

# UPDATE



**UN ACTION AGAINST  
TERRORISM**

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# ❖ Clamping down on corruption



© International Monetary Fund

United Nations member countries have decided to forge a new, legally binding international convention against corruption. At a July conference in Vienna, representatives of 95 States agreed on terms of reference for such a convention, as set forth in a draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly during its current session.

The approved draft would have the Assembly voice concern about the seriousness of the problems posed by corruption “which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development”.

The Assembly would also authorize a specially established committee to complete a draft convention by the end of 2003. The treaty, as envisaged, would address many aspects of the problem including preventive measures, criminalization, sanctions and remedies. The drafters would be asked to consider provisions on jurisdiction, seizures, protection of witnesses, transfer of illicitly obtained funds abroad, return of such funds and a range of international cooperation measures.

While a number of multilateral arrangements and non-binding international declarations are already in place no such comprehensive instrument with force of international law presently exists.

“It is tempting to say that corruption is simply part of the landscape of human society,” commented the Executive Director of ODCCP. In opening remarks to participants, Mr. Pino Arlacchi pointed out that amounts involved in recent cases were at levels that “defy imagination”. He cited one case in which a head of state had stolen as much as US\$5 billion and another in which 17 per cent of the national budget went to pay the salary of the leader.

Once the Assembly gives the go-ahead, an ad-hoc drafting committee will hold at least three two-week sessions in Vienna over the next two years to complete a text.

#### ❖ BRIEFING:

Member States agree on terms for an international convention against corruption.

# ❖ Universal Postal Union and UNDCP target drug trafficking through the mail

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and UNDCP recently initiated a two-year joint programme that will focus particular attention on drug trafficking through the international mail in Africa. The project also involves the participation of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

## Drug gateways to the world

African countries have increasingly become the target of trafficking groups and a popular transit point for the shipment of drugs such as cocaine and heroin. The increased inflow of narcotics, and the consequent leakage of drugs from consignments passing through the region, is helping to fuel a growing local consumer demand.

INTERPOL statistics show that over an 18-month period more than 300 kilograms of cocaine destined for 23 African States were identified. INTERPOL's *1999 Report on Trends and Patterns of Illicit Drug Traffic* states that Africa has become a transit point for cocaine

from South America destined both for domestic consumption and for onward shipment to European countries, mainly through the use of postal and other delivery services. Money laundering operations also use postal money orders as a way to clean their profits from drug trafficking.

The UPU/UNDCP project focuses on a number of high risk countries that are already engaged in complementary law enforcement programmes with UNDCP. Six countries each—in Arabic, English and French speaking Africa—will receive assistance under the project.

The UPU has been active in Africa over the last decade providing assistance to improve the security of international mail by improving mail processing operations and security at mail facilities, airports and collection centers. Recent events include a West African Fraud meeting held in Ghana, airport security reviews in South Africa and Kenya, and a regional training course for airport security coordinators and dangerous goods awareness held in South Africa.

The UNDCP-UPU alliance will establish cooperative agreements between national post, customs and police services and work towards similar understanding between public and private courier

companies. It will also work with law enforcement and mail services to upgrade their abilities to detect and intercept illegal drugs as they enter a country.

