

**ADDRESS TO HEADS OF REGIONAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE WORKSHOP**  
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First, let me congratulate the Australian Federal Police for taking the initiative to convene this meeting and to bring together the heads of criminal intelligence in the Asia/Pacific Region to explore the formulation of a regional intelligence strategy.

Second, may I welcome all of you to Bangkok - one of the great cities of the world - which, because of its size and location, is at the virtual cross-roads of international and regional drug trafficking and other criminal activity.

Thirdly, let me note the presence of INTERPOL representatives and say how satisfying it is to see the three agencies - AFP, INTERPOL and UNDCP - cooperating together at a forum of this sort.

The Size and Nature of Crime.

The scope and size of crime has grown considerably over the past 50 years. As borders open up, trade barriers fall and data circulates around the world at the touch of a button, new opportunities abound for increased prosperity, better information and education and increased involvement of citizens in many areas. We have come to realise that we have a lot to gain from acting and thinking globally. Unfortunately, others have also reached the same conclusion but not for the sake of promoting development, civil society, security, transparency. Rather, they have jumped of the globalisation jet to create transnational criminal networks and so to boost profits from a wide range of illegal activities. To them, open economies mean more business to extract bribes from and new shares of illegal markets to be won. Technological progress means new opportunities for money laundering, falsification of documents, child pornography, cyber crimes, frauds and so on. Terrorism, drug dealing, gun running, piracy, people smuggling, scams, rip offs, major frauds, the sexual exploitation of children and the large scale theft of intellectual property rights are further features of today's international crime scene.

The threat does not solely lie in the criminal activity per se but also in the capacity of criminal organisations to influence decision-making processes thanks to their huge financial empires. The most immediate and visible consequence is the growth of corruption among politicians, public servants, governments officials and among those who have some decision-making powers in our societies. In this way, criminal organisations can influence our economic activities, social order, public administration and justice, with the consequence that the independence of the judiciary, political credibility, trust in the State and its values, solidarity among individuals are posed under threat. Undermining confidence in political institutions is a cancer that weakens democracy. Robbing people of what is rightfully theirs and scaring away investors is the enemy of a healthy economy. In some countries, corruption discourages donors who can't trust that their aid will reach those it is supposed to benefit. All these factors, particularly when combined, have disastrous effects on the stability and prospects of societies, while at the same time contribute to reinforce the power and strength of criminal organisations.

Who are they?

They are multinational criminal networks with one clear rule: get rich fast. There is no problem with killing, selling human beings and human organs, trading in illicit drugs and firearms, selling weapons of mass destruction or with any other criminal activity as far as each act of the network makes easy money. This is their only respected rule and value. They will make new alliances with other groups where there are advantages for them, and they will wipe out competitors where they are able to do so - often taking innocent people with them. And, of special concern to us, is the fact they are constantly looking for new contacts within enforcement agencies to help them evade enforcement measures.

Crime and the fear of crime are the major concerns of people in many countries. Good citizens are covered by daring and audacious criminals and there is a perception in some societies that the forces of evil have over-run the law enforcement authorities. Clearly, it is time to reclaim society for the good men and women, to return safety to the streets, and to rid the world of those ruthless people who hunt in packs to prey on their fellow-man.

Major advances in the global crime scene have been moves by the United Nations to advocate a united front against criminal conduct. The UN has taken the lead in calling on countries to resist the expansion of crime at local, regional and international levels and by urging nations to band together for that purpose.

The Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988, and the Convention Against Transnational Crime, 2000, are examples of such measures. Providing training in investigation techniques and management skills, intelligence gathering and effective leadership are part of the initiatives to encourage countries to closely cooperate with each other and to extend mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Criminals do not recognise international borders and it is ludicrous to think that enforcement officials should confine activities to their own jurisdictions. Today, we have the situation where crime in one country is directed from another and where crime proceeds accumulated in one country are invested in others. Movement of crime-related commodities across international borders is a regular occurrence.

