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INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND  
ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Letter dated 20 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative  
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the London Declaration adopted unanimously on 11 April at the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London in association with the United Nations from 9 to 11 April 1990.

I have the honour also to request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 111 of the preliminary list,

(Signed) Crispin TICKELL

\* A/45/50,

ANNEX

**Declaration of the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London from 9 to 11 April 1990**

INTRODUCTION

We, *the States\** participating in the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat,

Deeply concerned by **the magnitude** of the rising trend in the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in countries throughout the world, which is a *grave* and persistent threat to the health and well-being of mankind and to the lives and *dignity* of millions of human beings, most especially young people,

Conscious that the problem of illicit demand is not confined to developed, **industrialized** countries which provide the main economic market for illicitly produced narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that it now increasingly affects developing countries as well,

Believing that national and international action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking **requires not only continuing enhancement** of the efforts to reduce the illicit production, supply, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, but also calls for urgent measures at the national and international level, to reduce the illicit demand for drugs,

Believing also that **action** to tackle the problem of drug abuse often requires a partnership **between** international organizations, national authorities and non-governmental organizations at the regional, national and community levels and acknowledging that non-governmental organisations have been major contributors to the provision of demand reduction programmes,

**Convinced** that, in order to deal with this plague affecting society, a balanced approach is needed and that the prevention of drug abuse **and** treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers should therefore be accorded the same importance in policy and in action as the reduction of illicit supply and illicit trafficking,

Alarmed by the devastating damage to individual health and community life which cocaine in all its forms, particularly including crack, has wrought in some countries and by the massive outbreak of crime and violence which has **sometimes** accompanied it,

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\* References to States in the present Declaration should be understood to refer also to regional economic integration organizations within the limits of their competence.

Noting, with grave concern, the sharply rising trend in seizures of cocaine by law enforcement authorities, not only in Western European countries but in many other countries also, which suggests that determined efforts are being made by ruthless criminal organisations to develop new markets for cocaine to add to the continuing problem of heroin and other drugs,

Recognising the illicit traffic in drugs as a part of the much wider world of crime undermining human life and society,

Noting also that the large financial profits derived from illicit drug trafficking and related criminal activities enable transnational criminal organisations to penetrate, contaminate and corrupt the structure of Governments, legitimate commercial activities and society at all levels, thereby vitiating economic development, distorting the process of law and undermining the foundations of States,

Mindful of the results already achieved by the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the field of drug abuse control, including the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1997, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as well as the positive action undertaken by the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the International Narcotics Control Board and its secretariat, and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control,

Welcoming and endorsing, in its entirety, the Declaration and the Global Programme of Action adopted at the seventeenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in February 1990,

Rejecting the legalisation of unauthorised or uncontrolled production, traffic, supply and possession of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and reaffirming our treaty-based commitments to, and belief in, the control of such substances under the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, or that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1989 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,

Believing that the said Global Programme of Action constitutes a viable and realistic basis for action to tackle the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking over the next decade and that priority should now be given by national authorities and interested organisations to translating it into action at the national, regional and international levels and to ensuring that the United Nations has sufficient resources and the necessary structure to enable it to undertake an enhanced role in accordance with the expectations of the international community,

Agree on the following

## REDUCTION OF ILLICIT DEMAND FOR NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

### National strategies

1. We commit ourselves to giving higher priority to prevention and reduction of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs at the national and international levels. States that have not yet adopted national strategies, plans and programmes for combating drug abuse will give urgent attention to elaborating, adopting and implementing them through the necessary policy and legislative adjustments. Those States that have already adopted such strategies, plans and programmes will endeavour constantly to improve their effectiveness.
2. National strategies in the health, social, education and legal fields, as well as in the field of the criminal justice system, shall contain programmes for the prevention of drug abuse and for the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers and drug-addicted offenders with a view to supplementing and enhancing deterrent and enforcement action by legal and police authorities. These programmes should be in conformity with the guidelines for action at the national level set out in chapters 1 and 4 of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,

### Allocation of increased resources

3. States undertake to the extent possible to allocate increased resources at the national level to programmes and services for prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. Developed countries further undertake to increase their technical co-operation, bilaterally or through the United Nations, with developing countries in order to assist them in elaborating, adopting and implementing such programmes.