## Project implementation

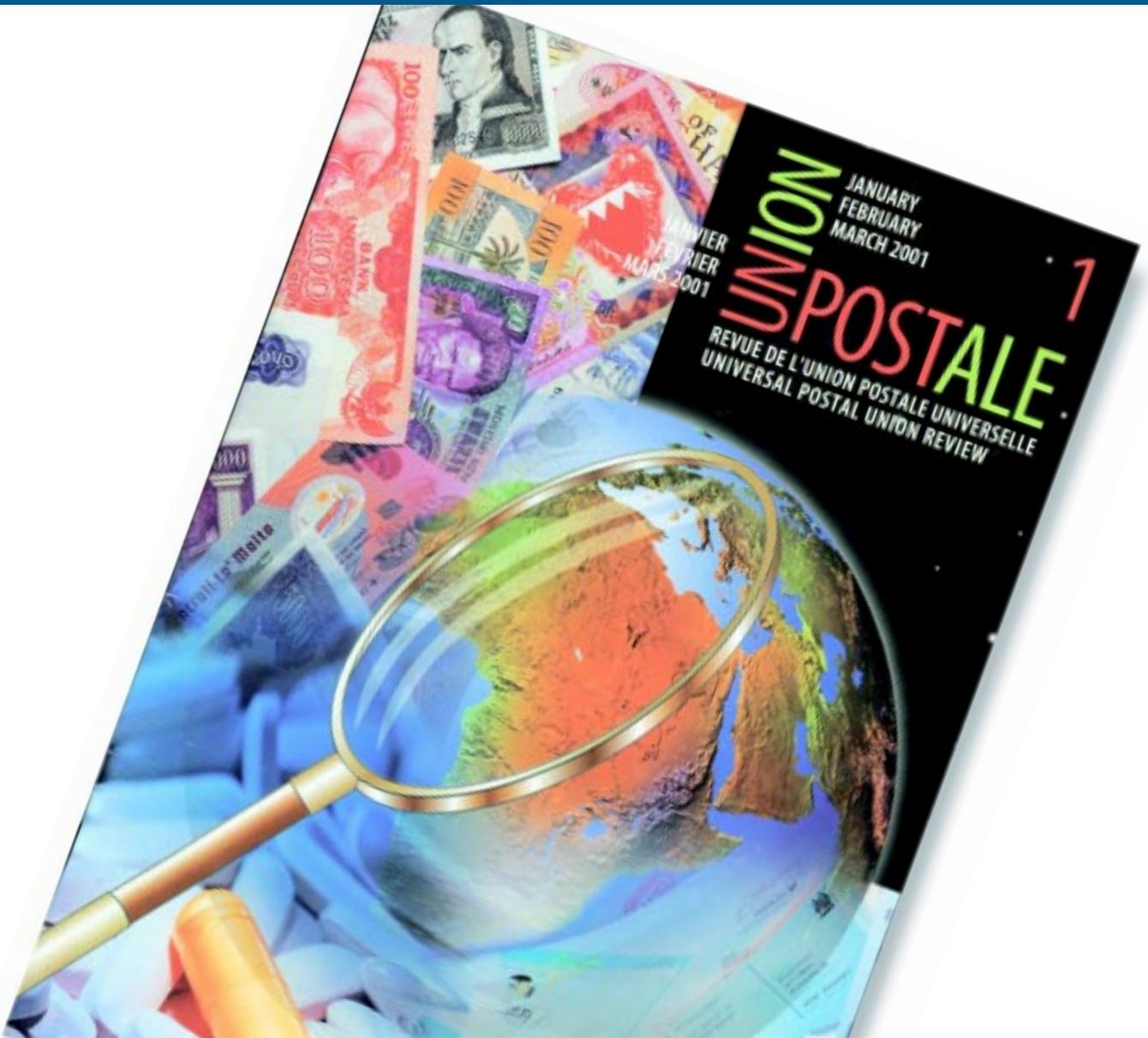
The UPU oversees the implementation of the project and manages the budget with regular progress reports to UNDCP. In-country workshops involving senior postal officials, customs and police officers will set priorities and define specific needs. Workshops for front-line postal, police and customs staff directly involved in daily mail operations and drug investigations will follow.

## Be aware of the West African Fraud scam!

West African Fraud schemes have become a major problem for postal services across the world. Over the last few years, individuals and businesses throughout the world have lost huge amounts of money from thieves using fake letters purporting to be from government officials in Nigeria who claim they want to move millions of dollars out of their country. Often using counterfeit postage or bogus postmarks from other countries, the letters seek personal information and cooperation in moving the money out of Nigeria in exchange

### ❖ BRIEFING:

UNDCP and UPU join to combat the abuse of the postal service for the illegal dispatch of drugs.



for a share of the funds. New, more enterprising scams are continuously discovered, such as the mailing of counterfeit cheques with a promise of more money to follow once the addressees provide their personal and bank information. These scam artists are also increasingly using the fax and Internet.

UPU's West African Fraud Working Group has helped postal administrations combine their forces in fighting this common problem. Over 18 million of these letters with bogus postage have been intercepted and seized in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Nigeria, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States since the initiative began.

*Article courtesy of UPU adapted and reproduced with UPU's agreement*

### ***Dateline: Germany, 8 November 2000***

Security officials at Frankfurt International Airport confiscate 450 grams of cocaine concealed in a postal parcel sent from Sao Paulo, Brazil to an address in Cape Verde, West Africa.

### ***Dateline: Japan, 9 August 2000***

Customs officers at Osaka Overseas Mail Office seize 6 kg of herbal cannabis from an EMS postal package mailed from Korea.

### ***Dateline: Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, 18 July 2000***

Security officials in Kalishta, Struga found 230 grams of cocaine in a postal parcel that originated in Ecuador and that was addressed to a 10-year-old child.

