their countries;

3. - That drug traffickers should be vigorously prosecuted, and that the prosecution should press for substantial prison terms for those convicted;
4. - Intensified programmes for the prevention of drug abuse and for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers where necessary as a means of substantially reducing the demand for narcotic and psychotropic substances;
5. - The rapid international exchange of drug intelligence information and evidence between police services utilising where possible the ICPO-Interpol communications network to facilitate drug arrests and seizures.

# INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY COUNTERFEITING

- Paper currency
- Metal currency  
(including gold coins)
- Other counterfeits

The General Secretariat's report was based on information received during 1975; the main features of the report are summarised below.

## ● Paper currency

The number of countries whose currencies were counterfeited remained stable: 28 in 1973, 30 in 1974, 29 in 1975. The U.S. dollar was still the most counterfeited currency: counterfeit dollars were discovered in 49 countries; the total face value of counterfeit U.S. notes seized showed a slight drop (10%) in comparison with 1974.

321 new types of counterfeit U.S. notes were identified in 1975 (12.3% less than the previous year). 50 new counterfeit types of 20 other national currencies were discovered, compared with 36 new types of 20 currencies in 1974.

Counterfeit Austrian, Belgian, British, Canadian, Dutch, French, German, Indian, Italian, Lebanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Swiss, Turkish, Venezuelan, West African (CFA francs), Yugoslav and Zaire notes were seized in Western Europe.

Counterfeit British, Canadian, Dutch, French, Gabonese, Italian, Kenyan, Nigerian, Spanish, West African and Zaire notes were seized in Africa. Counterfeit Afghan, Indian, Indonesian, Lebanese, Malaysian, Pakistani, Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirate notes were seized in Asia.

In 1975, no seizures of counterfeit Ethiopian, Iraqi, Jordanian, Khmer Republic, Norwegian, Qatar, Swedish, Syrian or Thai banknotes were reported, although seizures of counterfeits of these countries' currencies had occurred in 1974. On the other hand, the currencies of Afghanistan, Belgium, Gabon, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Zaire, none of which had been reported counterfeited in 1974, were counterfeited in 1975.

The General Secretariat's report quoted some cases solved through international co-operation.

In Vienna, Austria, in November 1975, 5,101 counterfeit Lebanese 100-pound notes were discovered in the luggage of a German national

who was just about to travel to Zurich, Switzerland. He claimed to have received them from an Arab whom he could not identify. After examining a specimen note, the Interpol General Secretariat concluded that the counterfeits were of the same type as the 3,363 counterfeit Lebanese 100-pound notes seized from a Swiss national in Hunzenschwil, Switzerland, two months earlier. This information was immediately reported to the Austrian Police.

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in December 1973, 130 counterfeit U.S. \$100 notes were seized after they had been discovered in a suitcase belonging to an Argentine national about whom an international warning notice had been published; he was arrested, together with a Brazilian national.

In January 1975, the police in Montreal, Canada, with the collaboration of the Portuguese Police and the Interpol General Secretariat, identified the members of a gang trafficking in counterfeit U.S. dollars and Portuguese escudos and located their printshop. Six thousand counterfeit U.S. \$10 notes were seized, together with various counterfeiting materials (sheets of unfinished 1,000-escudo notes, arc-lamp, guillotine, negatives, printing negatives). Investigations in Canada, Portugal and the United States led to many arrests. Three Canadians were arrested in Montreal and one Portuguese national was arrested in Newark, U.S.A. Several others — mostly fully identified Portuguese nationals — were still being sought. Since the beginning of the case, only 12 counterfeit 1,000-escudo notes had been discovered and seized, in Lisbon. As for the counterfeit dollars, it seemed that good co-ordination and rapid intervention on the part of the police in the countries concerned prevented the counterfeiters from circulating the notes on any considerable scale.

In late March 1975, 1,262 counterfeit U.S. \$50 notes and 680 counterfeit U.S. \$20 notes were seized in Bourg-la-Reine, France, and two French nationals were arrested. The notes were of previously identified counterfeit types: three clandestine workshops for producing such counterfeits, as well as counterfeit

travellers cheques, had been discovered in Paris in September 1974. The gang, composed of 12 persons, was subsequently dismantled.

In April 1975, a clandestine printshop was discovered in Florence, Italy. In addition to the printing materials, 150,000 counterfeit 10,000-lira notes were seized, together with plates for counterfeiting 1,000-lira and 500-lira notes, and "Banco Popolare de Novara" cheques and bills of exchange. Three Italian counterfeiters directly involved in this case were arrested. The Italian police were then able to infiltrate the criminal underworld and put the counterfeiting ring out of operation, but not before the offenders had succeeded in circulating counterfeit Italian currency in various European countries.

In September 1975, 3,363 counterfeit Lebanese 100-pound notes were discovered in Hunzenschwil, Switzerland. The counterfeit currency was to be taken to Lebanon by a Swiss national who was arrested. Another Swiss national and the Lebanese national who was scheduled to receive the counterfeit currency were still at large and wanted in connection with this case.

On the whole, the counterfeits were of poor quality. They had all been printed by the offset process.

- **Metal currency**  
(including gold coins)

Counterfeit metal coins of 13 countries were discovered in 12 countries. Gold coins (especially Austrian, British, French, Dutch and U.S.) again made up the largest part of the reported seizures, but seizures of several coins in general circulation were also reported.

In August and November 1974, 1,229 counterfeit gold coins of various types and denominations were discovered and seized at two Federal German banks in Düsseldorf and Coefeld. The German Police identified the members of a gang of traffickers and determined that the coins had been made in Beirut, Lebanon.

In October 1975, a French national tried to exchange 10 counterfeit French 10-franc gold coins at the central station in Antwerp, Belgium. While the coins were being examined, he ran off, leaving his identity card behind. Investigations by the French Police established that a person bearing

the same identity card had been fingerprinted in June 1974 in Frankfurt/Main, Federal Germany, on suspicion of picking pockets and forging identity documents. The true owner of the identity card had reported it stolen. The thief apparently had stuck his own photograph on the card. The photograph of the person fingerprinted in Federal Germany was shown to the teller in Antwerp, and he recognized it as a photo of the French trafficker who had tried to exchange the coins.

138 genuine new coins put into circulation were described in "Counterfeits and Forgeries".

- **Other counterfeits**

During 1975, in comparison with the preceding year, the ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat received considerably more reports of cases involving counterfeit banking documents. There was clearly a new outbreak of offences involving counterfeit letters of credit. Most of the counterfeit documents were written against major international banking establishments, but it should be noted that Australian banks were particularly affected in this way throughout the year.



On the right, Mr. AKO, Inspector General of the Ghanaian Police, who was elected to the Executive Committee

On the left, Mr. LINDSAY who was responsible - under Mr. AKO'S direction - for General Assembly arrangements

The following may be cited as examples of cases involving counterfeit travellers cheques:

— A large number of counterfeit \$100 travellers cheques supposedly issued by an Australian bank were negotiated from September 1975 onwards in many European countries and in Canada. Various persons, including an Italian national with a record for having previously committed similar offences, were arrested in the Netherlands, Norway and Greece. The General Secretariat published a circular about the offences. To date, the total amount involved was reported to be about U.S. \$430,000.

— In March 1975, various Italian nationals found to be in possession of counterfeit U.S. \$500 travellers cheques supposedly issued by a United States bank were arrested in the United Kingdom and Swit-

zerland. A case of fraudulent negotiation of such cheques was subsequently recorded in France in August 1975.

In July 1975, two important cases involving negotiation of counterfeit letters of credit of two Canadian banks came to light, involving many European countries, Australia and Japan. In each case, the total sum involved was about one million Canadian dollars. The offences were apparently committed by well-organised groups. Several arrests were made.

Counterfeit payment orders supposedly issued by an Indian bank were used in India in March 1975 by a person buying airline tickets.

Several cases of counterfeit passports were reported (Greece, Switzerland, Tunisia, Nigeria). Counterfeit passports were seized

and traffickers arrested in Denmark, Turkey and Senegal.

Cases of forged identity and immigration papers seemed to be increasing. Similarly, a number of cases of fraudulent use of counterfeit or forged driving licences (Turkish and Portuguese) were reported in 1975.

Other counterfeits complete the list: diplomas, airline tickets, veterinary certificates, postage stamps.

A special counterfeit currency conference is to be held in Madrid, Spain, from 8th to 11th March 1977.