### Community initiative

4. Particular efforts should be made at local community and neighbourhood levels, and at the level of the individual family, to address local problems as perceived by the community, which may mitigate the initiation and continuation of drug misuse. In implementing this approach, particular importance should be given to responding to the aspirations and needs of young people. We encourage community associations, parent groups, religious and other institutions to join with public services in carrying forward these efforts,

### Educational strategies

5. Education about drugs should be developed, to the extent possible, at all stages of education at school. Such curricular provision is best set in the context of an overall programme of health education in which due attention is paid to the harmful effects of other substances, including, in particular, alcohol and tobacco. It should aim to encourage children to recognize the benefits of adopting a drug-free and healthy lifestyle, to give them accurate information about the harmful effects of drugs and to provide them with the necessary skills to be able to resist pressures to take drugs. Educational activities should be complemented by school policies that actively promote a drug-free environment,

6. Appropriate measures should be taken to provide for the co-ordination of education about drug abuse between central and local government, schools, health institutions and services, police, youth organisations, local drugs agencies, local communities, and parents. It is important that the messages young people receive about drugs are consistent and complementary. Training about drugs should, so far as possible, be provided for teachers from all disciplines to alert them to the mental and physical effects of drugs and to guide them in taking appropriate action. Teachers in particularly relevant disciplines should receive appropriate specialised training at both initial and in-service levels. States should also ensure the availability of appropriate teaching materials for use with young people.

7. In order to prevent overprescribing of, and dependence on, psychotropic substances, information on the rational utilisation of those substances and pharmaceutical preparations containing them should be incorporated into the curricula of training institutions for health care personnel.

#### Drug demand in the workplace

8. Employers should be encouraged to develop and implement drug prevention programmes in the workplace. There are best results in the context of a broad-based health promotion policy. Prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation should be available. Employers should be encouraged to arrange training for managers and supervisors designed to alert them to the mental and physical effects of drugs and to guide them in taking appropriate action.

#### Media campaigns

9. Information and education programmes should be used to prevent the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to increase awareness of their harmful effects. The results of all such programmes should be evaluated. Inasmuch as mass media campaigns in a situation of low prevalence of use may be counter-productive, particular care should be taken to ensure that they are valid, credible, well-targeted and non-discriminatory towards the victims of drug addiction and HIV infection. To reduce the risk of such campaigns having unintended effects, the drug prevention messages they contain should be the subject of pre-testing.

10. We emphasize the importance of the role of the mass media in forming opinions and attitudes about drug abuse. We commend the guidelines for national policy regarding the role of the media, which are to be found in chapter 1 of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. In this context accurate information might be made available to the mass media and their help sought.

11. We consider that, in line with the spirit of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the drug prevention messages communicated in national education and information programmes and the substance of the appropriate criminal law should reflect a coherent policy approach.

**Research into causes and epidemiology of drug misuse**

12. We acknowledge the importance of undertaking more research into the underlying factors which may give rise to illicit demand. We will give special consideration to addressing the social, psychological and other issues which may emerge from this research.

13. In the context of the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and drug-addicted offenders, we underline the importance of developing national systems to assess the extent of drug abuse and to collect data on trends of abuse. We endorse the action proposed in this respect in paragraphs 12 to 17 of the Global Programme of Action,

**Treatment and rehabilitation**

14. We consider counselling, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers to be promising measures for the reduction of the demand for narcotic drugs. We emphasize the necessity of developing comprehensive treatment options meeting the needs of different groups of drug abusers in national programmes. These options should range from outreach, detoxification, treatment, and social and rehabilitation services at the local or regional level, where operational characteristics are primarily directed to addicts' needs. We will seek to provide a social infrastructure which will enable improved living conditions, adequate employment and recreational opportunities for those affected by drug abuse.

15. All measures should aim to motivate drug abusers to lead a drug-free life. However, this cannot always be achieved rapidly. For this reason we also have to accept partial objectives to avert major impairments of health for the drug addicts. In some countries this includes attendance of, and keeping in contact with, addicts in the drug scene by street workers, easily accessible options enabling the addict to pursue everyday needs and finally detoxification. Some countries consider in appropriate cases methadone maintenance to be advisable for addicts of opiate drugs under strict medical supervision and with psychosocial attendance. In addition to that, we endorse the guidelines set out in chapter 4 of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and call for them to be translated into action. We endorse also the action proposed in paragraphs 30 to 37 of the Global Programme of Action,

**Response to HIV disease/AIDS**

16. We believe that the threat of the spread of HIV infection and AIDS is such as to make the prevention of drug abuse even more important than before. Faced with that threat, we believe that more strenuous efforts must now be made by all countries to draw greater numbers of drug abusers, particularly those who inject, into contact with treatment services and agencies. Such services can include both drug-free and methadone maintenance programmes. Increased availability of sterile syringes and needles and needle exchange schemes have been proposed and implemented in a limited number of countries as ways to decrease the spread of HIV infection by addicts sharing needles, although the efficacy of these programmes is disputed. Countries having or considering implementing exchange programmes should take

particular care to ensure that they do not promote drug abuse and that they are operated as part of a more comprehensive programme that encourages users to enter treatment. There should be full consultation with all local health, social and enforcement agencies, where appropriate, in framing such schemes, which should have carefully built-in evaluation procedures.