# Interview with Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden

“We have to look at what makes young people take drugs. I think it is curiosity, peer pressure and aggressive advertising. This causes a change in young people’s minds”



Photo credit: M. El Adawy / A. de Leon

Interview conducted at the Royal Palace in Stockholm by C. Rahmy.

Queen Silvia is honorary member of the Mentor Foundation and founder of the World Childhood Foundation. Through her work and support to these organizations, thousands of children all over the world have benefited from drug abuse prevention activities.

**Your Majesty, what motivated you to become involved in drug abuse prevention work?**

When I was a student in Munich in the 1970s, I remember the feeling of not being able to do anything to prevent students from becoming involved with drugs. I saw first-hand the kind of suffering drug abuse can inflict upon families. Later, in Sweden during the 1980s, the situation accelerated. Drug abuse and drugs entering Europe started to get worse. After the fall of the Soviet Union, drugs became more widely available. In 1993 two members from the World Health Organization approached me with the idea to establish a foundation to work against drug abuse so I became involved and the Mentor Foundation was established in 1994 in order to prevent young people from getting involved with drugs.

**From your experience, what puts children and young people at risk of taking drugs?**

We have to look at what makes young people take drugs. I think it is curiosity, peer pressure, but also the advertisement for taking drugs is much more aggressive today. This causes a change in young people’s minds. Drugs are mentioned in popular music and are implicit in fashion commercials targeted at them. Drugs are even coated on the back of attractive small stamps that children unknowingly collect and this shows the diabolic means by which drugs are being promoted. There was a time when youngsters in Sweden were healthier, more interested in sports and the outdoors. But I think this has changed, the attitude has changed and this puts them at risk.

**In comparison with other European Union countries, Sweden has a relatively low drug abuse prevalence rate. What are the reasons behind this success?**

In the 1960s and 1970s Sweden's policy was considered quite "liberal". Doctors could prescribe drugs to addicts. This was done to decrease the criminality associated with heavy drug abusers. However, it slowly became clear that this "liberal" attitude encouraged organized crime in Sweden. The Swedish government became more rigorous with its drug possession sentencing. At the same time, drug abusers were offered the opportunity to rehabilitate themselves. In Sweden, this is considered a very important part of breaking the cycle of drug abuse. Youngsters—some of them too young to go to prison—went to special farms, or collectives, where they worked on their problems. The Government put a lot of effort into saving these young people. While you could say that by comparison the drug abuse situation has stabilized, the attitude of Swedes has changed and the availability of drugs has actually increased.

**How does the Mentor Foundation promote drug abuse prevention among youth?**

Mentor is a private foundation with projects in Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States and plans to open in Hong Kong SAR and Brazil. Each country has its own programme. In Sweden we have a programme called React involving 700 schools. We distribute information materials, videotapes and booklets and encourage teachers to work with the students and their parents. For example students are shown a film of a normal family in which the kids tell their parents they are going out but will not drink or get involved with drugs, however, that is exactly what they do. Then a group discussion takes place and later the class is requested to make their own film about drugs and the best ways to transmit their anti-drug messages to their peers. They do research—and in the process learn about the dangers of drug abuse and how it could affect their body. A jury chooses the best film which is then given to a famous film producer for a remake and is shown on TV stations and cinemas across Sweden. This is a great motivation for the youngsters.

Another project is called Mentoring. It designates employees from one of our co-founders, a large Swedish Bank, to act as mentors for children from a broken home and without a father figure. This is a new project and is proving to be successful and we hope to be able to replicate it in other businesses.

**You called the establishment of the World Childhood Foundation the result of a big dream and a lot of hard work. How is the foundation involved in substance abuse prevention work?**

While Mentor deals with drug abuse prevention directly, the World Childhood Foundation provides assistance to children in dire circumstances. In Brazil we have 12 projects working in the slums, with poor families and street children. The mafia in the drug trade uses some of the children in these poor districts. They are exposed to drugs and resort to sniffing glue as an escape. By taking care of these children, helping to relieve their pain, hunger and loneliness, we may be able to save some of them from drug abuse.

After only two years, the Childhood Foundation now has 37 projects in different parts of the world. Besides Brazil, this includes: Ecuador, Eastern Europe, the Baltics, Kosovo, Russian Federation, and smaller projects in the United States and Sweden.