Mr. KNIGHT, United States,  
Vice-President of the ICPO-Interpol



# POLICE INTERVENTION AND CO-OPERATION IN COMBATING TRAFFIC IN WILD ANIMALS

This subject was raised by the Indonesian Delegation during the Asian Continental Meeting at the 1973 General Assembly session in Vienna, and it was subsequently decided that the General Secretariat should compile a report on the matter. Two questionnaires were sent out to all National Central Bureaus to find out which countries were liable to have their indigenous wild animals exported and which countries imported wild animals.

The General Secretariat received replies from 53 countries.

## I - Countries from which wild animals are exported

29 countries submitted replies to the questionnaire concerning the exportation of wild animals.

All but four reported that wild animals captured in their territory could be exported.

With regard to illicit trafficking, the Indonesian National Central Bureau sent the General Secretariat a special report indicating that in the period under reference, (1966-1973) more than 400 indigenous Indonesian wild animals were illegally exported (mainly primates and wild birds). If this illegal traffic is compared with the statistics on legal exports, it will be seen that the animal species involved are not the same. Australia, Chile, Iceland, Laos and Norway also reported illegal exports of wild animals.

Legal international commerce mainly covers mammals, birds and reptiles; not unexpectedly, rare or endangered species are not involved.

All the countries answering the questionnaire stated that they had adopted laws or regulations on the capture and export of wild animals. The purpose of these texts was to protect rare species of indigenous wildlife.

Certain countries indicated that particular species (e.g. mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians) were **totally** protected by law (Australia, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco,

Norway, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela).

All the countries affected by the exportation of wild animals stated that they had laws or regulations prohibiting the capture of, trade in, or export of certain species of wild animals **without prior authorisation**. The authorities responsible for issuing these permits varied from country to country, but the police were never entrusted with this task. Naturally, penalties were provided for in most countries.

However, it was reported that the police **could** intervene, either on their own or in collaboration with the service having authority in the matter, to investigate or help prevent illegal exports of wild animals. Lastly, all but three exporting countries indicated that they accepted the idea of sending information on such cases through the Interpol National Central Bureau.

## II - Countries into which animals are imported

38 countries submitted replies to the questionnaire intended for countries into which animals are imported.

The information given, although somewhat general, indicated that wild birds were in the majority as far as quantities of imports were concerned, followed by various species of mammals and reptiles.

Most of these 38 countries reported that importation of wild animals was subject to one or more controls by the public authorities. These were either health controls for the obvious purpose of preventing the spread of disease and protecting the natural environment, or customs control involving the payment of customs duty and checking of mandatory permits. Specialised services for supervising the importation of wild animals existed in some countries; they could be the Forestry Department, Department of Hunting and Wildlife Conservation, National Wildlife Conservation Agency, etc.

The only convention applicable was the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, signed in Washington on 3rd March 1973; it came into force on 1st July 1975.

Lastly, the General Secretariat's report mentioned the various measures that the police and the National Central Bureaus in importing countries could take when they discovered or were advised by another Interpol member country that illegally-exported wild animals had been, or were likely to be, brought into their national territories. 30 of the 38 importing countries said that they were prepared to co-operate with police services in exporting countries and would take all or some of the measures mentioned in the questionnaire, namely: block the import process, identify the persons responsible, send the animals back to their country of origin, forward information collected to the countries of origin. Many of the countries answering this question stated that receipt of information through the Interpol NCBs was sufficient for them to initiate the requested action; a minority, however, indicated that the authorities competent in such matters were not the police but another government agency.

The report concluded that, since the main responsibility for protecting wildlife and controlling imports and exports of wild animals lay with agencies other than the police, it would seem that co-operation through Interpol could be of marginal importance only.

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The Assembly took note of the report and set up a Committee to prepare a draft resolution. This resolution was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in the following form:

## Police intervention and co-operation in connection with the illegal traffic in wildlife and its products

**HAVING NOTED** Report No. 11 submitted by the General Secretariat on police intervention and co-operation in connection with the traffic in wild animals;

**CONSIDERING** that illegal traffic in wildlife and its products jeopardises the efforts being made by certain countries to protect their indigenous wild life;

**NOTING** that, in a large number of countries, the ICPO-Interpol National Central Bureaus and police authorities are able to take action to combat this form of traffic, or can ask the competent authorities to take action;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly,

meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

**URGES** the National Central Bureaus:

- 1) To take any action that lies in their power when they receive requests for co-operation on cases of traffic in wildlife and its products which is illegal in the country of origin;
- 2) To ask other appropriate authorities to intervene in such cases;
- 3) To assist other countries in the detection of illegal traffic in wildlife and its products.



Mr. WANYAKU, Zaire, newly-elected to the Executive Committee

# FRAUDS INVOLVING ARSON

At the suggestion of the Argentine Federal Police, the General Assembly had included on the Programme of Activities a study of arson committed or commissioned by insured property owners for the purpose of defrauding insurance companies of the sums they have contracted to pay in cases of property damage or destruction accidentally caused by fire.

A questionnaire was sent out to the National Central Bureaus, and 52 replies were received. These were used by the General Secretariat as the basis for its report which is summarised below.

It emerged clearly from the replies that in all the countries it is a punishable offence to **deliberately burn another person's property**, regardless of the motives for doing so, or to **deliberately burn one's own property**, if doing so causes damage to another person's property or person or even endangers another person's property or person; here again, the basic motives are not taken into consideration.

Furthermore, anyone committing such an act thereby makes himself liable to be punished for it in proportion to the seriousness of the consequences, even if these are unforeseeable. For example, deliberately burning another person's home and thereby unintentionally killing someone may, in some countries, be punishable by the most severe sentences (life imprisonment or even the death penalty).

In the questionnaire, the offence was defined as follows: "Is it an offence against your country's criminal laws to deliberately burn one's own property or cause it to be burnt, in such a way as to try to make the resulting damage or destruction appear to have been caused accidentally, and to subsequently file a claim for insurance compensation?"

## I - Legislation, incidence and scale, circumstances

In most of the countries, the act defined above does constitute a punishable offence. In most countries, the legal terms for such

offences are "fraud", "criminal deception" or "false pretences". Implicit in each of these terms is the notion of scheming, of staging events.

Only 32 countries supplied statistics on cases of arson and 10 countries were able to supply statistics on fires set or commissioned by policy-holders in order to fraudulently obtain insurance compensation. Either the authorities do not keep statistics on the various motives leading offenders to commit arson, or the authorities consider that such frauds occur only rarely.

Estimates of the annual losses suffered by insurance companies in connection with such offences were submitted by only 11 countries.

The following types of property were mentioned as those most usually involved in cases of arson for purposes of fraud:

- single- and multiple-occupancy dwellings
- agricultural and rural property
- business premises
- shops
- factories
- sugar cane plantations
- warehouses
- multi-purpose co-operatives
- entertainment establishments
- restaurants, snack bars, etc.
- boats and caravans
- motor vehicles
- accounts books and registers.

In most countries, these offences are usually committed at times when the premises are empty (night, weekend, holidays).

## II - Investigation procedures and facilities

In most countries, there are general procedures for the police to follow in the event of fire. These usually involve a series of measures to be taken and checks to be made in order to:

1. Safeguard evidence and clues

that might help determine the causes of the fire;

2. Collect exhibits and witnesses' statements in cases of suspected arson;
3. Apprehend the offender(s).

In accomplishing these tasks, the police work in close co-operation with firemen and with forensic laboratory technicians and experts.

Moreover, in most countries, it is the suspicious nature of the circumstances surrounding the fire, established through a preliminary investigation, which give rise to further investigations, into the owner's possible role in the fire in the light of his financial situation and the type of insurance he has taken out on his property. Attempts are then made to determine whether or not the owner has anything to gain from the destruction of his property.

As far as investigation facilities — particularly special reference files — are concerned, the replies from the 52 countries can be divided into three groups:

- 19 countries have special reference files on intentionally-set fires.
- 15 countries do not have special reference files but their central records departments can supply whatever information is needed about arson cases.
- 12 countries do not have special reference files, but their replies did not specify whether or not their central files store information on such offences.

### **III - Co-operation among insurance companies and between insurance companies and crime investigations services**

There is co-operation among insurance companies at national level in 13 of the 52 countries replying to the questionnaire.

Most countries mentioned that the police and insurance companies co-operate regularly or occasionally.

As for the kinds of information the police can obtain from insurance companies, the responding authorities usually mentioned the same types: those likely to

assist the crime investigation and ensure its success. Such information concerns insurance policies, the background, integrity and financial situation of the policy-holder, details of previous damage to his property, etc.

