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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MADAR (Somalia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 100: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
(continued) (A/39/92, A/39/133, A/39/165 and Corr.1, A/39/185, A/39/189 and Corr.1,
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- (a) REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER (continued) (A/39/12 and Add.1, A/39/443-447)
- (b) ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
(A/39/402 and Add.1; E/CONF.125/2 and Add.1)

1. Ms. EMARA (Egypt) said that Egypt supported the attempts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to alleviate the sufferings of refugees. The documentation on the item gave shocking evidence of the magnitude of refugee problems; nevertheless, the Office's activities provided some consolation. The international community must shoulder its responsibility for solving refugee problems, work constructively to avert new flows of refugees and provide assistance to host countries, especially developing countries or those which had been victims of natural disasters. Her delegation welcomed the UNHCR assistance provided to host countries to enable them to consolidate basic economic and social structures and take on the additional burden represented by refugees.

2. Egypt condemned barbaric and inhuman violence against weak and unarmed refugees and called on the international community to act swiftly to prevent such outrages.

3. The two International Conferences on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA I and II) had proved that the African countries, peoples and Governments were discharging their duty in respect of refugees, despite scarce resources, economic crises and natural disasters. Among the outstanding achievements of ICARA II had been the development of new strategies for linking assistance to refugees with development assistance and the emphasis on action to consolidate basic structures in both host countries and countries of origin. Egypt was fulfilling its commitment to ICARA I by providing financial resources and dispatching delegations to work with African countries, and it would provide technical assistance and double its financial contributions to alleviate the emergency needs of African refugees in 1985.

4. Mr. SOERIAATMADJA (Indonesia) said that the promotion of appropriate and durable solutions should remain the primary international objective of refugee programmes, and relief assistance should retain its humanitarian character. UNHCR co-operation with international and non-governmental organizations in furnishing expertise and additional financial resources was praiseworthy and enabled refugees to remain in the countries of first asylum until a durable solution could be found. Many of the countries of first asylum were among the least developed, however, and the influx of the refugees had placed an enormous burden on them. It had given rise to delicate problems, not only economic but also social and political. If the international community was stymied in its attempts to find lasting solutions to refugee problems, the humanitarian character of the

(Mr. Soeriatmadja, Indonesia)

relief efforts would then be seriously jeopardized. He was thinking, in particular, of the situation in South-East Asia, where refugees were currently granted asylum on a temporary basis. His delegation hoped that there would be no further delays in the resettlement of refugees from that area and appealed to countries which had offered them permanent asylum not to waiver in their commitment.

5. Voluntary repatriation and local integration were additional means of solving the refugee problem, but would not be easy to implement. Accordingly, a careful study of their feasibility should be made in the light of local political, economic and social conditions. The international community, and UNHCR in particular, should continue to respond to requests for emergency assistance for newly-arrived refugees and should implement appropriate maintenance programmes in case solutions were not discovered. Steps should also be taken to promote self-reliance among the refugees in order to prepare them for a new life. Their need for international protection also merited serious consideration: violations of their physical safety, particularly in the form of military attacks on refugee camps and settlements, persisted. Such despicable behaviour called for prompt action.

6. All the developing countries had been affected by the unfavourable world economic situation. In Africa, that situation, together with the prolonged drought, expanding desertification and domestic structural deficiencies had exacerbated the refugee problem to an alarming degree. The problem was becoming so serious that most of the host countries could not cope with it alone. The notable success of ICARA II had been largely due to the deep sense of human solidarity that had inspired the Conference and had enabled participants to set aside their differences and reach a consensus. As an expression of its concern, his Government had made a token contribution to ICARA II and had urged that its donation should be used to strengthen the capacity of the host countries to handle the additional burden represented by refugees and to integrate the refugees into community life.

7. Mr. RIACHE (Algeria, said that although the refugee flow seemed to have been stabilized, some 10 million still lived in tents or camps and continued to require protection and material and moral support from the international community. The role of UNHCR in that respect was vital: its credibility and efficiency enabled the international community to show true solidarity with the millions of refugees. The growing risk of politicization of the refugee problem could hamper the Office's activities, which for that reason must remain humanitarian and apolitical.