Several of our co-founders are large American, Swedish and German companies who wanted to expand their assistance in the social sector. Our collaboration with the business community parallels the work of the United Nations Global Compact in which businesses around the world harness their creative forces to help the more disadvantaged.

**How can the working relationship between governments and non-governmental organizations contribute towards greater success in dealing with drug addiction problems?**

Of course it is important to try to help people who have a drug abuse problem. This is hard work, but what is equally important is to try to give addicts a new future. That is why in Sweden, once an individual is clean, the government helps them to relocate to a new city, finds them a job and a place to live away from their old environment. They are assigned a contact person who follows their progress, counsels them when in need and helps them adapt to their new situation. NGOs play a significant role in the process. For example, one NGO, financed by the government of Sweden, offers recovering drug addicts an opportunity to live on a farm with their family in order to rehabilitate and build up their family life again. Sometimes they need half a year, sometimes a year and sometimes longer. Of course this is very expensive, but the long-term savings are significant.



# A drug free environme



“We try to focus on the children and adolescents of today, as avoiding the same violations and drug abuse problems tom

**Defensoría** social worker in La Paz.

# nt-a child's right?



Photo credit: S. Bertrame

UNDCP and UNICEF are working together to promote the rights of children by strengthening Bolivia's 204 Municipal Ombudsman Offices—the “Defensorías”—which the municipalities established in 1995.

The *Defensorías* promote and protect the rights of children and adolescents in the local community. They deal with claims from children and adolescents, as well as family members or neighbours, who have witnessed violation of a child's rights at home, in school or anywhere else in the community. Typical examples of such cases are physical and psychological abuse of children in homes with abuse of alcohol and drugs as well as working children being denied their rights.

The project is a vehicle for the two United Nations agencies to dovetail their mandates while supporting the Bolivian government's objective of establishing strong institutions capable of complying with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which also includes the issue of drug abuse prevention.

National Programme Officer María Ester Arze, of UNICEF Bolivia highlighted the connection, “*The perception of staff at the Defensorías, as well as of other institutions and the public at large, is that work in the area of drug abuse prevention must be seen as an integral part of the issue surrounding the rights of minors. This perspective mutually strengthens the comprehension and application of drug abuse prevention in connection with children's rights.*”

The issues of drug and alcohol abuse and the violation of children's basic rights are interrelated. A psychologist working in one of the *Defensoría* field offices explained, “*The majority of registered cases*

*deals with physical violence. Many of these cases are related to drug and alcohol abuse within the family, causing instability in the home and neglect of the basic needs of children.*”

The *Defensorías* have proven their capacity to respond to the needs of children and youngsters. Almost 50 per cent of the Bolivian population is under the age of 18 and are all too often deprived of their rights. This abuse stems from Bolivia's high rate of poverty, but is also due to the dominant adult-oriented culture of Bolivian society.

“*It is difficult to change the mentality of adults since this requires a cultural shift within society,*” a social worker at a *Defensoría* in the capital La Paz said. *As we know, violence and child neglect tend to be repeated when experienced during one's own childhood. Once children are aware of their rights and the means of protecting and implementing them with the help of the Defensorías, they can in turn, change the attitude or behaviour of those around them to ensure that their rights are respected.*”

The United Nations support of the *Defensorías* system is sending an important message to the Bolivian public about drug abuse prevention and children's rights. The Bolivian Government has requested that UNDCP and UNICEF continue their technical assistance to the *Defensorías*. A second phase of the project is under preparation.

#### ❖ BRIEFING:

Since 1997 UNDCP and UNICEF are cooperating to promote the rights of children including that of preventing drug abuse among minors.

a way of  
orrow.”

# United Nations action against terrorism

“One man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter” was a common refrain prior to 11 September 2001. There was little consensus on how to define terrorism. The attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. are forcing a new world view on terrorism.

A precise definition is one of the priorities in the current discussions on a Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism. However, other vexing questions remain, such as: should acts of the armed forces of Member States also fall under the conventions, e.g. the one against Nuclear Terrorism?

The United Nations has wrestled with the definition question since the 1972 attack at the Munich Olympic Games. Two camps emerged: those who thought that the United Nations should primarily concentrate on dealing with the causes of terrorism and those who wanted to outlaw specific acts like hostage taking or the theft of nuclear materials, no matter what caused them.

Thirty years later there are 12 international conventions relating to terrorism but an explicit definition is still missing, as is a strong supervisory board to monitor the implementation of treaty obligations. An Additional Protocol could fill this void.