### **IV - Possibility and value of exchanging information internationally through the Interpol National Central Bureaus**

A clear majority of the responding authorities are in favour of international exchange of information on the following points:

- the identities of offenders
- modus operandi
- investigation procedures and facilities
- technical equipment used in investigating such offences.

### **V - Conclusions**

The report reveals that:

- The number of countries possessing statistical data on such offences is very limited.
- In most countries, such offences do not represent a "problem" for the police, nor indeed for insurance companies since the latter have only rarely found it necessary to set up national files to help them detect attempted frauds.
- In all the countries answering the questionnaire (except Canada) the "dark figure" for such offences is probably quite substantial.

Concerning the possible exchange of information internationally, the Interpol machinery seems perfectly suited to the task. With due consideration given to the foregoing points, the report suggests that:

- a) The national Central Bureaus should send to the General Secretariat any information they have or obtain about particularly interesting modus operandi involving arson or insurance frauds, so that "Modus Operandi Sheets" can be prepared and circulated to all NCBs.
- b) The National Central Bureaus should proceed to exchange information on persons committing such offences if there is

reason to believe that they may travel abroad.

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The report was summarised in plenary session and the President suggested that a drafting committee should be set up. This was composed of representatives from Argentina, Ghana, India, Mauritania and Qatar. The following resolution was drafted by the Committee and adopted by the Assembly:

### **RESOLUTION**

#### **Frauds involving arson**

**HAVING STUDIED** Report No. 10 submitted by the General Secretariat, entitled "Frauds involving arson";

**NOTING** that the available information sent to the General Secretariat concerning arson with a view to committing fraud was insufficient to allow an exact appreciation of the problems raised by this type of offence;

**CONSIDERING HOWEVER** that an international exchange of items of information and reports of experiences in this field between police services could be useful;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

**RECOMMENDS** that the ICPO-Interpol National Central Bureaus:

- a) Take appropriate steps towards collecting precise items of information (statistics, etc.) on this type of offence, so as to allow a better appreciation of the question;
- b) Promote, if necessary, co-operation between insurance companies and police services with a view to improving the prevention and detection of such offences;
- c) Exchange with the other NCBs information on the persons who commit such offences, if they are likely to travel abroad or commit the same type of offence in another country;
- d) Send the General Secretariat details of any particularly interesting modus operandi discovered in this field, as well as details of the best adapted investigation methods;

**ASKS** the Secretary General to circulate to the NCBs, by means of modus operandi sheets, details of particularly interesting modus operandi discovered in this field, sent in by any NCB.



# INTERNATIONAL CRIME STATISTICS — MODIFICATIONS TO THE FORM

A proposed reform of the "International Crime Statistics" was submitted to the 1975 General Assembly session in Buenos Aires by the Federal German Delegation. The Assembly had set up a committee to study the reform which met in March 1976 and drafted a new form for collecting statistical data by the General Secretariat.

The new form takes into account the two basic principles which had guided the 1951 ICPC General Assembly session in Lisbon, when the current form had been drawn up, namely:

- as the legal definitions of penal offences vary widely from State to State, international statistics can, of necessity, only cover the major categories of offences;
- these categories have to be defined in such a way that the international statistics can be compiled from the existing national statistics.

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After an exchange of views between delegates, the Assembly adopted the following resolution:

## RESOLUTION

### International crime statistics

HAVING NOTED Report No. 18 submitted by the General Secretariat, entitled "International Crime Statistics — Modification to the Forms":

HAVING NOTED also the report submitted by the Committee of Experts appointed by the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly at its 44th session to examine the problems relating to international crime statistics;

CONSIDERING that the publication of such statistics by the General Secretariat every two years is undoubtedly valuable for the police, for administrative departments dealing with crime policy and for all those carrying out criminological research.

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

APPROVES the form drafted by the Committee of Experts as appended to its report, which is designed to facilitate the collection of the statistical data to be published;

ASKS the National Central Bureaus to fill in these forms as fully as possible, for the year 1977 onwards, and send them regularly to the General Secretariat;

INVITES the Secretary General to continue publication of the volumes of international crime statistics, on the basis of the information supplied by the NCBs.



Mr. GHARAIBEH,  
Jordan,  
newly-elected to the  
Executive Committee

## CRIME PREVENTION

Report No. 13 gave an outline of what the General Secretariat had already done in the field and of what more could be done: the Assembly was asked to draw up a list of the problems to be studied, giving some order of priority.

The subject would have to be clearly defined and precise instructions given to guide the General Secretariat in its future work.

It was decided that the first point to be studied would be principles for organising police crime preven-

tion activities. The General Secretariat was asked to compile a report on this, for submission to the General Assembly.

The next point — police participation in the crime prevention activities of other organisations — would be studied later.

The other points mentioned in the General Secretariat's report, together with the subject of police participation in the drafting of laws and criminal procedure, would be discussed at a symposium to be held at the General Secretariat.

## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY

This subject was studied in committee, where discussions centred on:

- Trends in aircraft hijacking
- The theft and fraudulent use of airline passenger tickets
- The possibility of holding a symposium on the police and

international civil aviation security.

It was concluded that the police were fully aware of the importance of the problem and would do everything in their power to combat it more effectively through international co-operation.



On the right,  
Mr. FARIELLO,  
former Head of the  
Interpol NCB, who is  
now Questore  
in Sardinia

On the left,  
Mr. LI DONNI,  
Deputy Head of the  
Italian Police,  
who has recently retired

# INTERNATIONAL FRAUDS AND COMMERCIAL CRIME

## • Origin of the question

A report entitled "International Frauds and Commercial Crime" was submitted by the General Secretariat to the 44th General Assembly session in Buenos Aires in 1975.

On that occasion, a resolution was adopted, recommending "... that a Committee of Experts be appointed to examine the material prepared by the General Secretariat and submit its report to the General Assembly at its 45th session".

A questionnaire was sent out to the NCBs and the report was drafted on the basis of all replies received by 28th April 1976; the report follows the same presentation as the questionnaire.

Unfortunately, lack of space makes it impossible for us to analyse the report — which is over 100 pages long — in detail.

From an examination of the first part of this report, it is clear that there are considerable differences between the various penal and other laws of the countries which replied to the questionnaire. With the "traditional" types of crime some common, basic concept of anti-social behaviour can be found in all countries, despite superficial differences which are the result of legislative techniques. However, with fiscal and economic offences it can almost be said that behaviour considered harmful, and therefore punishable, in one country may appear normal, or even be encouraged, in another country.

## I - Analysis of legislation

### — Foreign exchange and currency regulations

30 countries answered this section of the questionnaire, giving information on the following points:

- the acquisition of means of payment or of stocks and shares issued in a foreign currency or of claims payable in a foreign currency;
- the compulsory application of a rate of exchange fixed by the authorities or by the national bank for the acquisitions mentioned above;
- the transfer abroad of means of

payment or stocks and shares issued in national currency and of the place of payment of claims payable in national currency;

- the cession of a claim payable in national currency in the country concerned in exchange for the cession of a claim payable abroad in a foreign currency;
- the possession by a resident of the country concerned of means of payment or stocks and shares issued in a foreign currency or claims payable in a foreign currency.

### — The gold market

31 countries replied to this section of the questionnaire dealing specifically with:

- the buying and selling of gold;
- the possession of gold in the country concerned by private individuals, commercial companies and corporate bodies whose professional activities do not involve processing or dealing with gold;
- taking gold out of the national territory;
- the holding of gold abroad by nationals and residents of the country concerned.

With the gold market, as with foreign exchange and currency. Some countries impose no restrictions at all, others control specific types of transaction, and others keep the whole situation under strict control, by means of various prohibitions, authorisations and restrictions.

### — Import regulations

30 countries replied to this section of the questionnaire dealing with the import of "goods" this term specifically excluded gold and stocks and shares. Replies dealt with:

- the obligation to pay customs duty and/or other import duties;
- restrictions on imports of certain goods for economic reasons.

Some countries impose no restrictions for economic reasons; some impose restrictions on a limited number of goods only; in

other countries all imports require authorisations or the observance of certain conditions, with certain imports being completely prohibited.

#### — Export regulations

All the countries which answered the section on import regulations answered the questions on the obligation to pay customs and/or other export duties, the restrictions imposed on the export of goods for economic reasons, and the payment of special subsidies to exporters.

