

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

held on Tuesday, 19 February 1974, at 2.40 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. KIRCA

Turkey

ILLICIT TRAFFIC (agenda item 3) (E/CN.7/563 and Corr. 1, E/CN.7/564 and Corr. 1 and 2)

Mr. MANBY (Secretariat) said that, in the preparation of the review of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during 1971 and 1972 (E/CN.7/564 and Corr. 1 and 2), use had been made of the annual reports of Governments which had been received by the Secretariat up to November 1973. With regard to the reports received after that date containing figures for quantities of drugs seized during 1972, such figures would be incorporated in the tables of the review to be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session.

The review before the Commission at the present session showed the first results, expressed in quantities of drugs seized, of the intensified and co-ordinated efforts in recent years by law enforcement services. It would be noted, in particular, that there had been increased seizures of opium in the Far East, of morphine, heroin and cannabis resin in Europe and the Far East, and of cocaine and cannabis resin in the Americas. Liquid cannabis, which had first made its appearance in 1971, had for the time been shown separately. According to the information available, 56 kg. of that drug had been seized in 1972 and 250 kg. in 1973. The year 1973 has also been noteworthy for some spectacularly large seizures, including one of 12 tons of opium in Iran, of $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons in the Republic of Viet-Nam and $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons in Thailand.

It would be remembered that, at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, a majority of its members had decided that the Executive Secretary of ECE should be requested to make arrangements for the question of the abuse of the TIR carnet system by trucks smuggling drugs to be studied by the Inland Transport Committee of ECE.^{1/} The Executive Secretary of ECE had decided to remit the question for prior study to the Group of Experts on Customs Questions affecting Transport. The Group of Experts had met in October 1973 and had decided to take note of the smuggling of drugs by TIR vehicles, while pointing out that other types of transport were also involved. The experts had felt that it might be more effective to obtain further information about sources of smuggling, so that only those vehicles which were likely to be involved in the traffic would have to be searched. They had drawn attention to the fact that the new draft of the Customs Convention on the international transport of goods under cover of TIR carnets (TIR Convention) provided for the possibility of summary of full examination of goods at Customs offices. They had prepared a draft resolution, the text of which was available to the Commission as a conference room paper, for consideration by the Inland Transport Committee, which had adopted it on 31 January 1974 as its resolution 220 and had given Governments until 1 June 1974 to signify whether they accepted it.

^{1/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5248), para. 477.

Mr. LE MOUEL (France) said that, in 1973, the French police, Customs and gendarmerie had carried out 2,830 investigations involving 170 traffickers, 58 pushers, 546 pusher-users and 2,056 users. The following seizures had been made: Opium: 11,973 g; morphine base: 1,550 g; heroin: 39,873 g; cocaine: 3,021 g; LSD: 2,905 doses; cannabis: 2,698 kg; morphine: 1,052 g.

In France, the expression "illicit traffic" covered a number of different situations which could be classified in three categories, namely, petty traffic, the organized cannabis traffic and the international traffic in pure heroin.

The petty traffic, which was carried out by amateurs, involved a large number of substances, particularly the amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis and LSD, which were introduced into the clandestine market by unorganized trafficking usually undertaken by "hippies" from neighbouring European countries. Control of that so-called "ant traffic" was the responsibility of the local police, Customs and gendarmerie services and did not present any particular problems.

Within that traffic, the market for adulterated heroin was supplied by pure heroin diverted from the international traffic and sold on the domestic market after adulteration with lactose. It was mainly consumed in Paris and Marseilles, while the latter city also supplied the market. The specialized services in these two cities had relentlessly hunted down the networks of pushers; hundred of arrests had been made, heavy penalties imposed and the result had been a drying up of the sources of adulterated heroin within France. It should be mentioned that, paradoxically, the Parisian market was being supplied with brown heroin of South-east Asian origin which came in through the Netherlands.

With regard to the organized cannabis traffic, the increase in the international demand for cannabis had thrown up a particular type of trafficker who did not belong to the underworld but was simply attracted by the lure of substantial gain. The traffic was losing its individual character and being taken over by small groups which organized networks for the transport of the drug. France had so far remained a country of transit to its neighbours and its domestic consumption was still relatively small. Large seizures had been made at the frontiers, particularly at Orly Airport (Paris) in the luggage of transit passengers from the Middle East or Pakistan, and also at the French-Spanish frontier in vehicles belonging to German or Netherlands nationals returning from Morocco. That traffic did not as yet present any major problems.

Until recent years, the international traffic in pure heroin had been a matter of serious concern in France. The traffic in pure heroin for the North American market had been steadily growing and French criminals belonging to the sophisticated underworld had taken part in it at every stage: the import of morphine base, the conversion of morphine base into heroin in clandestine laboratories and the organization of export networks. Vigorous action by the specialized organizations had become essential to deal with that traffic. In France, the responsibility for controlling the international narcotic drugs traffic rested with the Central Office, which co-ordinated the work of two specialized services: the Brigade mondaine of the Prefecture of Police in Paris and the Narcotic Drugs Section at Marseilles. In addition, the Central Office assembled information from the police, gendarmerie and Customs and kept an addiction table up-to-date. The strength of the specialized services had been progressively increased from 1969 onwards. At the end of 1971, they had been almost quadrupled in size and supplied with modern equipment. Police

enforcement activities were supported by the new Act of 31 December 1970, which had increased the sentences prescribed for traffickers to 20 years' imprisonment, and 40 years in the case of a subsequent offence.