8. Efforts to ensure widespread international protection of refugees were extremely important, and it was disturbing that the relevant international instruments, particularly those relating to non-refoulement, the right of asylum and expulsion measures, were not being respected. The continued acts of piracy on the high seas and military attacks on refugee camps required concerted action on the part of the international community. His delegation condemned those criminal practices and hoped that, at its next session, the Executive Committee of UNHCR would adopt the draft statement of principles on the subject.

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(Mr. Riache, Algeria)

9. All the countries of first asylum, whose hospitality and solidarity were incontrovertible, were developing countries which were unable to bear the heavy burden represented by large numbers of refugees. Often, if not always, their inadequate economic capacity, the impact of the world economic crisis, the intolerable burden of their foreign debt and the devastating effects of natural disasters greatly restricted their efforts on behalf of refugees. International solidarity was therefore essential: further efforts must be made by all sides to distribute the burden created by international flows of refugees more equally throughout the world.
10. The search for durable solutions must remain the first priority of UNHCR. Voluntary repatriation after the sources of the refugee problem had been removed was the most effective solution. Failing that, local integration or relocation in third countries could present certain advantages for refugees.
11. The Algerian people who had recently experienced expatriation, banishment and exile, currently offered hospitality to tens of thousands of Saharan refugees in their territory. They sincerely hoped that the voluntary repatriation of Saharan refugees would be possible once the people of Western Sahara had exercised their inalienable right to self-determination. Algeria appreciated UNHCR assistance, which unfortunately fell far short of the real need: recent UNHCR missions to Algeria and the establishment of a permanent delegation in Algiers should promote greater awareness of the needs of the Saharan refugees and enable co-operation between Algeria and UNHCR to be strengthened.
12. In her statement at the 40th meeting, the representative of Morocco had rehearsed the time-worn theories that the Saharan refugees were not truly refugees and that assistance given to them was being used for other purposes. Through such statements, Morocco was desperately attempting to adduce logical arguments to prove an indefensible point. In seeking to demonstrate that those who accorded the Saharans refugee status were wrong, Morocco was presumably implying that the UNHCR efforts were misplaced. If Morocco really wanted to solve the Saharan refugee problem, it should follow the path proposed by the Organization of African Unity: only negotiation with the POLISARIO Front, which was the sole legitimate representative of the Saharan people, could yield results.
13. The recent trend in UNHCR towards linking humanitarian aid with development assistance for the countries of asylum would help to develop basic infrastructure in those countries and promote the self-sufficiency of the refugees by finding them productive employment. The fruitful co-operation in that field between UNHCR and the specialized agencies must be encouraged.
14. ICARA II had provided an opportunity for the international community to grasp the true extent of the suffering of 5 million refugees and to assess their needs and the means of meeting them. The African countries of asylum had pointed to the sectors which they saw as crucial, and it was now for the international community to mobilize the relevant financing. His delegation hoped that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at ICARA II would improve the tragic living conditions of millions of African refugees.

15. Mr. de la BARRIERE (France), after paying tribute to the High Commissioner's untiring efforts to resolve the persistent refugee problem, expressed full support for the Office's emphasis on the consolidation of ongoing assistance activities and the search for durable solutions, particularly that of voluntary repatriation, which must remain the primary objective. Unfortunately, the security of refugees when they returned to their homelands was not always guaranteed. Nevertheless, significant progress had been made in 1983. During the current year France was taking a special interest in the repatriation programmes in respect of Argentina and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to which it would contribute.

16. In so far as refugee aid and development was concerned, delegations at the thirty-fifth session of the Executive Committee had stressed that UNHCR should act solely as a catalyst and should co-ordinate its activities with all United Nations agencies and organizations. Where necessary, it should rely on non-governmental organizations, which frequently did remarkable work to benefit refugees.

17. The results of ICARA II were extremely encouraging: the Conference had forged a new link between development assistance and aid to refugees, and the hopes which had been raised thereby must not be dashed. The United Nations bodies concerned must pay particular attention to follow-up activities. France would provide F 7.5 million to formulate projects for a number of African countries which would begin to be implemented in 1985.

