

public awareness of the issue and to act as a deterrent to potential perpetrators;

- ▶ include international observers in the law enforcement training carried out by the Department of Justice and develop a programme for the exchange of national experience and training materials;
- ▶ extend street outreach programmes for youth in danger of sexual abuse and exploitation as a high priority nationwide and develop a training module for parapsychological and social workers, volunteers and street workers;
- ▶ ensure greater involvement of child psychologists and psychiatrists in analysing the effects of sexual exploitation on children and in helping to sensitize all other sectors to the need to combat the phenomenon;
- ▶ cultivate a multidisciplinary approach to child victim cases in courts and among the judiciary;
- ▶ local government should assist street outreach organizations to deliver sex education and health care programmes to marginalized children, particularly those which focus on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- ▶ at the local government level and in cooperation with the private sector, fund programmes which provide alternative avenues, such as job and skills training, for street children;
- ▶ consider further the establishment of a children's ombudsman at the national level;
- ▶ increase coordination between the multitude of children's organizations in the U.S. in order to define more clearly the mandates of the various non-governmental organizations and to avoid overlap on some issues and the neglect of others;
- ▶ develop a nationwide NGO directory on children's rights, specifying the substantive focus of each organization;
- ▶ develop early intervention and prevention programmes in schools with a view to dispelling myths about the glamorous life of "escort girls" and raising awareness of potential recruitment techniques; and,
- ▶ adopt a non-punitive approach to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in keeping with the rights of the child and taking particular care that judicial procedures do not aggravate the trauma already experienced by the child.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/482, paras. 11, 65, 68, 112–113) notes that a film entitled *Kids* was banned from general release because it graphically depicted under-age sex and drug use, had little purpose or justification, and portrayed a group of unsupervised teenagers leading a destructive lifestyle in a way that would merely desensitize the audience to the serious nature of paedophilia and child sex. The report notes that fears were also expressed that the film would be enjoyed by many paedophiles who would be led to feel that their desires and behaviour were normal and acceptable. Referring to dial-a-porn or phone sex services, the report notes adoption by Congress of a bill to protect children from these services.

Referring to the Internet, the report notes the decision of the Supreme Court ruling that the federal Communications Decency Act of 1996, which was intended to curb indecency on the Internet, was unconstitutional. The report also notes a cooperative effort between American and Danish authorities to identify callers from the U.S. who downloaded child pornography from Danish bulletin boards. The U.S. Customs services raided the homes of several suspected callers and confiscated their computers, floppy disks and other materials. The report notes that several people were prosecuted.

Toxic wastes and products: (E/CN.4/1997/19, paras. 41, 47, 54, 55, 65–73)

In terms of transborder concerns, the report refers to: shipment of battery scrap from the U.S. to the Philippines; the operations of Unocal and Texaco in Burma and a declaration by the Myanmar army of "free-fire zones" to facilitate the construction of a pipeline through the rain forest; the operations of Shell Oil U.S.A in the Ogoni region of Nigeria, an area which has been occupied by the police since May 1994, to allow Shell employees to carry out business ventures without being molested; the export of so-called "waste paper" (i.e., toxic waste) from the U.S. to Argentina; the former operations of Texaco in Ecuador and Peru which contributed to the destruction of rainforest inhabited by indigenous peoples; pollution in Indonesia from Texaco's Caltex operations; and, the operations of Freeport-McMoRan (a New Orleans-based mining company) in Irian Jaya that reportedly included the dumping 120,000 tonnes of toxic waste per day into local rivers.

The report refers to a number of issues and environmental practices in the U.S., including: the prevalence of environmental inequities in the U.S. based on socio-economic and racial factors; the fact that nuclear contaminants and the dumping of PCBs represent a serious problem in many indigenous communities; the presence of *maquilas* (garment assembly plants) along the Texas–Mexico border, which use toxic materials and reportedly are not required to provide information to workers or community residents about emissions or chemicals used or stored; the possibility that under provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement, WMX Technologies — Chemical Waste Management's parent company — may export hazardous waste from the U.S. to Mexico for disposal there, noting that the company has been accused of dumping toxic waste in communities of colour in the U.S., on Indian lands, and in developing countries; Uniroyal Corporation's sale of the hazardous pesticide, "propargite", to farmers overseas despite the fact that the product has been withdrawn from domestic markets for health and safety reasons; and, the use of hundreds of tons of depleted uranium (DU) bullets in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm (1991); and the fact that DU munitions are sold in the world arms market, with the U.S. leading in their development, use and commercialization.

Violence against women: (E/CN.4/1997/47, Sections III, IV, V & VI)

In the section dealing with rape, sexual violence and sexual harassment, the Special Rapporteur (SR) notes that, in the U.S., adolescents (who account for less than 10 per cent of the population) are estimated to comprise 20 to 50 per cent of all