Security Council Resolution 1373 gives more teeth to the convention for the Suppression of the Financing of International Terrorism because it falls under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, making many of its provisions mandatory for all United Nations Member States. The Security Council has also established a Counter Terrorism Committee to monitor the implementation of the Resolution.

ODCCP’s Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) was founded in April 1999 with a mandate from the General Assembly for research and technical cooperation. The TPB has so far concentrated on analysis and maintains several databases on terrorism. The Branch is working on a Global Terrorism Survey and has recently been mandated by the Crime Commission to assist Member States in the promotion and implementation of existing United Nations conventions against terrorism.

For more information on the United Nations versus Terrorism, visit these sites: [www.odccp.or](http://www.odccp.or) or [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

## Questions and answers

Q: What role does the United Nations play in mobilizing the international community against terrorism?

- One day after the attacks of 11 September, the Security Council unanimously and unequivocally condemned these acts “in the strongest terms” as a “threat to international peace and security”.
- Also on 12 September, the General Assembly delivered a strongly worded condemnation of the terrorist acts in the United States.
- Council resolution 1373 of 28 September created a new legal obligation for States to cooperate against terrorism, including in bringing the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of terrorism to justice. The resolution stressed the accountability of those aiding, supporting or harbouring persons responsible for such acts.
- In the Assembly, some countries also emphasized the need to deal with the root causes of terrorism.

Q: What was the United Nations doing to fight international terrorism before 11 September?

- The main avenue of United Nations action had been in the drafting and adoption of 12 international legal

instruments outlawing such terrorist-related actions as airplane hijacking, hostage taking, terrorist bombings and attacks on ships and off-shore platforms.

- Efforts had already begun to formulate a comprehensive convention against terrorism as well as a convention against nuclear terrorism. These are now nearing completion.

Q: How can other United Nations activities contribute to preventing terrorism, in light of the 11 September attacks?

- The United Nations will need to focus on getting States to give high priority to disarmament, particularly regarding weapons of mass destruction and to the ratification and implementation of the conventions and protocols pertaining to international terrorism.
- It will need to work with civil society around the world to sustain a high level of public support for global actions to address terrorist threats.
- The Terrorist Prevention Branch within ODCCP maintains an extensive database on terrorist incidents as well as other related information. Many States will be looking to the United Nations for additional technical assistance in playing their part in the global struggle against terrorism.



“This was an attack on all humanity, and all humanity has a stake in defeating the forces behind it.”

Kofi Annan,  
United Nations  
Secretary-General

## My September 11

*A first-hand account by Zach Messitte of the ODCCP Liaison Office in New York*

Morning. A bright blue sky. The end of summer. My wife, Julia, and I vote for the new Mayor of New York. She takes the green line subway downtown to work near the World Trade Center. I walk uptown to the UN. At the rise on 28th Street I see smoke from Tower 1. A man with a radio says a small commuter plane accidentally crashed. At the UN, “No one goes in!” shouts the security guard. I wait. I stand. I walk home. I see the towers burning from my fire escape. My neighbours are out on their roofs watching. Then—a shudder. A tower collapses inward. The phone does not work. I wait. Where is Julia? Then I see the television needle disappear as Tower 2 implodes. Where is Julia? Only one television channel works.

I pace nervously. Julia arrives with four tired, scared office mates. We walk around the East Village. We try to give blood but they don't need blood anymore.



# ❖ Hope for street children in Egypt



With some 16 million inhabitants Cairo is the biggest city in Africa and the Middle East. It is also home to a rapidly growing street children population of around 150,000. Many of these unfortunate children have to deal with broken families, poverty, abuse and violence. Sadly, drugs such as cannabis herb, tablets, and solvents, are all too often used to cope with the pain, violence, and hunger of the streets.

The ODCCP Regional Office in Cairo, in cooperation with UNICEF and the World Food Programme, recently put together a United Nations rapid situation assessment (RSA) to obtain data on street children in Cairo and Alexandria taking into account the young people's abuse of drugs and their health/nutritional needs.

The RSA—the first of its kind in Egypt—provided valuable data on the street children population including profiles of their lives and their pattern of drug abuse. A joint project will help Egypt's neediest children.



The project will develop comprehensive drug abuse prevention and treatment services for street children

in Cairo and Alexandria. It will also provide assistance for an overall programme of action on prevention and treatment. A children-at-risk monitoring system will be developed along with the upgrading of police training and facilities.



## Egypt

Egypt's First Lady, Mrs Suzanne Mubarak, chaired a conference organized by UNDCP and the Egyptian National Council for Motherhood and Childhood entitled "Together we Protect the Youth from Drugs".