The nature of the heroin traffic from Europe to the United States of America was such as to necessitate particularly close co-operation with the specialized American services. That co-operation had been formalized and strengthened by a protocol of agreement signed on 26 February 1971. Under the agreement, a Regional Office of the Bureau of Narcotics, now entitled the Drug Enforcement Administration, had been opened in Paris and a unit of the Central Office had been established in New York. In addition, quarterly conferences were held and were also attended by Canadian representatives, who included senior officers of the specialized services.

In 1972 and 1973, that joint action had led to the discovery of six clandestine heroin-manufacturing laboratories in the Marseilles area, the arrest of some high-class traffickers and the dismantling of many organized networks. Supplies of morphine base had been considerably reduced and, since 1972, contacts between Turkish traffickers and those in Marseilles had been rendered difficult. Such contacts now took place outside French territory, mainly in Switzerland and Germany. In view of the fact that the Turkish authorities had decided to ban the cultivation of the opium poppy, the sole source of opium and morphine base for the manufacture of heroin in the clandestine laboratories, the situation would of necessity change once the existing stocks were exhausted. The traffickers exporting heroin to the United States were unable to obtain supplies, as was indicated by the persistent shortage of heroin on the east coast of the United States.

It was essential that the competent authorities should remain vigilant and exert constant and vigorous pressure on the traffickers, who were always on the alert. That pressure had to be based on loyal international co-operation under the aegis of ICPO/INTERPOL. France expected a great deal from the progress of European co-operation in drug matters and particularly from the establishment of centralizing organizations in the countries of the European Economic Community.

Mr. NAPOMBEJRA (Thailand) said that the situation regarding control of the illicit narcotic drugs traffic in Thailand had changed considerably since 1972, mainly for two reasons.

Firstly, his Government had reorganized the personnel of the Police Narcotic Suppression Committee and the police had established a Police Narcotic Suppression Centre to improve co-operation among all the official and private bodies.

Secondly, international co-operation between Thailand and other countries, particularly the United States of America, Hong Kong, Laos, the Republic of Viet-Nam, Burma, Malaysia and Singapore, had been intensified.

Thirdly, the Thai authorities had made contact with the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on Illicit Traffic in the Far East Region in October 1973, in order to deal with some important problems.

In 1972, there had been 7,986 arrests in Thailand for illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances and charges had been brought against 9,473 persons. Seizures of substances such as opium, morphine, heroin, cannabis and kratom had amounted to about 30 tons, to which should be added 108,846 amphetamine tablets.

The three cases of greatest importance which had occurred in Thailand in 1973 were, firstly, the arrest on 11 July 1973 of a Malaysian of Chinese origin, who had entered the country to participate in the traffic in narcotics; his apprehension had led to the seizure of 2.4 tons of raw opium and 70 kgs. of morphine. The second case was that of one of the biggest clandestine producers of narcotic drugs in South-east Asia, who had been arrested in Thailand and accused of illegal entry; he had been handed over to the Burmese authorities by the Thai police on 2 August 1973. That arrest had struck a serious blow at the illicit traffic carried on by criminals of neighbouring countries. Finally, the third case was connected with caravans carrying opium and morphine which had penetrated into the north of the country; they were intercepted on 26 August 1973, and as a result 3.1 tons of opium were seized. That action by the frontier police brought about a considerable reduction in the heavy infiltration of narcotic drugs into Thailand.

Finally, he assured the Commission that every effort was being made in his country to fight against the global scourge of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, but he pointed out that the struggle was becoming ever more difficult because national and international traffickers constantly changed their methods of operation.

Mr. WITTSCHEN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that since 1972, drug addiction criminality, which had risen steadily since 1966, fortunately appeared to be levelling off. The problem had, however, lost none of its topicality, since 106 persons had died in the Federal Republic as a result of drug abuse in 1973.

In that year, 7,000 persons (as against 6,500 in 1972) had been convicted of trafficking in and smuggling of drugs in the Federal Republic of Germany. The reason for that rise was to be found in the fact that growing numbers of drug addicts also sold drugs themselves. Aliens played a decisive part in trafficking and smuggling owing to their international relations and contacts with the producing areas and natural drug trading centres.

In 1973, Customs and police authorities had seized 4,731 kg. of cannabis, 21 kg. of raw morphine, 15 kg. of heroin and 4 kg. of cocaine; the respective figures for 1973 were 6,114 kg, 163 kg, 3 kg. and 1.6 kg.