18. In South-East Asia, despite the efforts of many countries, including his own, the problem of resettling refugees had not been resolved. France was prepared to continue providing humanitarian assistance, which had already enabled over 125,000 Indo-Chinese refugees to reach French territory since 1975. The struggle against piracy in the Gulf of Siam must be pursued, and France would support UNHCR efforts in that field.

19. Although progress had been made with respect to the protection of refugees, their security continued to be threatened. His delegation regretted that the Executive Committee had not been able to reach agreement on the question of attacks on refugee camps and believed that that subject should be carefully reconsidered. States were becoming more reluctant to recognize the special status of refugees, but France reaffirmed its commitment to full respect for the principles contained in the relevant international instruments, and hoped that States which had not become parties to those instruments would do so. In keeping with its heritage as a country of asylum, France was prepared to welcome all persecuted persons who sought refuge outside their own countries.

20. UNHCR was making a commendable effort to restrain budget growth and to devote more resources to the search for durable and development-oriented solutions. The international community, for its part, must consider means of averting new flows of refugees. It was only through such combined efforts that the international community could alleviate the sufferings of refugees and UNHCR could fully carry out its noble humanitarian mission.

21. Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines) said that her Government would continue to assist the High Commissioner in his continuing efforts towards the effective exercise of the dual task of providing international protection to refugees and lasting solutions to their problems. The Philippines currently maintained three refugee processing centres, with the assistance of various United Nations agencies, several donor countries and voluntary organizations. A recent report in The New York Times had acknowledged those centres as deserving of world recognition for having adopted a humanistic approach in taking care of refugees and for initiating innovative programmes aimed at preparing refugees for a dignified, productive and meaningful life in countries of permanent settlement.

22. As a signatory to almost all United Nations human rights instruments, the Philippines was committed to ensuring the full enjoyment of fundamental human rights by refugees who had sought temporary refuge there. The Philippine refugee development programme was designed to help prepare those persons not only to lead normal lives but to develop their innate potential so that they might contribute towards national development in countries of permanent resettlement. Although the issue of refugees had been traditionally linked with problems of legal rights, economic growth and political stability, the international community had a responsibility to maintain the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the problems relating to refugees so that they did not become objects of political and economic pressure.

23. Her delegation noted with gratitude the assistance of donor countries to the cause of refugees and hoped that they would continue to render such generous assistance in the name of humanity. She also noted with satisfaction the activities of the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme in support of UNHCR.

24. Her delegation supported the conclusion of the High Commissioner that voluntary repatriation was the most desirable solution to the problem of refugees. However, in view of the conditions that had created the situation of refugees, it was understandable that many of them would rather settle in third countries than return to their homelands. The international community should continue to address itself to the question of voluntary repatriation and existing conditions in the homelands of the refugees.

25. She associated herself with the views expressed by the representative of Thailand that pending a comprehensive political solution to the Kampuchean problem, humanitarian assistance to Kampuchean refugees in Thailand should continue under the supervision of UNHCR.

26. Mr. WEIBGREN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the establishment of the FAO Office for Special Relief Operations (OSRO) had allowed the agency to respond to emergency situations resulting from the sudden arrival of refugees, including those under the care of African national liberation movements in southern Africa. Assistance was primarily provided in the form of food, and OSRO had also made available urgently needed agricultural inputs. OSRO continued to help refugee groups to set up modest small-scale food and agricultural

(Mr. Weibgen, FAO)

projects for their sustenance. In the case of Africa, concern about refugees and returnees was part of his organization's preoccupation with the continent's deteriorating food and agricultural situation, as reflected by the significant priority accorded to Africa in its biennial programme of work and budget. In regard to paragraph 5 (c) of General Assembly resolution 37/197, FAO had a clear responsibility to integrate refugee assistance programmes with medium- and long-term development programmes so as to foster the integration of refugees and returnees in the receiving community, promote development and enhance food security and the quality of life. That effort revolved primarily around agriculture, fishing and forestry because the vast majority of African refugees and returnees came from rural areas.