### ❖ BRIEFING:

The ODCCP regional office in Cairo partners with UNICEF and WFP to define the magnitude of problems facing street children in Egypt.

### Data from the RSA

Nearly 66 per cent of street children surveyed consume substances of abuse on a regular basis.

Illicit substances consumed include: glue, Bango (cannabis herb), hashish, solvents and tablets (Parkinol, Rohypnol).

Eighty per cent of the children are exposed to real or constant threat of violence from employers, hostile or abusive community members, and their peers.

Seventy per cent of those surveyed were school dropouts, 30 per cent had never attended schools.

Two-thirds have a sense of what they would like their lives to be (i.e., stable blue collar work as mechanics, carpenters or drivers), and even have a general understanding of what they need to "get there", (i.e., literacy, vocational training). Few have any conception of how to craft a strategy to realize this vision.

# ❖ Agencies partner to provide farmers a chance

In 1994, the Ky Son district produced the highest amount of opium in Viet Nam—some six metric tons. Since then, poppy cultivation has been mostly eliminated.

Opium had long been the main source of cash income for many of the Hmong, Kamu and Thai people of Ky Son. Much of the product was consumed locally as a folk remedy or as a drug of addiction. Among the obstacles that limited other profitable farm products were lack of passable roads, isolation from markets, poor local services, illiteracy and health problems.

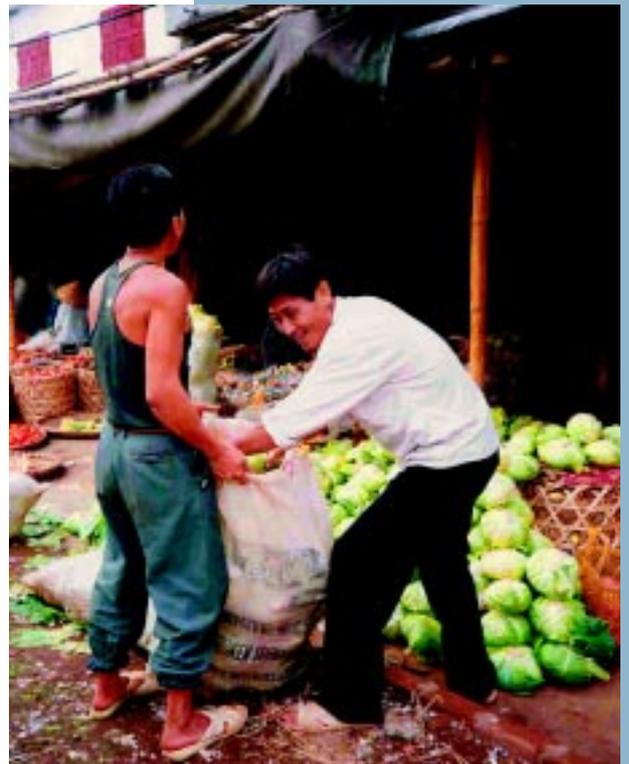
The Ky Son Project, part of Viet Nam's Drug Control Master Plan, seeks to help bring about the kind of social and economic changes that will woo farmers away from opium production and ensure that they will not be driven to replant.

Under the scheme, the project has developed 18 different enterprises including raising cattle, chickens, ducks and pigs; growing and marketing legitimate farm products and exporting traditional handicraft. Several United Nations agencies have cooperated with UNDCP since the project was designated as one of the focal points for the United Nations inter-agency cooperation in the country. The agencies have assisted in the following fields:

- UNHCR funded the construction of an eight-room elementary school in one Ky Son community;
- UNDP provided money to hire a marketing and community development specialist for one year;
- FAO provided funds for livestock development and lent its know-how on agricultural matters;
- UNICEF trained people to build 200 water collection tanks and 10 school sanitation facilities, and organized an HIV workshop and credit schemes;
- UNFPA conducted a health behaviour study, arranged for the training of health care workers and upgraded local clinics; and
- UNOPS, in conjunction with the Vietnamese Committee for Ethnic Minorities and Mountainous Areas, recruited staff and carried out administrative tasks.

Coordination was achieved by extensive networking among key personnel. After reviewing Phase I, UNDCP regards the Ky Son Project as a success story. While strict law enforcement helped decrease the area under poppy cultivation from 3,000 hectares in 1993-1994 to less than 20 hectares in 2000, little or no recultivation has taken place as farmers' living conditions and incomes have begun to improve.

