NOTE

from: Greek chair for the Balkans/Near-Middle East regional formation of the Dublin Group

to: Dublin Group (meeting 17/18 December 1998)

Subject: Situation report on the Balkans/Near-Middle East
A. The Drugs Situation in Bulgaria

Bulgaria remains a transit country for the international traffic in drugs. The main entry is still the borders with Turkey (Capetan Andreevo). The most serious problem for Bulgaria is the cultivation of cannabis by its residents. The international traffic in drugs through Bulgaria follows these routes:
- Turkey (Capetan Andreevo) - Bulgaria (Kalotina) - Yugoslavia - Europe
- Turkey (C.A.) - Bulgaria (Ruse) - Europe
- Turkey (C.A.) - Bulgaria - Greece
- Bulgaria - FYROM - Greece

The usual means used are mainly tourist buses, private cars, trains, TIR.

In accordance with the customs authorities of Bulgaria, the cases - confiscations of drugs from 1.1.1998 to 7.10.1998 are as follows:

- **Heroin** in 18 cases 128,997 kg were confiscated
- **Cocaine** in 8 cases 683,025 kg were confiscated
- **Marijuana** in 5 cases 1,332 kg were confiscated
- **Opium** in 1 case 1,970 kg were confiscated
- **Codeine** in 1 case 62,000 pills were confiscated

A total of 42 persons were arrested.

The customs points and regions were drugs were confiscated are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calotina</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6,477 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capetan Andreevo</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>70,760 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonesevo - Kyustendi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17,100 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidin ferry-boat</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>38,528 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varna (port)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>681,139 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulata</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0,500 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Svistov</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0,420 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0,400 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silistra</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>62,000 pills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In accordance with the police authorities of Bulgaria, the cases - confiscations from 10.1.98 to 30.9.98 are as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heroine</td>
<td>in 23 cases</td>
<td>64,508 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>in 4 cases</td>
<td>3,680 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis (seeds)</td>
<td>in 2 cases</td>
<td>0,709 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis (plants)</td>
<td>in 50 cases</td>
<td>8,659 kg plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis (leaves)</td>
<td>in 3 cases</td>
<td>598 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy</td>
<td>in 1 case</td>
<td>10 pils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 161 persons were arrested.

An expert group from involved authorities (Police, Customs, National Drugs Bureau, Ministry of Health) drafted a new Special Law on Drugs where the amendment of the Penal Code is also suggested.

It is the first time that the sentence of life imprisonment is provided for drugs trafficking. The areas were sapling are planted will be destroyed and criminal proceedings will be initiated against their owners without the requirement to prove the sale as well as was applicable until now.

The said Special Law has already been adopted by the Cabinet (29.6.1998).

Moreover, the Drugs Service of the National Service against Organised Crime was reorganised and a Directorate is now operating with 5 Action Groups:
- Heroine - Balkan route
- Cocaine
- Cannabis - Import - Export
- Chemical - Synthetic Drugs - Laboratories
- International Trafficking

**B. The drugs situation in FYROM**

The Skopje Mini Dublin Group was convened in 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1998 with the participation of representatives of the Austrian and German Embassy as well as two representatives of the Office of the European Commission Delegate.

The following was discussed in the fist part of the meeting:

The representative of the Office of the European Commission Delegate referred to the cooperation with FYROM through PHARE and, in particular, through the multilateral programmes for the exchange of information (Project on Drug Information Systems and Networking), the enforcement of the provisions of Law (Joint UNDCP - PHARE Drug Law Enforcement Programme for Southeastern Europe), money laundering, measures against the diversion of precursors and technical assistance to drug demand reduction.

The German representative informed us that a special report will be issued shortly by the Federal Service against Crime which will include information on FYROM.

The Greek side mentioned the signing of bilateral protocol for police cooperation by the competent Ministers of Greece and FYROM (Achrida, 8\textsuperscript{th} July 1998) which provides, inter alia, for the cooperation and mutual assistance in the fight against illegal production, consumption and trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances.