The unprecedented challenges posed by the modern, increasingly global criminal world have led to a clear recognition that no country alone can cope successfully with the growth of transnational crime. If criminals are going global, those fighting them must also launch joint responses and create effective networks of technical, legal and judicial cooperation or they will always be a step behind. Issues that were traditionally considered the exclusive preserve of national governments must be addressed in multilateral settings where joint strategies can be agreed upon.

### Intelligence

So, that more or less identifies the problem. The next task is to find ways to fix it and I am sure that many good ideas will emerge from your sessions. A major part of the solution lies in the efficient gathering, processing, analysing and sharing of crime information so that countries may identify perpetrators and build strong cases against them. Strong cases need compelling evidence and this is a product of good intelligence. Every country must have efficient intelligence systems and all officers must be adept in collecting information. All officers should be able to cultivate informers and there must be systems into which information may be stored. Timely analysis of information is another requirement.

A possible innovation might be the creation of a Regional Intelligence Centre where officers from regional jurisdictions comprise a joint intelligence office and where they work together in building a

picture, or pictures, of regional crime situations. Sharing intelligence is an important cooperation activity. As some of you may recall, the need for coordination of efforts and increased cooperation, for information sharing and for a mechanism to monitor results were the key issues discussed at the International Congress "In pursuit of a drug free ASEAN 2015" held in Bangkok on 11-13 October 2000. On the occasion, the ACCORD Plan of Action was adopted. ACCORD represents a strong political agreement embodying the ASEAN and China consensus on the need to join efforts through regional cooperation in drug control. One of its provisions envisages the setting up of a monitoring process which will, among others, provide periodic situation analysis and reports on regional drug trends. Thus, the ACCORD already provides an important platform for coordination and trends analysis, and the Regional Intelligence Centre could become a significant link and component of such comprehensive process.

### Criminal Counter Moves

We should not expect that criminals and criminal groups will passively lie down and wait for the police to come and arrest them. On the contrary, they will safeguard themselves as best they can. They will often adopt the old maxim that Attack is the best form of Defence.

Today's criminals use technology not only to facilitate the commission of crime but also to conceal their involvement in it. They use laws and rules intended to protect the innocent to keep enforcement officials at bay. They will violently resist enforcement measures where they can. They have access to clever lawyers and dubious expert witnesses and they often have friends in high places. They are frequently better equipped to escape the consequences of their conduct than the police are to prosecute them. Just as the police employ surveillance measures to keep watch on them so they employ counter-surveillance to lookout for the police.

Where police employ technology to intercept telephone calls, they employ technology to prevent police from being able to monitor conversations. Where the police employ informers within the criminal world, so they employ informers within enforcement agencies to gain advice on police activities. Unlike the police, they are not bound by rules of propriety and fair play and they are quick to capitalise on any restrictions or constraints placed on police performance.

All this of course, means that law enforcement officials must become sharper at their tasks and that governments must provide them with powers and resources to do the job. Granting wider powers, though, must be approached with caution. The human rights of people must always receive due consideration when new laws are being formulated or proposed. It is a real dilemma to advocate on the one hand that human rights be rigidly protected and, on the other, to recommend the granting of extended powers to law enforcement agencies to fight crime. Police officers in a democracy are expected to require only limited coercive powers for their duties in normal circumstances, but for serious situations they need exceptional authorities. Catching sophisticated criminals cannot be achieved without placing the law enforcers at least on an equal footing. Even so, it is incumbent upon police services to ensure that extended powers are used wisely and properly.

### Conclusion

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I hope that sets the stage for your deliberations. I know this will prove to be a valuable meeting and that you will make a lot of progress in finding ways to improve intelligence gathering, processing and sharing.

On behalf of the United Nations, I thank you for your endeavours against local, regional and international crime.

I trust you will have a successful and rewarding meeting, and in the Asian style I wish you all long life, good health, happiness and the best of luck in everything you do.

To conclude, I would like to end with a quotation from one of the greatest writer of the last century, Fedor Dostoevskji:

"Each of us is responsible of everything, in front of everybody." We have a chance of making a change, which could impact and improve the life and security of thousands of people: failing to plant the seeds of change will be, at the end, our sole responsibility.

Thank you.