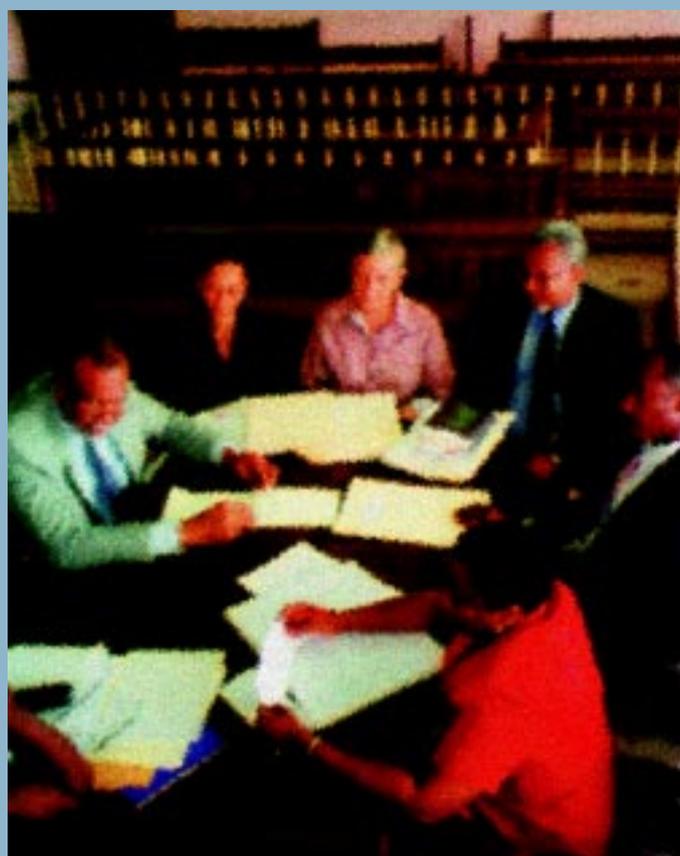
Organizers—and beneficiaries—look ahead to a second project phase in order to build on the initial success and ensure continuity while improving the early strategies based on lessons learned.



## ❖ BRIEFING:

UNDCP and seven United Nations agencies improve farmers' living conditions in Viet Nam and woo them away from opium poppy cultivation.

# ❖ Rehabilitation instead of incarceration in Jamaica



Recognition that one has a drug problem is the most important prerequisite to being accepted in the Drug Court Programme in Jamaica. In two designated Magistrate Courts in Kingston and Montego Bay, it is now possible to avoid incarceration or a heavy fine for possession of marijuana, cocaine or heroin or even crimes committed while under the influence of drugs if an individual is accepted into a court-approved rehabilitation programme.

The programme, which was established earlier this year with the advisory assistance of the Drug Court in Toronto and UNDCP, has already handled dozens of cases. Informal guidelines have been developed over the past couple of months to suit the local situation. A permanent address, a family connection or person willing to take responsibility for the client, and regular participation in the counselling sessions are important criteria for acceptance and staying in the programme.

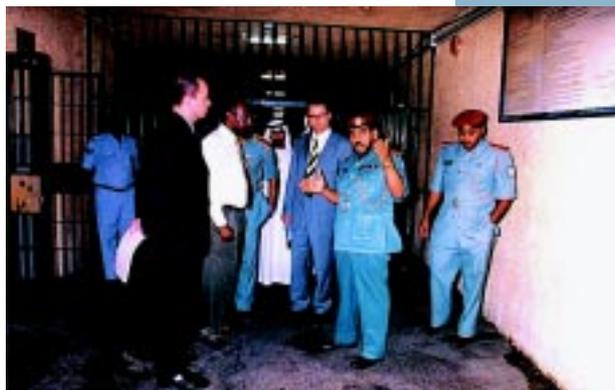
During its recent visit to the courts, UNDCP saw one participant dropped from the programme for dealing in drugs, one sent back to jail for one night to impress upon him the importance of consistent attendance in the rehabilitation sessions, while three others “graduated” to bi-weekly visits to the court (otherwise they are required to return once a week). One participant walks four miles each way to attend the group counselling sessions held three times per week. In addition to the regular drug testing, peer pressure appears to keep the recovering addicts “clean” and “honest”.