Cannabis was still the favourite drug, although the quantities seized had decreased. That might be explained by the fact that sizeable quantities which used to be brought into the Federal Republic of Germany by trucks were now unloaded beforehand and broken down into small lots, which were then carried in private motor cars.

The illicit traffic in heroin and cocaine seemed to be increasing and the trend towards the use of hard drugs becoming more pronounced. That situation called for concerted international action and the Customs and police authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany were therefore in constant close contact with foreign authorities.

Mr. FARAG (Egypt) pointed out, first of all, that his country did not produce narcotics and that it was concerned mainly with illicit traffic and the use of hashish and opium smuggled inside its frontiers. In general, users of hashish belonged to different social categories, while the majority of opium addicts were elderly persons mainly living in upper Egypt.

The battle against narcotics had to be waged on the production, smuggling and addiction fronts; the fight against production was the most effective, since it attacked the root of the evil; production could also be more easily controlled.

He was convinced that the United Nations and the countries concerned had the capacity and means to wage that struggle successfully, provided that there was co-operation between them. In that regard, he referred to the "Green Plan", which had been undertaken in Lebanon in 1966 with United Nations financial assistance for the purpose of eliminating Indian hemp cultivation and thus putting an end to one of the major sources of hashish production. Unfortunately, the large seizures of Lebanese hashish indicated that the plan had not achieved its target and should perhaps be re-evaluated with a view to increasing its effectiveness.

The Egyptian drug enforcement services were making greater efforts to counter the increased illicit traffic in hashish and opium. They had seized 10,858 kg. of hashish and 1,956 kg. of opium in 1972, the figures for 1973 being respectively 9,340 kg. and 425 kg. The seizures often involved large quantities of drugs, but the smugglers also imported smaller quantities by various means, such as concealing them in private motorcars or in food tins, or by arranging for them to be carried by diplomats or senior officials supposedly above suspicion. Men and women imported small quantities of opium (500 to 900 g.) concealed on their person. The smugglers had even gone so far as to conceal opium in grindstone mixtures.

Thanks to the efforts of the Egyptian drug enforcement services, it had been possible to break up several smuggling rings and to reduce the quantities of drugs smuggled into the country, thus leading to a rise in the price of drugs on the local market. Consumption of psychotropic substances as a substitute for hashish and opium recently seemed to have increased.

The Egyptian Government had established a service which undertook the rehabilitation of prison inmates both before and following their release and which sought to help their families to earn an honest living. The service had succeeded in treating 157 prisoners, 22 of whom had been convicted for narcotics offences.

As a result of the amendment of Egyptian narcotics legislation, cases involving narcotics smuggling were now dealt with by military courts. Furthermore, article 37 of the new Act on narcotics increased the period of institutional treatment of addicts.

The anti-narcotics services spared no effort to raise the technical standards of their members. Two police inspectors had attended the training course organized by the United Nations in 1973 and it was hoped that further United Nations assistance would be forthcoming in that respect. A training course in Cairo in the drug control techniques applied in Egypt was being attended by 126 police officers from Arab and African countries. In conclusion, he said that the Egyptian Government was co-operating by every possible means with the international organizations and States concerned with the suppression of the drug menace and that it was determined to carry the struggle to its conclusion.

Mr. BARTELS (United States of America), describing the measures taken by the United States Government to control the illicit traffic, said that a new government body - the Drug Enforcement Administration - had been created within the Department of

Justice in July 1973. The objective of the new organization, which had a force of 2,200 special agents, was to develop a comprehensive unified narcotic law enforcement programme, with strong support from an expanded intelligence element. At the same time, the Customs services were intensifying their action against smuggling through mobile tactical interdiction units instituted in strategic border areas. The international programmes of the various agencies were subject to the guidance of the President's Cabinet Committee for International Narcotics Control, which facilitated co-operation with the narcotics enforcement agencies of many countries; narcotics agents were also assigned to many embassies and consulates abroad. Such co-operation had produced excellent results, particularly with the police services in France and Canada, as well as with those of various Latin American countries, and in recent years had led to the seizure of sizable quantities of narcotics and the apprehension of hundreds of major international narcotic traffickers.

In addition to such co-operation, the United States had become increasingly involved in the training of enforcement personnel from other countries. Since 1970, more than 4,350 police officers representing 40 countries had attended over 60 courses and seminars organized abroad. Simultaneously, an intensive long-term training programme had been organized at Washington, D.C., for foreign police officials; the programme was particularly useful for newer countries, where narcotics problems had only recently emerged. There were similar training programmes for foreign Customs officers.

He wished to congratulate Dr. Braenden, Chief of the Laboratory of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, for the excellent work done in the field of forensic sciences. In that connexion, the United States Government was prepared to offer fellowships to United Nations fellows who had completed their training in that Laboratory.

