

"Together" for peace and the rule of law

Remarks at the opening session of 25th HONLEA Sydney 15 October 2001

Your Excellency Minister for Justice and Customs, Heads of Delegation, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the United Nations, I am glad to welcome you at the 25th meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies. I would like to express the sincerest gratitude of the United Nations to the Australian government for hosting this year's HONLEA meeting.

I happened to observe the preparation planned by Commissioner Mick Keelty and his staff since the first day after the closing of last year's meeting. It seems to be that they made a great job.

During the past 25 years we have built some significant trust among our agencies in order to better serve together our peoples in the search for freedom from the scourge drugs and drug related crime.

In the meantime the world of drugs and crimes has changed. Indeed the world as a whole has changed. Indeed we need now to build a real cooperative partnership among us.

We open today the first United Nations meeting in Asia/Pacific after Secretary General Kofi Annan and the United Nations became the first Nobel Prize Laureate of the new Millennium. This recognition means a lot to me. It must mean a lot to you all.

It might mean that the work for justice and freedom by the United Nations is building peace for the world.

It starts on the streets of villages and towns - all over the world - it helps the poorest, it facilitates people's dialogue and understanding. It helps to enforce the rule of law and justice.

It is all about joining hands toward a common goal. Success of the Nations who unite comes from people, human commitment and dedication.

Let us join our hands, continue to do a job well done and enthusiastically do better together - we shall overcome.

Thank you.