

Drug abuse is not new, but its dimensions are. As early as 1909, Canada helped prepare an International Convention to control the traffic of opium, and we continue to play a leading role in organizations such as the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Yesterday, Canada was re-elected to that important Commission which, in the past, has concentrated upon reducing the supply of drugs. Canada, and other countries, have introduced a new focus on the other part of the problem - trying to reduce demands. We are also seeking to take account of the new sophistication of international networks trafficking in drugs.

Their tentacles now stretch around the world, their networks have refined their procedures for moving their products. Some utilize couriers who, travelling by air, will carry the drugs strapped to their bodies. On other occasions, shipments are disguised as cargoes of innocuous commodities. The profits earned by this illicit enterprise are protected by a variety of methods. By use of shell companies and other means the money earned from drug trafficking is sent to offshore havens. So, the United Nations Commission is preparing a new international convention on illicit trafficking. The origin of this Convention is a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly co-sponsored by Canada and adopted in December 1984. The Honourable Member for Calgary West was serving as a member of the Canadian delegation to the UN and announced Canada's co-sponsorship of that important international initiative. This new convention can become a powerful tool for law enforcement agencies around the world, to use against traffickers. Canada places a high priority on successful completion of the new convention.

The Government is working internationally on three other fronts.

First, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control sponsors projects which assist producer countries to develop and finance programmes to help farmers move away from drug production; to improve local standards of living; and to train local police to deal with the extremely well organized drug traffickers. Canada has made substantial contributions to this body's general fund as well as giving two grants of one million dollars apiece, to UNFDAC projects in Thailand and Pakistan to develop alternative crops for farmers. That is a new policy direction for CIDA established in 1985. As well we will continue to consider, on a case by case basis, requests from narcotics producing countries for development assistance.

Second, our contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control will be raised to \$500,000 this year and to \$1 million by 1991, to demonstrate our commitment to international cooperation.