Some countries impose export taxes, either on specific goods or on all goods, whereas in other countries such a system is unknown; in some countries, or in the case of certain goods, exports are unrestricted or even encouraged by the payment of export subsidies, or by refunds or tax benefits, while in other countries, exports are controlled by a system of prohibitions, authorisations and restrictions.

## II - Description of the types of crime under consideration

26 countries replied to this section of the questions. Most of them reported having experience of cases of fraud and economic crime with international ramifications; the range of such cases was enormous.

Briefly, it can be assumed that offences occur when there are laws or regulations — with penal sanctions attached — whose violation can result in a profit, or which are felt by those concerned to constitute obstacles to the "normal" running of their business.

## III - International co-operation

### — International co-operation at police level

29 replies were received on:

(\*) These terms were defined as follows:

**Double criminality:** According to this principle, assistance is only given in cases where the act committed is an offence punishable by the courts in the requesting country and would also be punishable by the courts in the requested country had it been committed there.

**Reciprocity:** According to this principle, assistance is only given if the requesting country would grant the same or similar assistance if the positions were reversed.

- the powers of the police and other authorities to investigate criminal offences involving foreign exchange and currency, the gold market, import and export of goods;
- the possibility of international co-operation at police level through the Interpol NCBs, in those areas where the police are competent;
- the application of the principles of double criminality and of reciprocity (\*) and a required minimum standard of seriousness of offences in cases where co-operation is requested;
- the types of assistance which can be given as part of the co-operation mentioned above (such assistance may involve the use of coercive powers).

### — International co-operation, through the NCBs, involving other administrative authorities

25 countries answered this

question, covering the following points:

- the competence of administrative authorities other than the police in connection with offences involving foreign exchange and currency, the gold market and the import and export of goods;
- the possibility for an NCB to obtain the co-operation of these administrative authorities for the purpose of answering requests for assistance from abroad;
- the application of the principles of double criminality and reciprocity and the need for a minimum standard of seriousness of offences when assistance is given by administrative authorities other than the police as part of international co-operation;
- the kinds of assistance which can be given as part of international co-operation.

In most countries, the police are



Mr. WILSON,  
United Kingdom,  
newly-elected to the  
Executive Committee

able to co-operate with foreign police forces, within the scope of their own powers, through their Interpol NCBs; in principle, the latter can obtain co-operation from services other than the police in order to answer requests for international assistance. However a few countries mentioned the existence of parallel international co-operation circuits, outside the Interpol NCBs and police services.

It seems that there is a fairly substantial basis for international co-operation, reservation being made for the restrictions to which such co-operation is sometimes subject, and that the Interpol machinery could, in principle, also be used in economic and fiscal cases. The fact that administrative services other than the police often intervene in the fields in question, does not seem to be an obstacle to international co-operation, provided that the Interpol NCBs are in close contact with such services. Besides, since these services are specialists in their own fields, they are sometimes better placed than the police to solve specific problems.

Most countries apply either the principle of double criminality and the principle of reciprocity, or one of these principles, each of which is applied by approximately half of these countries. According to some countries' replies, the principle of reciprocity is not strictly applied, that is to say that an identical service will not necessarily be demanded in return. Only a few countries state that they will not co-operate unless the offence is of a certain degree of gravity.

#### — International co-operation at judicial level

27 countries replied to questions about:

- the existence of international conventions or treaties allowing the principle of judicial assistance or extradition in connection with offences involving foreign exchange and currency, the gold market, and the import and export of goods;
- the possibility for the judicial authorities to grant judicial assistance in penal matters or

extradition in such fields, even when this is not provided for in an international convention or treaty.

From the replies, we can conclude that the possibilities of judicial co-operation in this field are very limited and that there is often no possibility whatsoever of granting extradition. Just over half the countries in question can grant judicial assistance, even in the absence of an international treaty, although certain restrictions were mentioned in the replies.

#### — Special problems arising in connection with international co-operation

25 countries answered the questions dealing with the compulsory appearance of witnesses in a country other than that in which they are living or resident; in most countries, there is no way of forcing a witness to appear before the judicial or administrative authorities of another country.

With regard to the secrecy of banking information, 29 countries replied to questions on:

- the existence of the concept of secrecy of banking information, the form this takes, exceptions reported;
- the possibility of lifting the secrecy of banking information for the purposes of criminal investigations being carried out by the authorities of another country;
- the authorities responsible for collecting the information (obtained by lifting the secrecy of banking information) requested by the authorities of another country for the purposes of a criminal investigation.
- the possibility of ordering a search of the banking institutions in question if they refuse to release the information requested, even though the secrecy of banking information has been lifted.

In almost all the countries considered, an obligation not to divulge banking information exist, either incorporated in a law, or as a contractual obligation or simply

as recognised practice. According to some replies, it is a matter of "business secrecy" or "professional secrecy". In most cases, the bank not only has the right to refuse to divulge such information but is under an obligation to do so. In some countries, banks and their employees are liable to civil or criminal sanctions if they break this rule.

In more than half the countries replying to the question on banking secrecy, the authorities can, in principle, obtain banking information in the interest of an investigation being carried out by the authorities of another country. In such cases, banking secrecy is waived by formal intervention on the part of the appropriate authority (e.g. a court order or decree, written requisition by the police, etc.), or else the law provides that banking information must be divulged to an authority empowered to make investigations. Few countries gave details of the conditions to be fulfilled before banking information can be divulged. Intervention by a judicial authority is usually necessary but, in some countries, intervention by the police or by another administrative authority or by the Central Bank is sufficient.

In most countries, once the secrecy of banking information has been lifted, the police are responsible for collecting the information requested by the foreign authority. When a bank refuses to comply with its obligation to divulge information, the authorities — usually the judicial authorities, sometimes the police — can decide to carry out a search.

The report makes a certain number of recommendations resulting from the analysis of the replies received by the General Secretariat.

It is to be noted that:

- Some of these recommendations go beyond the sphere of economic and fiscal offences and are of more general bearing.
- Obviously, implementation of most of these recommendations will not depend on the good will of police forces but on that of governments and legislators.

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After briefly summarising the background to the question, as set out in the report, the Chairman of

the Committee on International Frauds and Commercial Crime read out the draft resolution prepared by

the Committee; this was adopted by the General Assembly in the following form:

## RESOLUTION

### International frauds and commercial crime (including economic offences)

**HAVING STUDIED** Report No. 5, entitled "International Frauds and Commercial Crime", submitted by the General Secretariat;

**HAVING HEARD** the report given by the Chairman of the Committee of Experts set up by the ICPO-Interpol General Assembly at its 44th session to study Report No. 5;

**REITERATING** that international frauds and commercial crime (including economic offences), having regard to their grave consequences and wide repercussions, are of great concern to all member countries as brought out in Resolution No. AGN/44/RES/4 unanimously adopted by the General Assembly at its 44th session in Buenos Aires (1975);

**CONVINCED** that international police co-operation in this area takes place

within a context of much wider international co-operation in which police action requires judicial and diplomatic co-operation, if satisfactory results are to be achieved;

**NOTING** that international and national legal instruments are often contradictory and inadequate to promote international co-operation regarding international frauds and commercial crime (including economic offences);

**BELIEVING** that international co-operation in this domain is essential and should be expanded and facilitated;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

**ADOPTS** the recommendations appended to this Resolution;

**ASKS** the ICPO-Interpol National Central Bureaus:

- a) To submit these recommendations to the appropriate authorities in their countries;
- b) To make every possible effort to implement those of the recommendations they are empowered to apply;
- c) To draw their governments' attention to the criminal enforcement advantages which would result from:
  - I) the negotiation of improved and expanded channels of co-operation in the areas of international frauds and commercial crime (including economic offences);
  - II) the harmonisation of laws and regulations in this field.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