With regard to the main categories of narcotics, it seemed that much progress had been made in dealing with the grave problem of heroin, which had become scarce in the United States, through the combined efforts of the Governments of Western Europe, and North and South America. The prohibition of the cultivation of the opium poppy in Turkey had greatly reduced the supply sources required for the production of illicit heroin in Europe. The enforcement services continued to be vigilant, however, since that dangerous substance continued to pose a threat, and only through intensified co-operation with the enforcement services of other countries could the ultimate goal of eliminating the illicit traffic be achieved. For example, the co-operation of several Latin American countries, which were used as a springboard for the despatch to the United States of large shipments of heroin illicitly manufactured in Marseilles from morphine originating in Turkey, had resulted in the prosecution of major traffickers. On 28 November 1973, President Nixon had demonstrated the importance which the United States attached to the question by stating that increased efforts would be made, firstly, to adapt narcotics control efforts to deal with the new patterns for smuggling drugs that would inevitably emerge as existing smuggling routes were cut off and, secondly, to persuade heroin addicts to enrol in treatment programmes.

Existing enforcement, education and training programmes should be strengthened by making the maximum use of the knowledge and resources of each country to counter the manoeuvres of illicit traffickers and to immobilize them. In particular, there must be a readiness to meet the potential challenges posed by the continued illicit opium cultivation in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mexico and South-east Asia. The available intelligence data revealed an increase in the percentage of brown heroin seized during the past year, which indicated that, notwithstanding the efforts of the Mexican

Government, the traffickers were able to smuggle in that type of heroin manufactured in Mexico. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration had also learned that 4,274 kg. of heroin manufactured at Marseilles had entered Mexico during the period 1968-1972. The United States Government furnished technical assistance and equipment to the Governments of Mexico, Thailand and Laos, with a view to helping them to carry out their programmes for the suppression of the illicit narcotics traffic. Afghanistan and Pakistan also received international assistance in their efforts to suppress that traffic.

During the past year, his Government had noted with concern the increase in the number of "poly-drug" abuse cases and the fact that heroin addicts were using other narcotics such as cocaine, hashish and liquid hashish. The steadily increasing traffic in and abuse of cocaine was a source of particular concern. A good start had been made in disrupting that traffic by the elimination of several clandestine cocaine laboratories in South America, the seizure of several hundred pounds of high-grade concaine and the arrest of major traffickers. The main source of that traffic was the largely uncontrolled cultivation of the coca bush in the Andean region. Consequently, as a first step, all countries which had not yet done so might be urged to ratify the 1961 Convention, which provided for a strict system of control over the cultivation of the coca bush. Hashish continued to be smuggled into the United States from Morocco, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal, and marijuana from Mexico, Jamaica and Colombia. On 30 October 1973, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration had seized 538 kg. of hashish from Lebanon. Attention should also be drawn to the increase in the traffic in hashish oil, which was particularly profitable for the traffickers. There, too, the remedy would be to urge the States parties to the 1961 Convention to apply strictly the provisions of its article 28 (Control of cannabis). The principal source of illicit barbiturates and amphetamines in the United States during the 1960s was diversion from manufacture and distribution lines, sometimes with the complicity of legitimate firms. An example of current efforts to suppress the "poly-drug" traffic was "Operation Blackjack", which had been initiated in 1971 and had revealed that a Mexican subsidiary of the Penmalt Corporation manufactured an amphetamine-base product, which was then smuggled into the United States across the Mexican border. It had been estimated that approximately 12 to 15 million dosage units of that product were being smuggled into the United States annually. Investigations carried out from 1970 to 1972 had made it possible to seize or purchase a total of 7,670,000 dosage units of European secobarbital which had been shipped through Mexico, where it had been encapsulated. In 1971, amphetamine had been placed in the same schedule as narcotic drugs and had thus been made subject to the same production quotas and control measures. Since then, there had been no exports of that drug from the United States. Over 27 million dosage units of amphetamine and methamphetamine had been seized by the United States control authorities since April 1970 and 8 million dosage units by the Mexican Federal Police, which was co-operating closely with the United States in that connexion.

Furthermore, legislation enacted in the United States in 1970 had led to a decline in amphetamine production, which had fallen in 1973-1974 to less than 10 per cent of the amount produced in 1969-1970, and had reduced the opportunities for diversion for illicit purposes.

The void thus created had, however, been filled by the manufacture of tablets and capsules in Mexico from bulk materials imported from Europe. The United States enforcement authorities had established contacts with their European counterparts, with a view to determining the legitimate distribution of amphetamines, short-acting barbiturates and methaqualone, a substance whose consumption had been increasing rapidly and which had been under more stringent controls in the United States since November 1973.

Available information showed that effective controls over international trade in stimulant and depressant drugs would greatly decrease their availability to the illicit market in the United States. It was necessary to bear in mind, however, that new drugs which were not subject to international control, such as anorectics and sedatives, could replace the traditional substances, and developments in that field should be followed, in order to prevent the indiscriminate distribution of those types of pharmaceutical substances. It was also necessary to watch closely the activities of traffickers who sought to increase the use among young persons of amphetamines and barbiturates, which were low in cost.