Most of the clients are cocaine addicts and so there is a high degree of probability that many may relapse. The counsellors know that several of those accepted are “borderline” cases. The biggest problem in Jamaica is finding a suitable living and work environment, however for many, there is no alternative to drug ridden slums of Kingston and Montego Bay. The principle debate among the treatment providers is whether to put the participants in a 24-hour residential care facility, but eventually they must return to life “outside”. Therefore, the attitude of the client is most important. If the addict is willing to commit to “staying off drugs” to avoid jail the law in Jamaica provides a person with this “second chance”.

#### ❖ BRIEFING:

Addicts in Jamaica who are willing to commit to “staying off drugs” may avoid incarceration or a heavy fine.

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD



## Egypt

UNDCP organized a drug control-training course in Abu Dhabi for 30 officers from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The United Arab Emirates recently adopted a new strategy for drug law enforcement and created a special counter-narcotics division in order to offset the growing importance of the Gulf region as a heroin and precursors trans-shipment point.



## Barbados

Two hundred children from the slums of Kingston and Montego Bay practised cricket with UNDCP Goodwill Ambassador for Sports against Drugs, Courtney Walsh, this summer. The camps were organized by UNDCP and the National Drug Abuse Council of Jamaica and were part of the world wide "Sports. Not Drugs" media campaign.



## Central Asia

The Third Annual Review Meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Drug Control Cooperation in Central Asia took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 17-18 September 2001. The MOU was signed in 1996 by the five Central Asian States and UNDCP, and was joined in 1998 by the Russian Federation and the Agha Khan Network. Azerbaijan became a new member this year. The meeting unanimously endorsed a declaration identifying a joint strategy for enhancing cooperation in countering both drug trafficking and abuse.



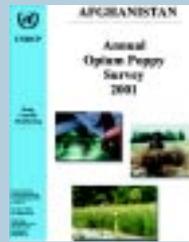
## Myanmar

UNDCP is supporting the government of Myanmar in the implementation of a four-year national strategy to counter HIV/AIDS through a joint action plan adopted by United Nations-based agencies in the country. A global task force on drug use and HIV/AIDS will be established and will focus on developing programmes aimed at reducing HIV transmission through injecting drug use.

## New Publications

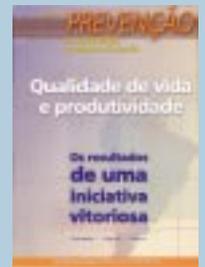
### Afghanistan Annual Opium Poppy Survey 2001

UNDCP released its annual survey on 17 October pointing to the success of the ban on opium poppy cultivation in Taleban controlled areas. This year, an estimated 7,606 hectares of opium poppy were cultivated, representing a reduction in total poppy area of 91 per cent compared to last year's 82,172 hectares. The survey is a ground-based census that visits villages known to have cultivated poppy in the past. It employs a large well-trained team of Afghan nationals. It is a monitoring tool which aims to provide information on the location and extent of poppy cultivation and key production and pricing statistics.



### Drug Abuse Prevention in the Workplace and the Family

The publication summarises UNDCP's partnership with the Rio Grande do Sul Industry Social Service (SESI) for the implementation of the Drug Abuse Prevention in the Work Place and the Family Project, the results that have been achieved and the individual experience of 30 pioneer companies involved in the project. It is hoped that the dissemination of this experience will contribute to its replication and that the entrepreneurial spirit that attributes value to the quality of life of collaborators will become a new paradigm.



### Alternative Development: Sharing Good Practices Facing Common Problems

This publication reviews alternative development cooperation in East Asia and contains presentations and studies prepared in conjunction with the Regional Seminar on Alternative Development for Illicit Crop Eradication: Policies, Strategies and Actions, held in Taunggyi, Myanmar from 16-19 July 2001. The Seminar provided a unique opportunity for an in-depth discussion between protagonists, experts, and facilitators of community based drug control activities in rural areas. Best practices and lessons learned as well as future policies that were agreed upon are outlined in this publication.



### Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS: Lessons learned

This booklet is a collaborative effort of UNAIDS and UNDCP to disseminate lessons learned from practical experience in Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asian States where injecting drug abuse is a significant and rapidly increasing factor in the transmission of HIV/AIDS. It focuses on the association between drug use and HIV infection and addresses the challenges that professionals and policy makers must confront in shaping national and local policies, developing and implementing preventive measures and providing treatment and rehabilitative services.



## Upcoming Events

**26-29 November 2001**

Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies Africa (HONLAF), Nairobi, Kenya.

**5 December 2001**

United Nations Civil Society Award Ceremony, Vienna, Austria.

**12-14 December 2001**

Reconvened Forty-fourth Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, Austria.