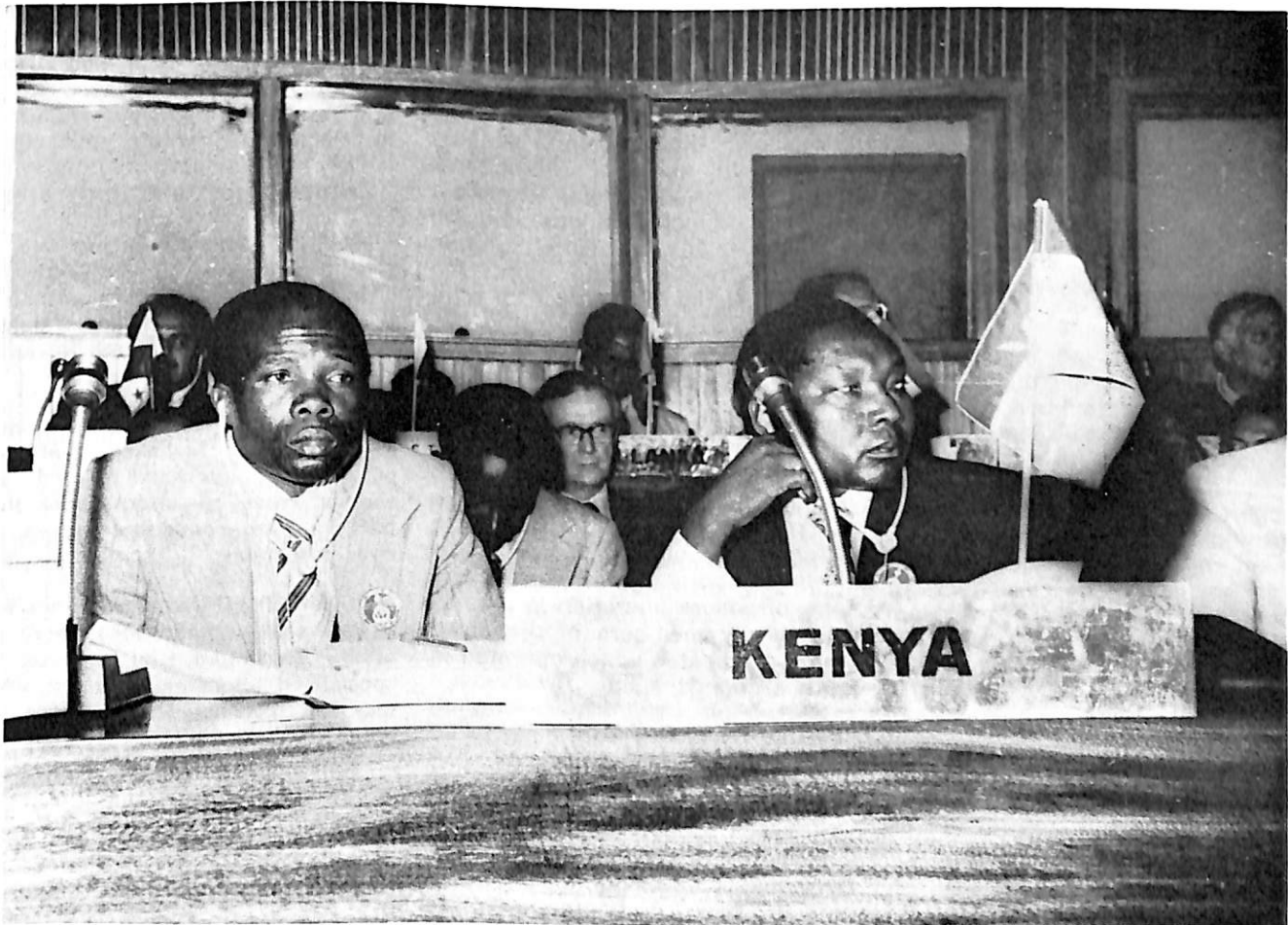
- a) Inclusion of economic and appropriate fiscal offences in international treaties and agreements and also in national laws governing extradition and judicial co-operation on criminal matters, taking account of the problems raised by the difficulty of getting information about funds obtained by means of such offences committed in one country and secreted in another country.
- b) Study of the possible ways of improving international co-operation, particularly with regard to economic and appropriate fiscal offences, with a view to drawing up bilateral agreements which may also take into account the problems raised by banking secrecy.
- c) Study of national legislation to identify omissions and deficiencies with a view to giving sufficient legal authority to the agencies responsible for dealing with economic and fiscal offences; the police would then be able to deal with economic and fiscal offences with powers equal to those they have in connection with other criminal offences.
- d) Granting the competent authorities of requested countries the possibility of obtaining from banks and other financial institutions, under legal authority, evidence in their possession, insofar as the evidence is needed for the investigation of an offence committed in the requesting country.
- e) General acceptance of the principle that, where law enforcement with regard to economic offences is concerned, the ICPO-Interpol and its NCBs make available also to responsible law enforcement agencies other than the police the facilities offered by Interpol.
- f) Encouraging the Interpol NCBs, at their discretion, to co-operate with each other, even in cases where the offence giving rise to the request for assistance would not be punishable in the requested country had it been committed there, at least in cases where the assistance requested does not imply the use of compulsive measures.

- g) Highlighting, in requests for international assistance, the facts and details likely to induce the requested country to interpret the act committed in a way likely to facilitate international co-operation.
- h) Recognition of the need for expertise in the investigation of international frauds, commercial crime and economic offences;

specialised agencies may be established for this purpose in countries in which it may be necessary.

- i) Recognition of the necessity to review on a continuing basis, the working of the bodies responsible for implementing the laws and regulations with respect to national economic and fiscal controls, and of

the need to initiate appropriate measures to improve procedures and the efficiency of personnel, in order to make it more difficult to commit international frauds and commercial and economic offences.



Mr. NDERI, Director of Criminal Investigation (right),  
and Mr. OLUOCH (left), Head of the Nairobi NCB,  
who organised the 5th African Regional Conference in July 1976.

# MEETING OF HEADS OF NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAUS

- Crime in port and dock areas
- Recording and systematic surveillance of international criminals
- V.I.P. protection
- Permanency of NCB staff
- Armed robbery

As is customary, the Heads of the National Central Bureaus met to study various questions. Mr. WILSON (United Kingdom) was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting.

## • Crime in port and dock areas

A report was submitted on the international symposium on crime in port and dock areas which had been held at Interpol Headquarters in November 1975.

The symposium had first examined crime in sea and river ports, assessing the scale of the problem. Such crime, which was committed on a very large scale, was either specific to port and dock areas, or was common to all river or sea borders between countries. The first category consisted mainly of cases of theft and misappropriation, many of them linked to the practice of transporting merchandise by container; the second category included all kinds of international traffic (firearms, drugs, immigrant workers). Emphasis was laid on offences connected with pollution which were becoming more and more frequent and more and more serious.

Offences were facilitated by the confusion generally prevailing in portside warehouses, complicity on the part of several persons and the coming and going of vehicles which enabled the merchandise to be taken in or out of the port. Offenders could be divided into three categories: individual operators, offenders operating in groups, and thirdly members of organised crime syndicates which operated in certain countries.

What measures could be taken to combat this type of crime?

**At national level**, the organisation of port police services was extremely complex; depending on the country, policing was carried out by units from the national centralised police force, or by local and/or national services co-operating together, or by independent bodies and national and federal agencies acting jointly. Close co-operation at national level (notably between the police and customs authorities) and centralisa-

tion of information were absolutely vital. Equipment was becoming more up-to-date and electronic data processing equipment such as closed-circuit television was being used.

In this field as in others, the importance of crime prevention was stressed by the participants at the symposium. In addition, the importance of training special police officers and of retaining them as long as possible at their posts was emphasised.

**At international level**, any co-operation problems that arose in connection with exchanges of information could be dealt with only through the machinery set up by Interpol.

The following draft resolution was unanimously adopted by the Assembly:

## RESOLUTION

### Crime in port and dock areas

**HAVING STUDIED** Report No. 12 submitted by the General Secretariat, giving an account of a symposium on crime in port and dock areas, held in Saint Cloud from 4th to 6th November 1975;

**CONSIDERING** that a large number of crimes — including theft and pilfering of merchandise and also various types of international illicit traffic — are committed in sea and river port areas;

**CONSIDERING** that such crimes have international ramifications and are often committed by groups of specialised offenders, some of whom may be connected with organised crime syndicates;

**CONSIDERING** that the services responsible for policing ports in each country may be numerous and varied, a fact which scarcely facilitates international co-operation;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

**DRAWS ATTENTION** to the need for co-operation between all services responsible at local level for policing sea and river port and dock areas;



**UNDERLINES** the value of centralisation at national level of all information concerning crime in port zones;

**ASKS THE NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAUS** to take all necessary steps to ensure that, in cases with international ramifications, the port police services in their country can exchange information rapidly with the port police services of other countries, through the channels established by the ICPO-Interpol.

- **Recording and systematic surveillance of international criminals**

At its 42nd session in 1973, the Interpol General Assembly expressed the hope that "the General Secretariat will have a general survey made, notably with regard to the way in which the keeping under observation and surveillance of criminals is or could be carried out in each country, and propose practical rules to facilitate and standardise the exchange of information in this field".