Professor Ivan Tulevski, Chairman of the Interministeral Committee on Drug Control, Mrs. N.Popovic, Advisor of the Minister of Health, Mr. G.Bodganco and Mrs. V.Arsona from the Ministry of Interior, Mrs. G.Konevska of the Customs Service, Mrs. F.Dimitrova of the Ministry of Justice and Mr. D.Belcev, Director competent for the application of Agreements in the
European Union Sector and Mr. Z. Popov, both from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated in the second part of the meeting representing FYROM. The following topics were discussed:

1. Legal Framework

In the framework of efforts for the harmonisation of its domestic legislation with the respective legislations of the EU member states, the Government of the country assigned last September to the Interministerial Committee the elaboration of a National Programme for Drug Control which will aim, inter alia, at applying the provisions of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly against drugs which took place last June.

Apart from the creation of special units in the Ministries of Health, Labour, Education, Justice and Interior, the appointment of liaison officers was also decided who would undertake a coordinating role in the cooperation between the competent Ministries and Services. Finally, draft bills are being elaborated on the fight against drugs (Opium Code), the prevention of illegal use of precursors and against the laundering of money from illegal sales, for which efforts have been made to meet the criteria of the European Union.

2. Application of Special Programs - Measures

The application in the framework of UNDCP and UNOPS, of a special program for enhancing the potential of the country for controlling narcotic substances began on 1st of August in FYROM.

The country's Minister of Foreign Affairs signed last October an agreement for the acceptance of the joint program UNDCP-PHARE for enhancing the potential of enforcement of the law against drugs in Southeastern Europe (apart from FYROM, the program also covers Bulgaria and Romania). Programs for the exchange of information and the provision of technical assistance to drug demand reduction are at the preliminary stage of application, both within the framework of PHARE.

A special section has been created in the Customs Service who coordinates its activities with UNDCP and the World Customs Organization. In the framework of the latter, there is close cooperation with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO, seated in Warsaw), especially in matters of technical assistance provision.

Furthermore, cooperation in the framework of SECE continues satisfactorily. The Customs Authorities of FYROM actively participated in the recent meeting at Bucharest against organized crime. It is also noted that significant funds have been allocated by the Interministerial Committee to the installation, a year ago, at the border customs stations, of the so-called ASICUNDA system, a system created by UNCTAD, the country had adopted the system since 1993 but it remained inactive due to lack of funds for the provision of software.
The Ministry of Interior coordinates cooperation with foreign police authorities, both in the framework of INTERPOL and bilaterally. FYROM has signed seven bilateral police cooperation protocols (with Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Russia and Greece). The cooperation is especially good with the German Police, particularly in the field of special police officers training.

3. Care and Re-Integration System

There has been little to none progress in this field, mainly due to the difficult financial condition of the country and, consequently, due to the lack of funds. Users are still cared for in the psychiatric departments of the hospitals and the psychiatric clinics. The sole special treatment center of the country, managed by Mr. Tulevski, is in a deplorable state, according to him, because of complete lack of funds.

One of the main topics to be discussed shortly by the Interministerial Committee is the specialization of medical staff and social workers so as to be in a position to provide care to users and their families.

Concerning the treatment of addicted patients with methadone, the potential of the country remains extremely restricted. Doubts that have been expressed from time to time concerning the regime governing the state provision of this substance remain, since the price paid by the state for methadone is approximately twenty times higher than its real price.

4. Statistics

In accordance with a note containing official statistics of the Ministry of Interior, from the beginning of this year to date, 79 cases of illegal production and trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors were solved, 97 persons were arrested and the following quantities were confiscated:

- Heroin 76 kg and 880 gr
- Unprocessed opium 20 kg and 264 gr
- Marijuana 17 kg and 113 gr
- Cocaine 23 gr
- Amphetamines-ecstasy 749 tablets

In accordance with the said note, the total quantities of confiscated heroin come from Turkey. Marijuana is either locally produced or imported through Bulgaria and Turkey and the synthetic drugs end up in FYROM usually through Bulgaria. It is estimated that the cases of drug use of the latter and cocaine will be significantly increased in the near future.

5. The Interministerial Committee on Drug Control

Although two years have passed since the establishment of the Committee, its potential remains restricted. It is completely deprived of secretarial and technical support; its budget is scanty and does not have any suitable premises for offices. Dr. Tulevski hopes that the commitment of the
Government in last September will give a new impulse to the work of the Committee, which, even with the meager available means, is active in the framework of international cooperation against drugs.

