

Resolution 7 (XXXIX)

Timely provision of controlled drugs for emergency care*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that some controlled drugs are essential medicines for the treatment of human suffering,

Underlining the fact that timely international supplies of essential medicines are often vital for humanitarian disaster relief operations in emergency situations,

Aware that the speedy international transportation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to sites of emergencies is difficult within the established international drug-control system,

Noting with satisfaction the attention given to the issue by the International Narcotics Control Board in its report for 1994, 1/ the positive reaction of the Commission to the opinion expressed by the Board and the further proposals of the Board in its report for 1995, 2/

1. Endorses the position of the International Narcotics Control Board that the transportation and provision of controlled drugs needed for humanitarian aid in acute emergencies justify the application of simplified control procedures;

2. Further endorses the existing practice by some countries of applying simplified controls in emergency situations;

3. Recommends that the national authorities of exporting countries, where appropriate, conclude standing agreements with bona fide suppliers of humanitarian aid, specifying operational procedures to ensure the proper handling of controlled drugs;

4. Also recommends that the authorities of the recipient countries report to the exporting countries and to the Board, wherever possible, the quantity of the unused drugs for emergency care, if any, in order to permit the re-evaluation of the estimated annual requirements;

5. Invites the World Health Organization, in consultation with the Board and interested Governments, to draw up model guidelines to assist national authorities in developing such standard agreements with bona fide humanitarian organizations;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation.

1/ Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XI.4).

2/ Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.XI.1).

* See paragraph 146 above.