52 countries answered the questionnaire sent out by the General Secretariat and their replies were used to compile Report No. 16, which simply gives an indication of the prevailing situation.

In fact, the report represents only the first stage of the task which the 1973 General Assembly session asked the General Secretariat to carry out. The second stage will consist of preparing guidelines facilitate the work of the National Central Bureaus.

A Committee of Experts was set up to study the problems raised by the report's conclusions.

- **V.I.P. protection**

The number of V.I.P.s to be protected is increasing all the time.

Governments have to decide whether security officers accompanying foreign V.I.P.s should be allowed to carry firearms and use walkie-talkies.

The meeting felt that an exchange of views between Heads of NCBs might help to clarify the attitude the authorities should adopt with regard to the persons responsible

for the security of their official visitors.

It was pointed out that, at the previous General Assembly, the General Secretariat had submitted a report on bilateral police agreements and a resolution had been adopted urging countries to conclude such agreements. The carrying of firearms was one of the points which could be covered in bilateral police agreements; these agreements should be developed as far as possible.

Participants at the meeting showed considerable interest in this subject, and widely differing views were expressed.

It was decided that the General Secretariat should prepare a report on the technical aspects of the question, with a view to determining whether or not regulations existed permitting the carrying of firearms.

- **Permanency of National Central Bureau staff**

At the 5th African Regional Conference in Nairobi, a report was given of the training courses for National Central Bureau officers which had been organised at the General Secretariat at the end of 1975 and at the beginning of 1976. These training courses were generally considered to be useful.

Once the NCB officers had received this specialist training, it was highly desirable that they remain at their National Central Bureaus long enough for maximum benefit to be derived from their experience.

It was with this in mind that the General Assembly unanimously adopted the following resolution:

#### RESOLUTION

##### **Permanency of NCB staff**

**HAVING TAKEN NOTE** of Report No. 19, submitted by the General Secretariat, and the recommendation adopted by the 5th African Regional Conference held in Nairobi from 20th to 23rd July 1976;

**HAVING NOTED** certain shortcomings in international co-operation within the Interpol framework, caused to some

extent by the lack of permanence among the staff responsible for the National Central Bureaus;

The ICPO-Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Accra from 14th to 20th October 1976 at its 45th session:

**RECOMMENDS** that the departments responsible for National Central Bureaus should ensure more permanence among the officers in charge of the day-to-day running of the Bureaus, and especially those who have attended training courses at the General Secretariat, it being understood that these officers naturally remain subject to the general rules of the police forces to which they belong.

- **Armed robbery:**

**Exchanging information on modus operandi, investigation procedures and prevention methods.**

From the discussions it emerged that the exchange of information on suspects and more efficient control of firearms were both highly desirable. Two important factors had also to be taken into account: the complicity of bank staff and the use of powerful stolen cars for getaways.

A manual on the protection of banks and the prevention of armed robberies had been drawn up by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (USA), in collaboration with the relevant authorities; the manual was available to delegates. A symposium on crimes committed by armed gangs had been held at the General Secretariat and at the meeting it had been decided to introduce a model radio message. A list of offenders arrested for traffic in stolen property had also been sent to NCBs. Lastly, the General Secretariat was prepared to circulate lists of specialised offenders, provided that it received all the information available.

Delegates also discussed the question of **passports claimed to have been lost or stolen**. It was important for diplomatic representatives to insist that the theft or loss of a passport be reported to the police and that they obtain information about the holder from his country's NCB with a view to limiting the validity of his passport if necessary.

## CONTINENTAL MEETINGS

- African Continental Meeting
- Asian Continental Meeting
- American Continental Meeting
- European Continental Meeting

### ● African Continental Meeting

The African Continental Meeting, chaired by Mr. LINDSAY, Ghana, continued discussion of a subject already discussed at the Regional Conference in Nairobi — sending police officers to carry out investigations abroad. In such cases, it was absolutely vital that NCBs inform each other prior to investigators' being sent abroad.

The next item for discussion was extradition, but in view of the complexity of the problem it was suggested that this be included on the agenda of the forthcoming African Regional Conference and a report submitted to the Conference. An O.A.U. Committee had been studying extradition since 1967; perhaps the General Secretariat could ask the O.A.U. to give priority to the question.

Interpol telecommunications were also discussed.

The present situation of the Interpol network in Africa was reviewed. A new station had been opened in Niamey; others were continuing tests (Cairo, Djamaena,

Zomba). The Tripoli station was due to become operational shortly.

The General Secretariat hoped that the Interpol network in Africa would continue to expand rapidly.

The existing network in East Africa could take on new stations. In West Africa, it ought to be possible to find relay stations which would enable the national stations to avoid having to buy powerful — and therefore expensive — radio equipment to communicate with Paris.

The existence of such regional networks would have the further advantage of facilitating broadcasts between neighbouring countries, eliminating the need to communicate via the Central Station, which would cut down broadcasting time and improve international co-operation.

### ● Asian Continental Meeting

The Asian Continental Meeting was chaired by Mr. SEN of India. The first subject discussed was that of sending police officers abroad, a procedure which should be carried out through the NCBs.



Mr. AROSEMENA, Panama, newly-elected to the Executive Committee, whose country would like to host the 1978 General Assembly session



As far as extradition procedures were concerned, it was obvious that these had to be modernised and countries should be encouraged to conclude as many bilateral agreements as possible. Delegates were informed of the existence of a co-ordination and security committee which greatly facilitated contacts and procedures between Arab countries.

Delegates were reminded of the "EXTRA-600" circulars: these informed the NCBs of the measures the police could take in the different countries with a view to extradition: in some cases they could make provisional arrests, in others they could only keep people under surveillance and were not allowed to detain them.

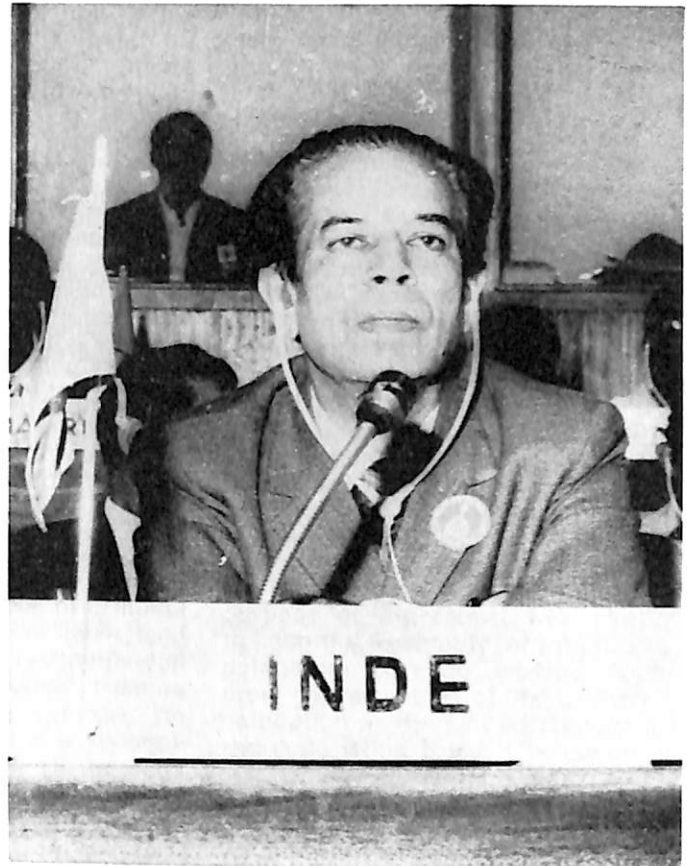
The NCBs should inform the General Secretariat of any difficulties encountered in extradition procedures, so that these could be noted and efforts made to find possible remedies.

Delegates then went on to discuss the role of auxiliary police officers; it was felt that such officers should only be used to complement the regular force. Auxiliary police forces had been set up in various countries and had proved to be very effective. They constituted an excellent link between the regular police and the public; auxiliary officers should obviously be given adequate training, but their role could only be complementary to that of the regular police and they should operate under the control and supervision of the latter.

Interpol **telecommunications** were then discussed. No stations were carrying out tests at present. The Japanese authorities had given valuable assistance to Indonesia.

The stations which had recently joined the network were operating satisfactorily; it would be desirable for more countries to join the network to increase their own efficiency and improve international co-operation.

The subject of **smuggling of works of art** was also discussed. This was a serious problem, particularly with regard to the recovery of objects exported illegally. Countries could, of course, ask



Mr. SEN, India,  
Chairman of the Asian  
Continental Meeting

the General Secretariat to circulate lists of smugglers.