#### Local drug liaison committees

17. We believe that inter-agency co-operation at the local community and neighbourhood levels is vital in drawing up effective programmes and services for drug prevention and for the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers and addicts. We commend the practice of establishing local committees of all the relevant professionals including the police. Representatives of non-government organisations involved in the provision of programmes and services to drug abusers should be invited to participate in such committees.

#### Alternatives to prison

18. We will intensify our efforts to provide suitable alternatives to prison for drug-abusing offenders who wish to undertake treatment. Given the ambivalence of many drug abusers regarding giving up drugs, such alternatives should be carefully monitored and should contain appropriate safeguards to protect the community against the consequences of relapse. We will also strengthen provision within prisons to provide counselling and treatment for drug-abusing offenders and to ensure continuing support on release from prison.

#### Training for professionals

19. We underline the importance of providing suitable training for all professionals whose work brings them into contact with drug abusers and addicts. Training programmes relating to the latest developments and techniques in the management and treatment of drug abusers should be conducted more regularly at local and national level. Such training should cover AIDS, which should be tackled in its medical, psychological and social dimensions.

#### COMBATING THE COCAINE THREAT

##### Need for the Global Strategy

20. We are convinced that if we are to combat the cocaine threat now facing many parts of the world, in addition to the threat from heroin and other drugs, we must pursue strategies that are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and that comprise measures to reduce illicit demand for cocaine and other drugs, to eliminate the cultivation of illicit crops and illicit drug trafficking, to prevent the use of the financial and banking systems for laundering funds derived from drug trafficking and to promote effective treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. We commit ourselves to do so.

21. We welcome and endorse paragraphs 38 and 39 of the Global Programme of Action dealing with the eradication and substitution of illicit production of narcotic

drugs, and • radioation of illicit prooesaing of such drugs and of illicit production and diversion of payohotropio aubatanera. We believe there paragraphs have a particular relevance to the threat poaed by cocaine.

Increased support for the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control

- . 22. We also welcome and endorae the proporal, in paragraph 42 of the Global Programme of Action, that the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control should elaborate for conaiderstion by States a subregional strategy covering all aapeota of the drug abuae control and econcentrating on the most affected areas where the problems are moat complex and grave. We consider that the Andean rubregion, where moat of the world's coca is grown and illicitly processed into cocaine, as one ouch area, and we urgently requeat State8 to co-ordinate their national drug control plans and to increase their co-operation with the Fund in order to provide support for a suitable aubregional strategy,

Cartagena Summit

23. We greatly welcome the Summit which took place on 15 February 1990 in Cartagena, Colombia, between the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the United States of America. We believe that the Declaration of this Summit, setting forth detailed understandings regarding economic co-operation, alternative development, encouragement of trade and investment and attacking the traffic in illicit drugs, constitutes a significant milestone on the road towards combating the cocaine threat.

24. We associate ourselves with the understandings reached in the Declaration on alternative development and crop substitution in the Andean aubregion, on mitigation of the social and economic impact there of the fight against illicit drug trafficking, on trade initiatives for the rubregion, on incentives to export and on private foreign investment. We note that the parties to the Declaration intend to make concertad efforts to obtain the aupport of multilateral and other bodies for these programmes, as the three Andean countries implement or continue sound economic policies and effective programmes against drugs.

Crop substitution and eradication of illicit cultivation

25. We associate ourselves with the statements in the Declaration regarding eradication and discouragement of illicit crops, In particular, we agree that participation of the growers themselves is desirable! that new economic opportunities must be fostered in order to dissuade growers from initiating or expanding illicit cultivation; that law enforcement efforts to counter illicit cultivation and production must be strengthened within the framework of the national sovereignty of each of the parties; and that eradication programmes must safeguard human health and preserve the ecosystem, Subject to these caveats, we believe that more attention should be given to the scope for eradication of coca, including financial assistance for crop substitution. We also feel that greater emphasis should be given to the identification and development of markets for forest products and extractives that will provide additional sources of income to people who dwell in or on the margins of natural forests, thereby providing



incentives for the **conservation** of their **format resources**. More attention should also be given to the **negative environmental effect8** of the **prooeseing** of **illicit substances**, particularly the **damaging effect** of **such proceasing** on **water systems**.