27. FAO had participated fully in a technical team which had visited 14 countries and had identified 40 rural development projects for submission to ICARA II. Twenty-three of those projects had been prepared and evaluated with FAO assistance, notably under the Technical Co-operation Programme, and they would be ready for implementation as soon as financing was secured. Thus far, donor interest had been expressed with regard to 28 projects, at a cost of just under \$US 64 million.

28. Mr. TERZI (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that until the Palestinian people were granted their right to return to their homeland, their fate was the concern of UNHCR, whose competence extended to providing them with international protection, specifically in fields that did not conflict with the competence of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Although his delegation appreciated the efforts of UNHCR, as noted in its report (A/39/12, para. 48), to secure the renewal of refugees' travel documents, it was also concerned about another matter: the brutal measures taken by Israel against the Arab refugee camps, with the criminal involvement of the United States. The United Nations should take the steps to protect refugees living in those camps against States parties to the 1951 United Nations Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees which were not respecting the provisions of those instruments.

29. Mr. HERZBERG (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation shared the regret of the representative of the Soviet Union that refugees were being exploited for political reasons, especially since refugees were protected from such exploitation by the Statute of UNHCR and its Protocol, to which the USSR had yet to become a signatory. He fully rejected, however, her charge that the actions of his Government with regard to Afghan refugees represented a derogation from the principles of international law. United States assistance to refugees from Afghanistan represented the best in mankind's character: generosity in the face of human suffering. He urged the representative of the Soviet Union to convey to her Government the strong wish of his Government that the Soviet Union should also participate, at long last, in the international effort to find a solution to the problem of refugees from Afghanistan.

30. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Soviet Union had made a decisive contribution to the long-term solution of the problem of refugees by supporting peoples who were

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(Mr. Yakovlev, USSR)

victims of aggression, such as the Palestinian people, and by opposing imperialist intervention in such countries as Nicaragua. The United States could make a similar long-term contribution by refusing, for example, to support the apartheid régime in South Africa. Furthermore, it should be noted that the main reason for the existence of 10 million refugees was the aggressive policy of imperialism, which was aimed at stirring up conflict in various parts of the world.

31. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Algerian Government was setting conditions for the application of the principle of voluntary repatriation of the Saharan people and was trying to link UNHCR to those conditions. No one was authorized, however, to speak on behalf of the refugees. Either the Saharans should be considered refugees, as interpreted by the High Commissioner, and should be given complete freedom to choose to return to their homes, or they should be considered a highly politicized group, devoted to non-humanitarian action, and should not fall under the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner. Algeria, which posed as a great defender of self-determination, had done its utmost to prevent the Saharans from returning to their territory from Algeria. The referendum held had not contained any questions about whether the Saharan people wanted to have an independent State. If the illegal actions of recent weeks were condoned, the legitimacy and territorial integrity of States recognized by the international community would be undermined and the very existence of States could be jeopardized.

32. Mr. RIACHE (Algeria), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that many of the arguments put forward by the Moroccan delegation were reminiscent of those used in the General Assembly when the Algerian question had been considered in 1961. That debate had not prevented Algeria from winning independence nor had it prevented history from taking its course. Likewise, the arguments put forward by Morocco would not permit the Saharan people from acceding to independence and had not prevented them from taking their seat in the Organization of African Unity.

33. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said she hoped that the Algerian people would not forget the role which Morocco had played in Algeria's successful fight for independence.

34. Mr. HARTLING (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that he had indeed drawn inspiration from the delegations' support of the purely non-political and humanitarian nature of the work of UNHCR, and of the link between refugee aid and development. He had been reassured by the statements made that his Office was on the right track in seeking durable solutions, even at the height of an emergency, and he had heard a number of constructive comments with regard to the difficult issues to be dealt with in the field of international protection. He thanked all those who had expressed their appreciation of the work of UNHCR, as those sentiments were really addressed to the cause of the uprooted, homeless refugees who so richly deserved the sympathy and concern of the international community.

AGENDA ITEM 101: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/39/193, 194, 407, 421, 551 and Corr.1, 577, and 646; A/C.3/39/8; A/C.3/39/L.30 and L.31)

35. Mrs. OPPENHEIMER (Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs) said that, unfortunately, it had to be reported that the scourge of drug abuse and drug trafficking was increasing in alarming and ever more dangerous proportions. Its pernicious effects were increasingly seen in developing countries as well as in the industrialized world. One of the most tragic aspects was the devastation which drug abuse brought to the younger generation, a situation that should be particularly borne in mind on the eve of International Youth Year. No nation, State or institution could be expected to handle that problem by itself or in a vacuum. It was a classic example of the type of problem where international co-operation was an absolute prerequisite.

36. The level of international anxiety, referred to by the Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization, would undoubtedly be intensified over the coming months as the full range of government reports for 1983 was made available to the Secretary-General and was prepared for submission to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forthcoming session in February 1985.

37. Despite a marked increase in the amount of drugs and psychotropic substances seized during 1983, one particularly discouraging element in dealing with the illicit traffic was the realization that one drug was speedily substituted for another whose availability had been reduced by improved vigilance over both production and trafficking patterns. There was little doubt that much of the increase in trafficking was attributable to vastly increased illicit supply and manufacture. Much remained to be done in that area and resources would need to be directed to efforts to determine the true extent of illicit supply and manufacture, with a view to reducing availability at source. The pattern of interaction between the demand for illicit drugs, the illicit supply of drugs and the illicit drug traffic was clear. In short, there was no doubt that a number of regions were confronted with a situation which was little short of a major emergency. In addition, the links between drug trafficking, illegal traffic in firearms and terrorism had become more apparent over the past months and that trend showed little sign of abating.

38. Given all those discouraging developments, the response of Member States over the past year indicated a marked increase in determination to reduce the supply of drugs and to interdict trafficking, both within national borders and at the international level. There was also a perceptible change of attitude in a number of countries as government authorities became increasingly willing to recognize demand for drugs and drug addiction as problems for their own societies. They were increasingly concerned with the need to take action to investigate existing demand patterns and to protect children, young people and other high-risk groups from the ravages of addiction. The range of action taken was diversified in type and scope, reflecting the wide range of societies and communities affected by the problem of drug abuse in its various aspects. The growing volume of information gathered by the Division of Narcotic Drugs indicated that those efforts had proved effective when the entire community was involved, including non-governmental organizations, parent groups and religious and professional associations.

(Mrs. Oppenheimer)

39. The marked increase in national attention to problems of drug demand and drug trafficking was also reflected in the growing realization by Member States that co-operative action on a regional level was infinitely more effective than isolated local or unilateral efforts. In that connection, the Quito Declaration against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs (A/39/407) provided a most welcome impetus for concerted action at the international level. The quickening pace of international activity was also reflected in the various reports before the Committee, which gave details of the wide range of programmes and projects being implemented.

40. In 1983, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) had requested an evaluation study of the international drug control programme, covering the three organizational entities in the United Nations Secretariat that were primarily responsible. The preparation of the CPC study was now in progress and would be complemented by the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on inter-agency co-operation in drug abuse control (A/39/646). To ensure co-ordination within the United Nations Secretariat itself, the Secretary-General had decided in May 1984 that the three organizational entities primarily responsible for that programme, namely, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, should now report to him through the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs.

41. Mr. DI GENNARO (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control) said that the new and alarming dimensions of drug abuse had recently been stressed individually and collectively by Heads of State and representatives of various countries and their concern was reflected by regional intergovernmental bodies. It was clear that the measures taken to date at the national and international levels had not fully exploited the potential for incisive action. He hoped that concrete steps would follow verbal denunciations, and that sufficient financial resources could be made available and the commitment of the assisted countries readily obtained.

42. The multifarious forces which operated in and around the multibillion dollar illicit drug market were well known. At present, however, there was no country that was completely dominated by traffickers, and in every country, even among those that were most affected, there were political and moral resources which could provide the basis for an effective counter-attack. Any lasting solution must seek to re-establish the societal values which would counteract the drug subculture. The move in that direction must be started by those in power who were honest and untarnished and who were really concerned with the protection of human values and the wholesome growth of their countries. Such a move would gain increasing strength because it would benefit from public support.

43. UNFDAC hoped that the new momentum in the supply of financial resources would continue so that within a reasonable time-frame, the provision of aid would be commensurate with the requirements of the situation. With respect to the commitment of the recipient countries, there were concrete cases to show that the banning of criminal activities and the re-establishment of the law were feasible. There was no reason any more for even the slightest suspicion that the Governments

(Mr. Di Gennaro)

in question would not make proper use of the systems offered. UNFDAC also welcomed the willingness of the large numbers of the population involved to accept the opportunities offered to them for legitimate ways of obtaining their income.

44. The time had come for the international community to demonstrate its solidarity, so often expressed in the various statements voicing concern about the drug threat and appeals for assistance. UNFDAC had entered a new phase in which international assistance, guided by the experience gained during the Fund's first decade, must be utilized to support co-ordinated programmes intended to meet, in an integrated fashion, all identified needs. The close interconnection among the different facets of drug abuse and the drug traffic, which easily shifted to areas of lesser control, required such co-ordinated action in a global perspective. UNFDAC was prepared to respond to that exigency. It was through UNFDAC that the industrialized and developing countries could combine their efforts in a joint world-wide venture for the common good.

45. Mr. OLGUIN (President, International Narcotics Control Board) said that drug abuse continued to threaten a large number of persons and to undermine economic and social order in most parts of the world. Hazards were aggravated by the multiple use of those drugs, often in combination with alcohol, and by the increasingly perilous means by which they were taken. Those illegal activities continued to be financed and operated by well-organized international criminals. Very few countries now remained unaffected.

46. If the dimensions of the danger to societies were unprecedented, the very degree of deterioration itself had led the Governments concerned to launch similarly unparalleled counter-offensives against the traffickers. During 1984, Heads of State, particularly in the Americas, had directed their personal attention to such counter-measures. In addition, authorities in many of the affected countries were placing new stress on measures to prevent abuse as well as to treat and rehabilitate abusers. The grave situation demanded that those counter-measures should continue to be resolutely pursued to reduce illicit supplies, trafficking and demand. If that was done, then those counter-offensives were bound to have a significant impact.

47. In its report for 1983, INCB had expressed concern that in the face of the magnitude of the drug abuse problem, determination might sometimes be giving way to permissiveness. In any event, the approach adopted in some countries of making a distinction between "hard" and "soft" drugs did not seem to have resulted in the containment or decrease of abuse and trafficking. The result was an escalation of abuse of both "soft" and "hard" drugs, sometimes in combination, and of trafficking to meet the increased demand.

48. INCB welcomed the conclusion of new extradition agreements during 1984. Parties to the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances were urged to review existing extradition agreements and the possibility of new arrangements. The need for them promptly to carry out their undertakings under those agreements was obvious. Nevertheless, there were numerous instances in which offenders, even major traffickers, were given relatively light sentences and even those sentences

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(Mr. Olquin)

were shortened because criminals were released early. The result was that drug traffickers were free to resume their criminal careers. The situation prevailing in each country should be urgently reviewed by the Government concerned so that laws and administrative regulations could be tightened, as warranted. Unfortunately, a number of countries had not yet enacted legislation or established the administrative mechanisms and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the drug control treaties. Others had not yet become parties. Without universality of participation in the treaties and firm national action to carry them out, neither existing nor additional treaties could be fully effective against the illicit traffic.

49. Perhaps Governments should adopt a universal declaration of intensified concerted action to be taken against illicit drug activities, pursuant to the general obligations assumed under the two main drug control treaties. Such an initiative would be one way of intensifying in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner concerted action against illicit drug activities. It could establish standards of achievement for all countries to attain.

50. With many other worthy social programmes competing for scarce human and financial resources, drug control programmes, at both the national and international levels, had not always been accorded adequate priority in political and financial terms. It was to be hoped that the new awareness of the gravity of the present situation would result in a re-ordering of priorities.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.