The meeting was informed that a symposium on theft of works of art and an Asian Regional Conference would be held at the General Secretariat in 1977.

#### ● American Continental Meeting

The American Continental Meeting, chaired by Mr. ECHEVERRIA, Venezuela, also dealt with the problem of sending police officers to carry out investigations abroad.

The appointment of a liaison officer for South America had brought about considerable improvement in co-operation. A liaison officer post should also be created for the Caribbean countries and the West Indies, and possibly another one for Central and North America.

The difficulties encountered by police officers travelling abroad and the problem of transferring

offenders from one country to another stemmed from the specificity of the laws of each country and the rules of national sovereignty. Interpol member countries should give their police officers every facility for working abroad — why should criminals be the only ones to disregard national frontiers?

#### Interpol telecommunications

At the 44th General Assembly session, the new installations at the Buenos Aires central station had been inaugurated. The Argentine Federal Police were in a position to give technical assistance to other NCBs in the form of loans of equipment and secondment of specialist staff.

The Central American stations received their traffic directly from Buenos Aires, which had sufficiently powerful transmitters and aerials, but for broadcasting they could use Caracas as a relay. The Washington and Ottawa NCBs were linked to

the Central Station in Paris by teleprinter, through their Embassies in France.

#### Topics specific to the American Continental Meeting

The Uruguayan Delegate, on behalf of his Government, invited Interpol to hold its next American Regional Conference in March 1977 in Montevideo and the Netherlands Antilles Delegate invited Interpol to hold the forthcoming Caribbean Conference in Curaçao.

The following recommendations

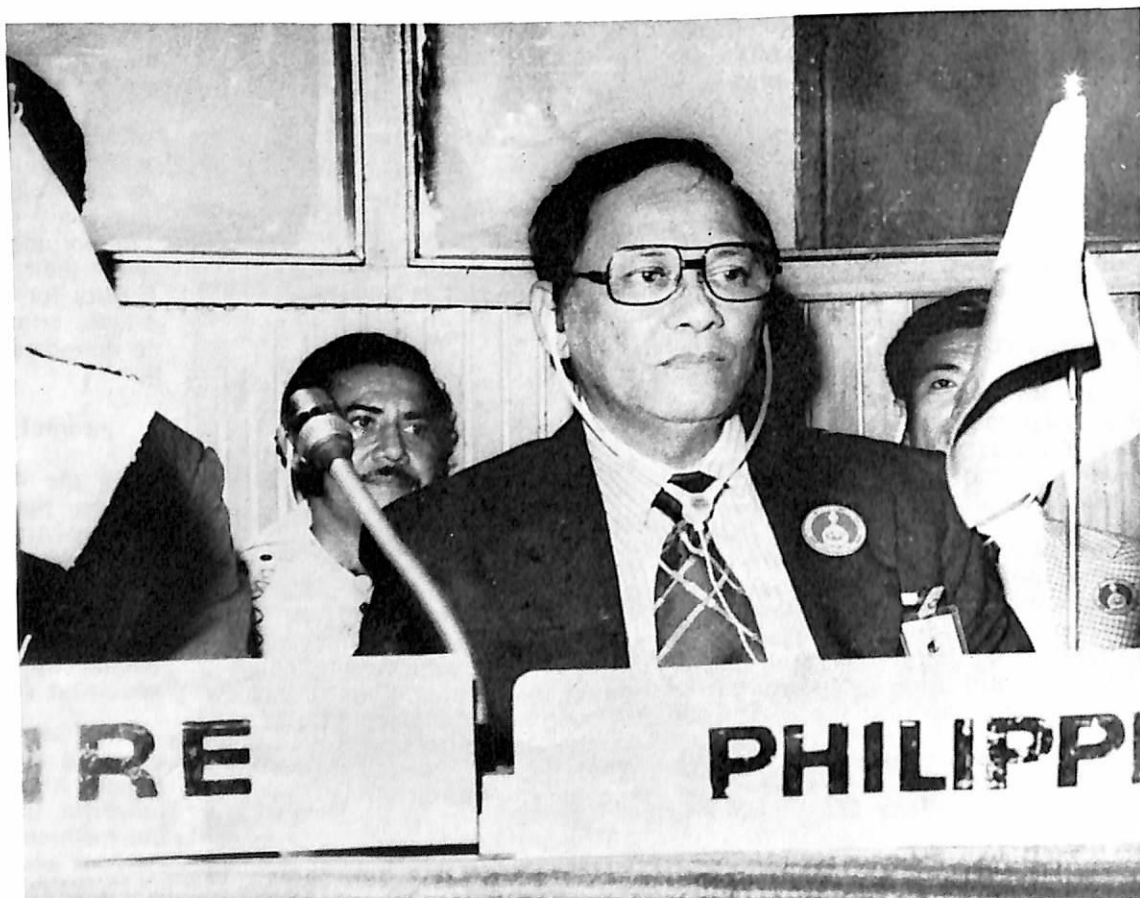
were drafted by the American Continental Meeting and submitted to the General Assembly, which took note of them:

1. American Regional Conferences should be held annually in the region, not too close to the dates of General Assembly sessions.
2. Symposia to study specific criminal problems common to the different countries should be held more frequently.
3. A study should be made of the possibility of increasing the number of American liaison officers on a regional basis.

4. The possibility of holding General Assembly sessions every two years should be considered.

#### • European Continental Meeting

Technical difficulties made it impossible to hold this meeting as planned, and it was decided that a European Regional Conference should be held at the General Secretariat in Saint Cloud in 1977.



Mr. BUGARIN, Philippines, newly-elected to the Executive Committee

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

A report was submitted by the General Secretariat on the progress made to date by the United Nations which has been working on a code of conduct for law enforcement officials to be applied in United Nations member countries. The position of Interpol with regard to respect for human rights has always been unequivocal: Article 2 of the Interpol Constitution stipulates that police action at international level must be carried out "in the spirit of the Declaration of Human Rights". The General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Commission (later to become the ICPO-Interpol) adopted a resolution stating that "all acts of violence or inhuman treatments, that is to say those contrary to human dignity, committed by the police in the exercise of their judicial or criminal police duties, must be denounced to justice"; it further recommended that "in all the police training schools, special importance be attached to the complete recognition of the right of all persons

suspected of an infringement of the penal law, or any other persons, to receive fair and humane treatment".

With this in mind, representatives from the Interpol General Secretariat have participated in the work being done by the United Nations to prepare a draft code of conduct for law enforcement officials. In particular, it was stressed that the code must apply to all those involved in law enforcement and not just to police officers as such.

Appended to the General Secretariat's report was the text of the draft code adopted by the United Nations Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

It was pointed out that the purpose of the report was simply to keep the Assembly informed. Any delegation that so wished could draw the attention of its country's delegation at the United Nations to the code when it was discussed at subsequent meetings.



Mr. BUDIDARMO, Indonesia,  
Vice President of the ICPO-Interpol

## 1976-1977 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

The General Secretariat had drawn up a programme of activities for the period 1976-1977 (i.e. until the next Assembly session) which was submitted to the General Assembly. Among the many activities listed were:

- Extension and modernisation of the Central Radio Station
- Drafting and adopting a set of regulations for the radioteletype network
- Possibilities for rapid intervention by NCBs (additional countries)
- New edition of the brochure "Motor Vehicle Registration"
- Study of an international standard personal identification form
- Revision of the audio-visual teaching material on drugs
- Revision of "Illicit Drug Traffic: A Police Teaching Programme" (Interpol/United Nations)
- Inventory of research projects and studies in progress of interest to police services (continuation)
- The role and status of women in the police
- Updating of "Research Work in Progress in Forensic Science Laboratories"
- Comparative study of police powers in connection with the questioning of persons (victims, suspects, offenders, witnesses, etc.); this will complement the studies already published on detention prior to arrest and on search and seizures.
- Symposium on new ways of identifying persons and collecting evidence
- Counterfeit Currency Conference for police and issuing institutes
- Symposium on the use of electronic data processing by the police
- Symposium on thefts of works of art and cultural property
- Symposium on international civil aviation security
- Asian Regional Conference
- American Regional Conference
- Caribbean/Central American Regional Conference
- European Conference on Drugs and the European Regional Conference
- Training Seminar for NCB officers (in English)

**The Programme of Activities was put to the vote and adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.**

## ELECTIONS AND CHOICE OF MEETING-PLACE FOR NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly had to elect a new President of the Organization, the term of office of Mr. W.L. HIGGITT, Canada, having expired.