#### Monitoring and control of chemicals

26. As **regards** the **proceasing** of **coca** into **coca paste** and then **cocaine**, we attach the highest importance to **measures** taken by States **◆□ ●** **8tablish** monitoring and **aontrol** system8 to prevent **diversion** from **licit purposes** **□×^ ●** **peoifio chemical** **●** **ubatanaea**, **materiala** and **equipment** frequently **used** in the **illicit manufacture** of **narcotic drugs** and **payohotropio aubstancea**, in particular through the **applioation** of **articles 12** and **13** of the **United Nations Convention against Illioit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs** and **Psychotropic Substances**,

27. We welcome and endorse the proposal in paragraph 46 of the **Global Programme** of **action** that **oonaidrration** should be given to the **convening** of an **international conference** on the **production** and **distribution** of **chemical product8** **uaded** in the **illicit production** of **narcotic drugs** and **payohotropic aubstancea**, in order to **co-ordinate effort8** for more **●** **ffeotivs prevention** of the **diversion** of **precursor ohemioala**, **specific aubatancea**, **materials** and **equipment** for **illicit purpoaea**. We **oonaider** it **particularly important** that **repreaentativea** of **manufaoturo** and **distribution** **●** **nterpriaea** should take part in the **conference**.

28. We believe **that** in regard to the **proceasing** of **cocaine**, there **la** a need for **intensified effort** by **countries** **exporting** and **importing** **chemical products**, **and** those **countriea** through which **thoae products** **tranait**, to **establish** **effective** **monitoring** and **control systems**.

#### Exchange of drugs intelligence information

29. We **attaohed** the highest importance **also** to **developing** **effective** **arrangementa**, **nationally**, **regionally** and **internationally**, for **greater exchange** of **information** and **aharing** of **intolligenoe** in order to **strengthen** **action** by the **competent law enforcement authorities**. The **posting** of **drug8 liaison officers** to **countries** **particularly affected** by the **illicit consumption**, **production**, **aupply**, **tranait**, **trafficking** and **distribution** of **cocaine** has a **particular value** in this context. We **also** **recognise** the **merit** of **establishing** **national drugs intelligence centres**, which **bring together** **representatives** of **all** the **drug enforcement agencies** and can **collect**, **collate**, **analyse** and **dissemination** **information** and **intelligence** about **illicit drugs activities**.

#### Co-operation with the transport industry

30. We **stress** the importance of **close co-operation** between **law enforcement authorities** and the **transport** and **freight-forwarding industries**. The **authorities** **can** **help** the **industry** to **improve** **security** and thereby **prevent** **and** **detect** **use** of **transport** for **illicit trafficking**. The **industry** can **provide** **access** for the **authorities** to **information** to **assist** with **selection** for **exsmination** of **freight** and **means** of **transport**. We **commend** the **initiative** of the **Customs Co-operation Council** in **signing** **memoranda** of **understanding** with **international trade associations**, and we **undertake** to **promote** those at **national level** with our **carriers** and **trade bodies**.

**United Nations Convention against Illicit Drug Trafficking**

31. We regard the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted in 1988, as a vital weapon against those who ply the drug trafficker's evil trade. We attach particular importance in this context to those provisions dealing with the criminalisation of money laundering, confiscation of assets, extradition, mutual legal assistance, co-operation between operational services, controlled delivery, aubatanoea frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic aubatanoea and illicit traff lo by sea. We commit ourselves to making all neoeaaary arrangements to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible and meanwhile to apply its terms provisionally, to the extent we are able to do so.

**Illicit traffic by sea**

32. The Convention calls at many points for parties to conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements to enhance the effectiveness of their co-operation pursuant to the article in question. We see particular value in these agreements for co-operation in suppressing the illicit traffic by sea and call for the conclusion of more such agreements.

**Illicit traffic by air**

33. We welcome and endorse the proposals in paragraphs 58 and 66 to 89 of the Global Programme of Action and in this regard recommend to States the adoption of measures within their territories for the control of the transport of illicit drugs by air, as well as emphasizing the need for bilateral and multilateral technical co-operation agreements.

**Identification and confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking**

34. Much progress has already been made in concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements for the identification and confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking, and we commit ourselves to accelerate our efforts in this regard so that there should be no safe havens for the proceeds of drug trafficking. We commit ourselves likewise to intensified action to conclude agreements whereby the tainted proceeds of drug trafficking may be tracked down and those who seek to launder them brought to justice and put out of business.

35. We welcome the forthcoming publication of the report of the Financial Action Task Force established following the Paris Summit of the Group of Seven in July 1989. We call for world-wide distribution and careful study of the Task Force's conclusions and recommendations.

## APPENDIX

List of participantsA. States

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

B. United Kingdom Dependent Territories and Crown Dependencies

Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jersey, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands.

C. Specialized agencies of the United Nations system

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and World Health Organization.

D. Intergovernmental organizations

European Economic Community, European Parliament, Commonwealth secretariat, Customs Co-operation Council, ICPO-Interpol, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and Council of Europe.

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**E. United Nations bodies**

United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and Division of Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Secretariat and International Narcotics Control Board secretariat.

**F. Liberation organizations**

Palestine