In conclusion, positive results had been achieved in combating the illicit traffic, as was shown by the reduction in the number of heroin addicts. Those results should encourage the international community to continue its efforts to fight the threat of the illicit traffic and drug abuse on all fronts.

Mr. KELLY (Australia) said that cannabis was the major drug of abuse available on the illicit market in Australia and that seizures in 1972 indicated an increase of almost 400 per cent over the previous year. The most significant feature of the increase was the number of seizures involving cannabis resin (hashish) and liquid cannabis (hashoil), which were very easy to transport and conceal. Traffickers were making increasing use of sea cargo transport and sometimes chartered small boats and light aircraft to import cannabis illicitly into the comparatively uninhabited northern seaboard of Australia. All wild growth of cannabis was eradicated but illicit cultivation continued and 1,121 kg. had been seized between January and June 1973. The most disturbing factor was that traffickers who had traditionally handled cannabis were now dealing in heroin and there was a danger that cannabis users would become exposed to heroin.

LSD and similar substances continued to be the drugs of choice for many addicts in Australia, although their popularity appeared to be declining. No local production of LSD or other hallucinogens had been reported. Very few cases of abuse of organic hallucinogens (psilocybine and mescaline) had occurred in 1972.

Stricter control over the storage of drugs had considerably reduced drug thefts from pharmacies but certain drugs were still being diverted from hospitals or obtained by forged prescriptions. The number of amateur and semi-professional traffickers was increasing and the Australian Government had therefore strengthened its enforcement efforts.

The measures used by the enforcement bodies were traditional but incorporated the most recent technical aids. For five years the Australian services had, for example, been using a special monitoring system which recorded data by computer on the manufacture, distribution and destruction of drugs covered by the 1961 Convention.

The system had recently been refined in order to control the movement of drugs between manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, and unusually large purchases by retail outlets. Use was made of production batch numbers, which provided a comparison of the amounts of controlled substances used in the preparations with the amount of base drug contained in the subsequent yields. In 1974, there would be a further introduction of computerization, specifically to add to the information and intelligence resources of narcotics law enforcement personnel in Australia.

Concerted efforts by the international community had led to more effective application of control legislation, as illustrated by the successful joint operation by narcotics officers from Singapore, Malaysia, the United States of America and Australia, which had resulted in the recovery of a large quantity of high-grade heroin and the arrest of a major group of traffickers operating throughout South-east Asia. A similar operation, in which Indonesian police officers and agents of the Australian Bureau of Narcotics had taken part, had led to the arrest of a group of Australian and Indonesian nationals who were trafficking in the leaf and liquid forms of cannabis. His delegation believed that a great deal could be done by close and zealous co-operation between drug enforcement authorities of various countries.

Mr. KENDALL (International Criminal Police Organization) said that the observations made in the review submitted by the Secretariat agreed substantially with the findings of ICPO/INTERPOL for the period under review. The Commission might, however, be interested in having some indication of the trends noted since 1971-1972. As the Division of Narcotic Drugs had indicated, seizures of opium had almost doubled owing to the large quantities seized in the Far East, particularly in Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam.

It could safely be said with regard to morphine and heroin that the illicit traffic into Europe and the United States of America had been greatly affected by the suppression of opium poppy cultivation in Turkey after 1972. Seizures of morphine base of Turkish origin continued, but in diminishing quantities, and intelligence information indicated that morphine base was in short supply, a fact which accounted for the drastic reduction in the quantities of heroin seized in France and North America.

It appeared from more recent information, however, that the European and American-based traffickers were regrouping and looking for other sources of supply. The result was the appearance on the European market of increasing quantities of heroin of Far Eastern origin transported by ethnic Chinese with contacts in Europe and the Far East.

In the latter half of 1973 there had been an increase in the quantities of cocaine seized in North America and in Europe. The figures had been double those for 1972, which indicated that the traffickers were trying to compensate for the lack of heroin by importing increased amounts of cocaine.

Traffic in liquid hashish from Afghanistan, Lebanon and Morocco had become very widespread, because the substance was so potent that it was highly profitable to traffickers. In 1973, 250 g of liquid hashish had been sold in the United States for \$3,000. Seizures in 1973 had amounted to 327 kg, which, in terms of the marijuana needed to produce it, amounted to about 6 tons.

There continued to be a heavy illicit traffic in cannabis, but there had been a reduction in the use of LSD.

Mr. ORAKZAI (Pakistan) said that the Pakistan Government had made a strenuous effort to combat the illicit drug traffic since the twenty-fifth session of the Commission. The special administration set up pursuant to article 17 of the 1961 Convention had been reorganized in March 1973 with the title of Pakistan Narcotics Control Board. The task of the new Board was not only to co-ordinate the activities of enforcement agencies but also to control those activities and to initiate action in the field of narcotics in general. The Board, which received a substantial budgetary allocation, had its headquarters in the capital of Pakistan and a staff of over 1000, which demonstrated the importance attached by the Pakistan Government to the work of narcotics control. The Government believed that the problem should be tackled in all its aspects, especially in respect of production, traffic and demand. It was therefore tapping all available resources through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, and an agreement had already been signed between the Governments of Pakistan and the United States of America for the supply of transport and telecommunications equipment for 25 field investigation units. Those units were being established at strategic points throughout the country, especially on borders, the sea coast and international smuggling routes. Pakistan greatly appreciated the fact that the Government of the United States was arranging short in-country courses for the officers of those units, which, when fully equipped, would undoubtedly make an important contribution to the control of the illicit traffic.

The Board had adopted measures to intensify and co-ordinate the activities of existing agencies in Pakistan and was organizing a country-wide intelligence network. Through that network, the Board had collected a mass of information on all stages of the illicit traffic (contacts, smugglers, carriers, financing, etc.). The Intelligence Directorate had established links with the corresponding services in other countries, with which it was co-operating in the exchange of information and operational intelligence.

The Board also attached great importance to publicity and public education and was making efforts on three fronts in that respect; (a) wide publicity for action against the illicit traffic, in order to make drug traffickers aware of the hazards they faced; (b) education of specific sectors of society, such as students, labourers, and growers and producers of narcotic substances; (c) an effort to persuade producers of narcotic drugs to turn to other crops or other economic activities.

Those measures were already producing gratifying results. Seizures of opium and cannabis resin had been, respectively, almost twice and six times the quantities seized in 1972; about 9 tons of cannabis resin had been seized on one occasion and the record quantity of 110 kg. of liquid hashish on another.

A comprehensive law on narcotics administration was being drafted. It would strengthen the existing penalties for illicit trafficking offences and would cover all aspects of narcotics and other dangerous drugs: production, distribution, use, abuse, sale and traffic, as well as the registration, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. The provincial governments had already taken measures to amend their laws on those lines.

The Board was formulating plans to persuade opium poppy growers to take up other activities. That was an extremely complicated matter which could be tackled only as a long-term objective. It was a truly revolutionary step which entailed the readjustment

of the way of life of a large proportion of a community traditionally engaged in opium poppy cultivation. It had human as well as economic aspects and, in tackling it, due regard had to be paid to local customs. The Pakistan Government was, however, aware of its international treaty obligations and was taking every measure compatible with the circumstances and its resources to eliminate opium production altogether as soon as possible. That colossal task, which involved a complete reorientation of economic life in the poppy-growing areas, required large-scale projects to provide alternative means of livelihood for the growers. The Pakistan Government had already approached the United States Government and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control for assistance, and it was hoped that a programme for phasing out opium poppy cultivation for non-medical purposes would soon be completed. At the local level, the existing system of distribution of opium for quasi-medical purposes, established under the reservation provided for in article 49 of the 1961 Convention, was being replaced by measures to dispense opium on medical prescription only. Those measures entailed the establishment of treatment and rehabilitation centres for addicts not only to opium and cannabis - the local products - but to "hard" drugs, the abuse of which was increasing. The Government was discussing the matter with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, WHO and the ILO, which were widely experienced in that field and could give extremely useful assistance.

The Pakistan Government was also greatly influenced in its planning by the recommendations made in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Illicit Traffic in the Near and Middle East to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its twenty-fifth session. 2/

Mr. JASJIT SINGH (India) drew the Commission's attention to paragraphs 8 and 9 of document E/CN.7/564. The increase in drug abuse called for increased vigilance. India had strengthened its enforcement services with good results, as was demonstrated by the large quantities of opium seized in the last two years - 8.7 tons in 1972 and 5.5 tons in 1971. It therefore intended to pursue its efforts in that respect, but measures of control were not always enough by themselves to reduce the drug traffic, as demand and many other highly complex factors also had to be taken into account. In 1973, India had extended the poppy-growing area, in order to make larger quantities of opium available for medical and scientific purposes. It ensured, however, that the new crop areas were closely controlled, and had taken steps to train the necessary supervisory staff. Furthermore, under Indian penal law, severe penalties were imposed on drug traffickers.

He thought that the expression "from further east" used in paragraph 48 of document E/CN.7/564 was much too vague, and that more information should be obtained about the origin and destination of the drugs passing through Turkey in transit. He also thought that paragraph 65 was inaccurate in part; although there had certainly been seizures of cannabis, there had not to his knowledge been any seizure of Indian opium in the United Arab Emirates. The two drugs should not be classified together for the sake of brevity.

Mr. TOMALTY (Canada) said that drug abuse and illicit traffic in narcotic and other drugs continued to increase in Canada and constituted one of the country's major social problems. The majority of illicit drugs sold in Canada at the present time were smuggled from some other source or transit country. Canada was a victim of the international illicit drug traffic; because of its proximity to the United States of America and its long common border with that country, it often served as a transit country for large shipments of drugs destined for the illicit market in the United States.

The heroin problem constituted the most serious part of Canada's multi-drug problem. The number of persons addicted to heroin continued to increase and appeared at present to be between 16,000 and 19,000. Until recently, Europe had been Canada's major source of heroin. However, a decrease had been noted during the past year in the flow of illicit heroin from Europe and an increase in the amount of that drug entering the country from South-east Asia. Two important factors appeared to have contributed to the decrease in imports from Europe: firstly, the close co-operation and concerted action of Canadian, French and United States police forces, as a result of which many major international traffickers had been arrested and large amounts of illicit heroin seized; and, secondly, the reduction in the availability of opium and morphine base resulting from the Turkish Government's ban on opium production. The Canadian Government welcomed the Turkish Government's humanitarian effort, but did not wish to give the impression that the flow of illicit heroin from Europe had stopped completely. An increase in activity had recently been observed among Canadian drug traffickers, who had established contacts in Italy and the Netherlands. It was to be hoped that, as a result of concerted action by Canadian authorities and Italian and Dutch police forces, those sources of supply would soon be curtailed.

The drug most widely abused in Canada at present was cannabis. In the first nine months of 1973, approximately 8,200 kg. of marijuana, 2,200 kg. of hashish and 30 kg. of liquid cannabis had been seized. The marijuana was smuggled mainly from Mexico and Jamaica, while the hashish originated in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. The hashish shipments confiscated by the Canadian authorities were increasing in number and size, and it was now not uncommon for the police to seize hashish in shipments of 1,000 kg. The traffic in hashish, which until recently had been operated by young "hippies", was now moving into the hands of organized traffickers. He believed that if the international smuggling of hashish was to be reduced, the source countries would have to follow the Turkish example, not only by banning the production of hashish but also by enforcing the ban. Control at source and international enforcement co-operation were, in his opinion, the two best ways of reducing the illicit drug traffic.

The abuse of cocaine had become a significant problem in Canada. Although the illicit traffic in cocaine was limited in comparison with the traffic in other drugs such as heroin and cannabis, there had been a sharp increase in cocaine addiction and seizures of cocaine from South America passing through Canada on the way to the United States or Europe were becoming more and more frequent.

In addition to the illicit traffic in heroin, cannabis and cocaine, Canada also had a very serious problem involving the abuse of chemicals such as methamphetamine (speed), MDA (4-methylenedioxyamphetamine) and other related drugs. The comparative ease with which those drugs could be illegally manufactured explained the existence of a number of clandestine laboratories in Canada. Six such laboratories had been discovered in 1973 and 1,000 kg. of MDA, the sale of which would have realized about \$10 million, had been seized in one of them.

With regard to the future, the Canadian Government did not anticipate any interruption in the flow of heroin from South-east Asia. It was also seriously concerned at the rapid growth of the illicit traffic in cocaine. Moreover, it was convinced that cannabis in all its forms, especially the more concentrated forms of hashish and liquid hashish, would remain in abundant supply unless the source countries could reduce production. The best weapons for the suppression of illicit drug traffic were the diligence and honesty of domestic law enforcement agencies and mutual co-operation between nations.

Mr. RIVERA SANTANDER (Peru) said that his country, recognizing that the population's mental and physical health was an essential condition of its well-being, had reorganized its mental health services on the basis of a 25-year national plan, for the preparation and execution of which it had sought the technical co-operation of various international bodies. The Ministry of Health, seriously concerned by drug abuse and, in particular, by the coca leaf problem, had asked INCB to send a mission, which had visited Lima in February 1973 and had resulted in the establishment of a multi-disciplinary commission formed of representatives of the ministries of health, the interior (police), agriculture, education, trade and industry. The Peruvian Government was aware of the scope, complexity and cost of the commission's principal objective - eradication of the coca leaf - and needed external aid, both technical and financial, in order to achieve it.

In accordance with the provisions of the 1961 Convention and of the legal measures taken to combat the illicit drug traffic in Peru, the Peruvian police had, in 1973, seized 305 kg. of raw cocaine (including 130 kg. in a single operation), 24 kg. of cocaine hydrochloride, 623 kg. of marijuana and 6 kg. of raw opium. The police had also arrested 203 traffickers, 85 of whom had been carrying raw cocaine, 62 cocaine hydrochloride, 45 marijuana, 1 opium, and 10 other drugs. Furthermore, 12 clandestine laboratories manufacturing cocaine hydrochloride and 43 laboratories manufacturing raw cocaine had been discovered. Those results could not have been achieved without the technical collaboration of the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, ICPO/INTERPOL and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Mr. CASTRO Y CASTRO (Mexico) said that the Mexican Government, conscious of its international obligations, had organized a permanent campaign for the eradication of opium poppy and marijuana plantations, and that the illicit traffic in other drugs was the subject of systematic prosecutions in the courts. The eradication campaign, directed by the Attorney-General of the Republic, was being carried out by the federal criminal investigation department with the help of state and municipal police forces. Operations were taking place in remote regions, particularly in the western Sierra Madre. Plantations were detected from aircraft and helicopters, 26 machines now being engaged in that work. After being discovered, the illicit crops were burnt and those responsible were arrested and tried. Between 1 January and 7 February 1974, the campaign had resulted in the destruction of marijuana plantations covering a total area of 4,923,743 m², the seizure of 511 kg. of the plant, the burning of 333 kg. of dried cannabis, the seizure of 105 kg. of cannabis seed and the confiscation of 23 kg. of hashish. Furthermore, 1,048 poppy plants had been destroyed and 515 g. of poppy seed, 2,735 g. of raw opium, 325 g. of morphine and 8,537 g. of heroin had been seized. Cocaine seizures amounted to a total of 15,935 g. With regard to psychotropic substances, 23,040 toxic tablets (barbiturates and amphetamines), 897 doses of LSD-25 and 300 g. of peyotl had been seized. The judicial authorities had prosecuted 323 Mexican nationals and 58 aliens. 497 persons had been expelled,

of whom 95.8 per cent had been nationals of American countries and 4.2 per cent of European countries. Furthermore, 4 clandestine laboratories manufacturing heroin had been discovered. Those successes had been achieved by means of bilateral agreements with the United States and Canadian authorities.

The Mexican delegation considered that Governments should continue to take energetic action to oppose the illicit production of drugs and impose severe penalties on the culprits. All those efforts, however, would be futile unless the demand was reduced by fighting the pernicious ideas which had led to the drug pseudo-culture.

Mr. MOTOHASHI (Japan) said that the number of drug offences, which had diminished in Japan in recent years, had again shown a slight increase in 1972 and 1973. The number of persons charged with drug offences between January and September 1973 has been 1,152, including 252 cases involving heroin and 52 involving LSD, which the Japanese Government had prohibited in 1970. The quantities of LSD seized were increasing every year (13,937 tablets in 1973 as against 4,210 tablets in 1972). The illicit traffic in cannabis was also growing yearly, 534 persons having been arrested between January and September 1973 for offences in connexion with that drug.

With regard to stimulants, such as amphetamines, whose use had spread rapidly after the war until it had become a real social evil, the number of offences, which had decreased sharply following the intensified measures taken under the 1951 stimulant control law (207 persons arrested in 1958 as against 55,664 in 1954) had increased appreciably since 1970, 7,000 persons having been arrested between January and September 1973. Larger quantities of stimulants coming from Korea and more recently from Hong Kong had also been seized. The stimulant control law had been amended on 15 October 1973 and the maximum sentence was now life imprisonment, while the raw materials of stimulant drugs, such as ephedrine and methyl-ephedrine, had been placed under more stringent control.

Mr. DOBRESCU (Romania) announced that Romania had acceded to the 1961 Convention and to the 1972 Protocol. It had also become a member of ICPO/INTERPOL. In 1972, the illicit drug traffic in Romania had been smaller than in the preceding year; only a few kilogrammes of cannabis had been seized, whereas the figure for 1971 had been 160 kg.

Mr. SERRATE AGUILERA (Observer for Bolivia), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that his country was fully aware of the grave social and economic problems raised by the traditional cultivation of the coca plant, the sale and chewing of the coca leaf, and the clandestine manufacture of and illicit traffic in cocaine. In order to bring about a speedy solution to that problem, the Bolivian Government had set up an inter-ministerial commission to draw up a programme aimed at reducing the supply of and demand for coca leaf and suppressing the clandestine manufacture of and illicit traffic in cocaine. In October 1973, that commission's work had resulted in the promulgation of a law on the control of narcotics and dangerous drugs and in the organization of the necessary measures for its application. The problem was a complex one, calling for the implementation of extensive programmes and in particular, for the gradual replacement of coca bush cultivation by other remunerative agricultural activities. Such measures must be accompanied by intensive educational action to induce the population of the Andes to give up the practice of coca-leaf chewing.

Realizing the limits of its financial and technical resources, the Bolivian Government intended to request the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and other international bodies for co-operation in the execution of those costly programmes, which would enable it to discharge its obligations under the relevant international agreements. In that connexion, he expressed his Government's gratitude to INCB for sending a mission of experts to Bolivia, as well as for the regional programmes for combating the illicit drug traffic which had been carried out.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) congratulated the Secretariat on its excellent review of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during 1971 and 1972. Paragraph 8 was the only one which, in his opinion, was not very clear and contained two contradictory ideas.

In Yugoslavia, the quantities of opium, morphine and cocaine seized during the past three years had decreased, 19 kg. of opium having been seized in 1972 as against 43 kg. in 1971 and 154 in 1970, 4 kg. of morphine in 1972 as against 23 kg. in 1970, and no cocaine in 1972 and 1973 as against 153 g. in 1971. On the other hand, the quantities of cannabis seized had increased, amounting to 707 kg. in 1972 as against 546 kg. in 1971 and 667 kg. in 1970. Those figures appeared to indicate that cannabis was beginning to pass through Yugoslavia - which was a transit country for drug traffic - in large amounts. His country's situation was further complicated by the fact that it was also a tourist country and that the influx of tourists at certain times of the year was such that very strict control was extremely difficult.

He asked the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany whether the seizure of poppy straw to which he had referred was really connected with illicit trafficking. If so, it would be the first time that such was the case.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.