Mr. C.G. PERSSON, Sweden, Director General of the Swedish Police, was elected President of the Organization for a four-year term of office.

The following persons were also elected:

Mr. BUDIDARMO (Indonesia): Vice-President for Asia.

Mr. KNIGHT (USA): Vice-President acting for the American Continent.

Mr. AKO, Ghana, Mr. AROSEMENA, Panama, Mr. BUGARIN, Philippines, Mr. GHARAIBEH, Jordan, Mr. WANYAKY, Zaire, Mr. WILSON,

United Kingdom: Members of the Executive Committee.

Mr. BENHAMOU, France, and Mr. THOMSEN, Denmark: Auditors; Mr. DAHROUGE, Lebanon: Assistant Auditor.

Mr. PERSSON said that he was very honoured to have been elected President. He thanked the Assembly and promised to do everything in his power to carry out his new duties to the best of his ability.

During his 12 years as Director General of the Swedish Police, he had seen crime develop rapidly and become much more international. Co-operation on a regional basis was not enough to cope with this new situation — it had to be worldwide and extremely active. New



forms of crime were emerging, such as acts of extreme violence often committed against innocent victims. He felt it was necessary to strengthen international police co-operation, particularly in three areas:

1. The centre of international co-operation was the Interpol General Secretariat and it was essential to increase the means at its disposal so that it could effectively gather and circulate accurate information on international crime and criminals with maximum speed.
2. The General Secretariat should be able, if necessary, to initiate steps to co-ordinate operations in the field. More police officers from different countries should be seconded to the General Secretariat.
3. The Organisation's radio network would have to become operational all over the world.

These were the long-term objectives which had to be striven for in the years to come. However, it seemed logical that the industrialised countries, which made most use of the Interpol machinery, should assume a larger proportion of the costs involved in running the Organisation.

On behalf of his Government, the newly-elected President officially invited the General Assembly to hold its 46th session in 1977 in STOCKHOLM, Sweden. He thanked the Panamanian Delegation which had agreed to withdraw its country's invitation.

The Assembly unanimously accepted Mr. PERSSON's proposal.

The outgoing President, Mr. HIGGITT, said that, before leaving his post, he wished to thank the Assembly for the excellent work it had accomplished and reminded delegates that Interpol was an organisation which contributed greatly to mutual understanding between the peoples of the world. It could only continue to thrive if its members showed a true spirit of co-operation, and he urged everyone to continue their efforts for the Organisation's good. His term of office had been of great personal benefit for he had gained a better

understanding of the world's peoples and their problems.

On behalf of the General Assembly, Mr. PERSSON expressed his gratitude to Mr. HIGGITT for everything he had done to further the Organisation's interests, and

invited him to attend the forthcoming General Assembly in STOCKHOLM as a guest of honour.

Mr. HIGGITT thanked the Ghanaian authorities for their hospitality and declared the 45th General Assembly session closed.

## The new President: Mr. C.G. Persson

Carl G. Persson was born in Sweden in the county of Kristianstad on 14th December 1919. He is married and has four children.

He graduated as a Bachelor of Law from the University of Lund in 1942. After service in court he was appointed Assistant Judge at the Södra Asbo and Bjäre Court of Assizes in 1945, and in 1951 at the Scania Court of Appeal. In 1951, he was nominated Lord Justice at the Svea Court of Appeal.

During the period 1949-1952, he was Secretary for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law. In 1957 he was appointed Chief of the

Legal Department at the Ministry of the Interior. From 1958 to 1964 he was Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of the Interior and in this capacity acted as Chairman of the Police Drafting Committee with overall responsibility for putting into effect the decision to create a national police force. He was appointed Director General of the Swedish Police in 1964.

Carl Persson has headed the Swedish delegations to the Interpol General Assemblies since 1964 and in 1975 was elected to the Organization's Executive Committee.



Mr. PERSSON,  
President  
of the ICPO-Interpol





## *Conference Sidelights*



After their journeys — some of them very long and eventful, to say the least — the delegates were heartened and comforted by the welcome awaiting them at Accra Airport where all difficulties were ironed out by the efficiency of the Ghanaian Police. First impressions proved to be reliable on this occasion for everyone was impressed by the unwavering kindness of our hosts and by the happy smiles which the delegates encountered throughout their stay.

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An impressive note was struck when delegates arrived at the Kwame N'Krumah Conference Centre. They were welcomed by Inspector General of Police Ernest AKO who was there to receive the Ghanaian Head of State, General I.K. ACHEAMPONG; the latter inspected a guard of honour standing stiffly to attention.

The Conference Centre is a functional building, fitted out with modern equipment, and with a view over the harbour and the sea. The reception service was perfectly organised and, thanks to the careful planning of working space, it was possible to hold several committee meetings simultaneously.

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On the first evening there was a cocktail party which General ACHEAMPONG honoured with his presence and where delegates were able to talk to traditional chiefs and thus obtain their first glimpse of Ghanaian customs.

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More opportunities for personal contacts were forthcoming during the day of rest and relaxation spent at the invitation of the Ghanaian authorities in the town of AKROPONG. The day began with a tour of the comfortable State House, former country residence of President N'Krumah, overlooking the Accra plain.



The delegates then had time to visit ABURI Botanical Gardens with their rich collection of exotic and tropical plants and fruits. For some delegates, it was their first opportunity to see a specimen of the cocoa trees which cover sixty-seven per cent of Ghana's surface. The open-air lunch at the house of an important Ghanaian personality took place to the sound of music played by the excellent police band. The food was much appreciated by the delegates, as was the magnificent weather.

Then the coaches made their way to AKROPONG, Headquarters of the Akuapen District Council, where a Durbar of Chiefs was to be held in honour of the Interpol Conference participants.

It was clear that a festive atmosphere was building up. Along the way, enthusiastic groups, smiling and waving in welcome, greeted the delegates who responded warmly. The festival ground was full of crowds dancing and singing to the sound of drums played at breathtaking rhythm.

The crowd's enthusiasm increased as the traditional chiefs arrived, sumptuously dressed in brilliantly-

coloured costumes; it reached its peak with the arrival of the Paramount Chief, NANA ADDO DANKWA II, and the Queen Mother, OBAATAN PA DOKUO I, triumphantly borne in their richly decorated palanquins.

The Durbar enabled delegates to form an idea of the Odwira Festival which is celebrated every year in the Akuapen traditional area and gives the villagers of the district a chance of coming together to honour their ancestors and request their blessing for the new year. It also provides families and friends with an opportunity of meeting to settle their problems in an atmosphere of gaiety and rejoicing. Certainly, the atmosphere of the Durbar soon infected the delegates, who quickly began to mingle with the dancers, demonstrating their firm determination to develop international police co-operation!

The afternoon passed with demonstrations by members of youth movements, charming dances performed by children, dances by groups from different villages, official speeches and presentations of gifts to important guests; it ended with a cocktail party. Eventually, the delegates had to

return regretfully to their coaches but they took with them vivid memories... and a great many photographs.

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Before the grand closing banquet, at which delegates were able to admire the energy and technical skill of a Ghanaian dance company, a film on the Ghanaian Police was shown. Police training, highway patrols, shooting practice, telecom-

munications, crime investigation and forensic science were all illustrated with great clarity and the film, together with a collection of slides on the Ghanaian economy, received well-earned applause from the audience.

No report on Ghana would be complete without mentioning that triumph of engineering, AKOSOMBO Dam, which has mastered the flow of the Volta River and its affluents, thus producing enough electricity for Ghana's needs and even for export.

To the Ghanaian people, this dam is a symbol of the entire nation's determination to increase the country's economic potential and, as such, it constitutes an important milestone in its development.

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Many delegates left Accra regretting that they had not had time to get to know more of the country better, but they all took with them vivid memories of the friendliness and warmth of Ghana's people.



**LIST OF COUNTRIES, TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS  
ATTENDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BENIN, BERMUDA, BRUNEI, BURMA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, CONGO, CYPRUS, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, FEDERAL GERMANY, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, HONG KONG, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, ISRAEL, ITALY, IVORY COAST, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KOREA, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, LIBYA, MALAWI, MALI, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MONACO, MOROCCO, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL, QATAR, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SINGAPORE, SOMALIA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SURINAM, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA, THAILAND, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, UPPER VOLTA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA.

**OBSERVERS**

UNITED NATIONS  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD  
CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL  
PANARAB SOCIAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION  
INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY