

CAMPUS CANADA

Canada tells UN drug traffic here alarming

UNITED NATIONS - Canada has told a United Nations commission that the illicit drug traffic within its borders has assumed an alarming proportion in recent years.

It added, at a meeting of the commission on narcotic drugs, that the drug inflow into Canada has increased despite all possible vigilance.

The statements were made by R.D. Auger, Canadian delegate on the commission which is meeting in Geneva. Reports of the meeting were made available at the United Nations in New York.

Mr. Auger also said it is obvious that an effort should be made to control the supply of illicit drugs.

The Canadian interjection was one of many made at the two-day meeting which showed the world-wide scope of the

illicit drug problem and indicated what a number of countries are doing about it—for instance the execution by Iran of more than 100 traffickers.

A spokesman for Interpol, the international police organization, told the meeting that there must be co-ordination of anti-drug activities on a world-wide level. He said the drug traffic was such that 35 per cent of all information on criminal activities received by Interpol concerned drugs. Last year, the agency circulated descriptions of more than 4,000 traffickers to countries.

Statements of drug abuse and drug trafficking were not limited to North America—whose problem probably is the most publicized in the world.

Speakers told of amphetamines from Italy reaching as far north as Sweden and as

far south as Central Africa. The Interpol spokesman said that 54 million tablets of amphetamines were discovered in Nigeria in three seizures.

But the U.S. spokesman noted that his country's problem is enormous. He said despite stringent law enforcement measures and a considerable number of drug seizures, the illicit traffic is growing at an accelerated pace.

He said the flow of heroin into the United States increased to 5,500 kilograms in 1970, from 3,800 in 1965.

Recent seizures have indicated a trend of alarming proportions. In the 12 months before July, 1971, there were two seizures by US authorities totalling 154 kilograms of heroin. But last August alone, 341 kilograms were seized and, in September, 178 kilograms.

In 1969, 54 kilograms of cocaine were seized. This year, the figure already was 24.7 kilograms.

A kilogram equals 2.205 pounds.

He said that the increased figures might indicate more effective police work, but they also indicate a larger traffic.

The picture that emerged from the speeches was one of drugs being grown as far away as the Indian subcontinent and finding their way through processing factories in France to Europe and North America.

France, which for years showed little concern over drugs, most of which passed over its borders on the way to some other country, admitted at the meeting that it now has become a consumer country and that it is cracking down harder than before.

It admitted that morphine from Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa is processed in the Marseilles area before being shipped to Canada and the United States.

It said that there is improved co-operation between Canadian and U.S. authorities and those of France.

A spokesman for the Pan-Arab Bureau of Narcotics said Lebanon was once considered the principle source of illicit drugs. But now hashish from Afghanistan and

Pakistan had started to flow into the Middle East and some of it found its way to North America.

He called for international help so that Lebanon could initiate a "green plan" under which the Government could subsidize farmers switching from growing drug-producing plants to other crops.

Lebanon inserted a rather pathetic note. It said that since its hashish is regarded as the best in the world, all traffickers arrested claim that their drugs had originated in Lebanon.

The delegate said this is the reason why Lebanon was supposed to be the main source of hashish in the illegal market.

The Iranian delegate said that while the illicit drug traffic remains disquieting, he feels the fact that the death penalty awaits traffickers will bring about a reduction. Iran had executed at least 100 traffickers so far.

Mexico said that drug traffickers have initiated the cultivation of narcotic plants in remote mountain regions.

They even went so far as to provide seeds to local Mexican farmers and to make advance payments on future crops.

The British delegate said the world is facing highly organized, skilful and intelligent individuals involved in illicit drug traffic and taking advantage of every technological breakthrough. He said it is high time to enhance the efficiency of law enforcement agencies to improve training and communications.

But the last word went to the Soviet delegate. Illicit drugs are not a problem in his country, he said. A good border guard could cope with the situation.

The drug problem arises out of social conditions, he said. In a society where there was pornography and hippies, there was drug abuse. When people did not have much hope for their future, they needed drugs.

In the Soviet Union the people had a secure future, the youth had scholarships, people had jobs and there were no hippies—therefore there was no drug abuse.

Toronto police charge demonstrators

TORONTO (CUP) - Metro police repeatedly charged into a group of Eastern European demonstrators protesting the visit of Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin to Canada, Monday (Oct. 25) night.

Protesters directly in front of the police had begun pressing against police lines in an apparent attempt to break through. Some observers suggest that people further back had pushed the front of the line forward.

The demonstration was taking place outside the Ontario Science Centre as Kosygin addressed a dinner staged by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

According to Yaroslav Botiuk, legal advisor and director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the demonstration had been "orderly and even friendly until the police charged."

Police indiscriminately charged the crowd of predominantly middle-aged people, after the crowd had attempted to lunge forward. The mounted police made four charges into the crowd while their colleagues scaled off all escape routes.

As the crowd panicked after the first assault, they tried to protest themselves from the horses by ducking under nearby evergreen trees. Boxes of candle-holders used in the demonstration were stomped by horses.

The first charge went straight into a group of people on the lawn across the road from the Science Centre. Two women were injured by the horses; one was kicked in the head the other in the spine.

The riders stopped momentarily in the midst of the crowd as people attempted to keep their distance from the horses.

Angry at the police action, some of the demonstrators began pelting the police with candles, paper cups and other projectiles. They also taunted the police with such insults as "fascists and storm-troopers."

At least three more times mounted police charged into the crowd, never specifically aiming their attacks at those who were throwing missiles or taunting them.

Those arrested were charged with assaulting police, obstructing police and causing a disturbance.

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