In particular, a meeting of specialized non governmental organizations will take place in the near future under its auspices and a delegation of the Committee led by Dr. Tulevski will participate in a meeting of experts for the processing of the Action Plan to Implement the Declaration on Drug Demand Reduction in the framework of UDCP (Vienna, 14th-16th December)

6. Conclusions

As was ascertained in the previous meeting of the Skopje Mini Dublin Group, the government, the political parties and agencies of FYROM demonstrate the due sensitivity. Every effort is made for harmonizing the country's legislation with the respective legislations of the European Union member states.

However, the practical implementation of the announcements and the specific approved programs still runs into major difficulties despite the, mainly technical, international assistance, the bilateral cooperation and the undoubtedly jealous work of Dr. Tulevski and his associates, due to the adverse financial situation of the country which restrains all good intentions. And all this at a time when the reactivation of the Balkan Axis for illegal drug trafficking is expected.

C. The drugs situation in Croatia

In this country, the convocation of the Mini Dublin Group was not made possible for the same reasons as in the past; namely reluctance and lack of interest to participate by the vast majority of the members of the Mini Dublin Group that have diplomatic delegations here. This reluctance is mainly due to the fact that the Embassies here, which consist of few persons, apart from their purely bilateral duties, also function as quasi permanent delegations, given that they follow up the application of the Dayton and Erdut agreements and, at the same time, the European ones follow up the compliance of the country with the specifications determining its Euro-Atlantic course.

As a result of this situation and due to the circumstances (return of refugees, reconstruction program for Croatia, amendment of election law and democratization of the political life, independence of Mass Media), all the officers of the Embassies participate in committees and work groups almost every day, the subject being the above issues.

Despite the difficulties, a representative of the Greek Embassy met with competent officers of the Embassies of USA and United Kingdom (the only ones from the Mini Dublin Group members following up the issue of drugs). The meeting took place on 29/10/1998 and no detailed discussion was made during the meeting since the American representative Mr. A. Hamilton had just taken over his duties in the US Embassy in Zagreb while the British expert on drugs was placed in the British Embassy in Vienna.
The representative of the British Embassy here Mr. S. Evans suggested that
the meeting should be reconvened at the time of a future visit of his said
colleague in Zagreb in order to examine again the possibility to convene a
Mini Dublin Group (in case there are new data concerning the issue or
potential to implement a strategy for dealing with the problem of drugs,
provided of course that a competent representative of the state authorities will
also participate therein).

In general terms, in accordance with Mr. A. Hamilton and Mr. S. Evans, the
drug situation in Croatia has not undergone major changes in the last two
years.

Mr. Evans said inter alia that 80% of the heroine of Turkish origin is trafficked
through Croatia towards European countries while there are two categories of
organizations that deal with general drug trade:
a) Those that only transport the merchandise; in case the transporter is
arrested, the "importer" cannot be detected, and
b) Those that transport and process the merchandise in Croatia; in this
case, apart from the arrest of the transporter, the entire network dealing with
drugs may be identified.

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Evans underlined the fact that the "drug barons" may be
persons who, during the war, supplied the country with guns (gun-running)
and, therefore, they are now considered as "war heroes", which makes their
prosecution by state authorities almost unfeasible (and they also have political
connections).

It was also said that the Croatian authorities are concerned because the
banking sector, which is under reorganization, due to the serious crisis it is
undergoing, may become vulnerable to money laundering.

D. The Drugs situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina

On 7/11/1998 the Mini Dublin Group met in Sarajevo by invitation of our
Embassy, with the participation of Embassy representatives, a UNDCP
competent officer and representatives of the Office of High Representative
(OHR) and CAFAO.

The Swedish head of the UNDCP Office in Sarajevo Mr. Jarvestam
(responsible for UN programs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and FYROM)
said that last December's meeting, was very productive since it initiated a very
good cooperation between the authorities of the two entities (Federation of
Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serb Republic).

The annual program which is being implemented since September 1997
under UNDCP (for USD 1.5 million, financed by USA, United Kingdom and
Japan) is being applied satisfactorily in the Federation (which signed at the
end of 1997) and the Serb Republic (which signed in March 1998).

Concerning the real situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to Mr.
Jarvestam, there is a slight drug problem, due to the adverse financial situation. However, there are some alarming indications while data and statistics are not reliable yet. In the framework of the program, efforts are being made to improve the collection and processing of data and communicate them to the International Community in accordance with international conventions. Thus, the end of 1998 in keeping statistical data anticipates an improvement.

On the basis of the said program special units have been created to deal with drugs in all Cantons of the Federation and in Public Safety Centers of the Serb Republic.

The cooperation with the authorities of the entities has been good. In particular, the main axes of the program were education and equipment. Efficient education for law enforcement was sought in the framework of the two police forces. Thus, in the Federation, instructors were initially trained and, as a result, 1,100 police officers in uniform have now received basic knowledge on drugs. A similar effort is being made in the Serb Republic.

Moreover, in both entities, higher supervision courses have been made (December 1997 Sarajevo, June 1998) for high-rank inspectors.

This is now repeated, on a joint basis, Federation/Serb Republic.

In education, there is cooperation with CAFAO (Customs and Fiscal Assistance Office) of the European Union. A seminar was jointly organized (borders of Bosnia-Herzegovina with Croatia) for customs experts and border police officers. Since the bridge of Sava river was repaired, a major increase in circulation is expected and this point may become a "key route" for drug trafficking.

Concerning equipment, basic pieces of equipment were purchased and delivered to authorities of the entities (radios, recording machines, binoculars etc.).

Moreover, an effort is being made for creating infrastructure for drug detection and also in the field of forensic medicine. In the Federation, a central laboratory was completed in Sarajevo and two regional ones in Zenica and Tuzla. In the Serb Republic, a central laboratory is being prepared in Banja Luka (the equipment will be delivered at the end of the year) and two regional ones in Zvornik and Srbinje. The laboratory personnel are being trained in Vienna for the use of the equipment.

Mr. Jarvestam added that UN/IPTF would organize a special unit in drugs. Police experts have been selected for this unit from Sweden (5), United Kingdom (5), France, Denmark, Malaysia and Russia. Moreover, UNDCP cooperates with American delegations working for the education and equipment of Bosnia-Herzegovina authorities.

Legislation remains a big problem. Although the country has acceded to the
United States conventions since 1993, the applicable domestic legislation (former Yugoslav) is insufficient. For its modernization, three draft laws have been delivered to the Office of the High Representative, on the basis of a model draft by UNDCP adopted by 50 states.

E. The Drugs situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The image formed on the drug situation is based on unofficial data because the country's authorities are not cooperative. This image is as follows: The general impression is that, although the extent of illegal trafficking, production and consumption of narcotic substances in Serbia and Montenegro is difficult to be determined exactly, the lifting of UN sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1996 seems to have led to the reintegration of the country in the Balkan axis of illegal transport of, mainly, heroine from the Middle East to Western Europe.

This impression is reinforced by the fact that, in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the practice of illegal import of different products remains active. This practice, in conjunction with the under-functioning of the banking sector and with the fact the most transactions are made in cash, constitute the main factors that significantly restrict the ability of the prosecuting authorities to prevent drug trafficking. The image was made more obscure when the Republic of Montenegro turned into a zone for establishment of overseas companies and banking transactions in 1996.

The federal authorities have admitted at times that the passing of heroine cargoes through is intensified and mostly blame Albanian Kosovars and foreigners. As evidence for this point, they mention the frequent arrests of Kosovars in neighboring and West European countries, while they express their concern because, in accordance with existing evidence, the consumption of heroine in the domestic market is increasing. Information has recently come to light in accordance with which, since the beginning of the current year, there has been a new phenomenon of confiscation of large quantities of cocaine by police officers, which implies the existence of such a market in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This drug is consumed by the newly-rich class, being considered as a status symbol, in accordance with the models of similar trends recently noted in the Russian Society, while heroine is considered as "the poor people's drug".

It is also underlined that the vast majority of drug dealers imprisoned in Swiss prisons are Albanian Kosovars. Switzerland is the country where proceeds from drug trafficking are collected and re-allocated and the Albanian drug Mafia specializes in the direct exchange of drugs with weapons.

F. The Drugs situation in Qatar

There is no cultivation of drugs in this country, but Qatar is mainly a consuming country. In accordance with the data, some people attempt to produce psychotropic substances in off-hand laboratories. There has been one such case and one person has been arrested up to now.
However, the problem of production of psychotropic substances in the country is considered insignificant and there are no data proving their export to other countries.

There are no exports of chemical precursors to suspicious countries although Qatar produces petrochemical substances.

Qatar has ratified the UN Conventions against Drugs of 1961, 1971 and 1988. The legislation on drugs is strictly applied and is very efficient. There is no special legislation on drugs money laundering. Thus, the prosecution of such crimes is problematic and this is mainly due to the nature of the economic and banking system of the country.

The Police enforce sturdily the legislation and the sanctions stipulated for drug trafficking is the death sentence; one such decision has been executed for violation of the drugs legislation. Police officers from Qatar have recently started training students in the protection against drugs and giving them instructions on which areas to avoid in substance trafficking or consumption is believed to take place.

G. The drugs situation in Bahrain

There is no drugs cultivation in this country. Bahrain is a small country policed very strictly and great importance is given to the fight against drugs. Aircraft’s and vehicles supervise the entire country and, thus even the smallest cultivation would be detected.

The majority of drugs cargoes trafficked in transit come from Pakistan and is destined for third countries, including countries of Central and Western Europe. No cases of illegal production and export of psychotropic substances have been reported in Bahrain, although Bahrain has a petrochemical industry. After signing the UN Convention of 1988 and other conventions on drug control, the government of Bahrain shows increased interest in both fighting drugs and dealing with drug addiction. They have enacted effective legislation against drugs and cooperate with other governments in this effort.

H. The Drugs situation in Kuwait

In Kuwait there is no legal or illegal production of drugs or psychotropic substances. No cases of drug trafficking have been reported from this country to Europe, nor exports of chemical precursors to "high risk" countries.

Kuwait has ratified the UN conventions of 1961 and 1971 and will shortly ratify the Convention of 1988.

Legislation on drugs has been recently improved and become very strict for those dealing in drugs, especially in schools, and for those using children for such illegal activities. Moreover, Kuwait is now processing legislation on money laundering. The country’s government also participates in relevant
The US Embassy has recently suggested to Kuwait to train the prosecution authorities and bank executives by American experts in money laundering. Since the 1950s, Kuwait has established special services for controlling drug trafficking. It cooperates with Arab countries at regional and international levels in controlling the illegal trade in drugs and participates in educational seminars.

The Kuwaiti authorities reported that, from the beginning of 1993 to July 1995, 325 cases of drug trafficking and 308 cases of use have been ascertained, while in 1997, there were 10 cases of trafficking and 530 cases of drugs use.

II. The Drugs Situation in Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, there are no official illegal drugs plantations. Moreover, due to the applicable strict legislation, it is considered very difficult to transport drugs from or through the Kingdom to Central and Western Europe, as well as to other neighboring or non-neighboring countries. In any case, some trafficking to Europe through Saudi Arabia cannot be ruled out.

The competent Saudi Arabian authorities, mainly the General Administration for Drug Control and the Customs Directorate, pay great efforts to combat drug trafficking. To this end, they are willing to cooperate with other governments.

There is no production and export of psychotropic substances, morphine, codeine and pseudoephedrine.

The Kingdom is not involved in the export of chemical substances that may be used in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Burma and Latin American countries.

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom has acceded to the following UN Conventions:

Saudi Arabia has signed bilateral agreements on drugs with Yemen, Pakistan, Libya, Turkey and the Czech Republic.

The Saudi Arabian government has implemented awareness campaigns in the past few years in order to make young people understand the risks and consequences. The General Administration for Drug Control leads such campaigns.

The administration has an international network of offices in Pakistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Syria and intends to open offices in Lebanon, Morocco and India as well.

The Kingdom has established many committees to investigate cases that may cause financial loss and are in compliance with the applicable legislation.

However, there is no intention of introducing special legislation against drug...
money laundering.

Saudi Arabia considers that, with its legislation, it complies with the said UN conventions and that the commitments made during the last special session of the UN General Assembly are moving towards the right direction.

The assessment of the above should take into account that the import, trafficking and use of drugs are offences punished by death sentence in Saudi Arabia. However, this does not mean that the country does not have a restricted drug problem.

J. The Drugs situation in the United Arab Emirates

There is no drugs cultivation in the United Arab Emirates, however many cargoes are transported through Dubai.

The United Arab Emirates use chemical precursors for lawful pharmaceutical purposes, which are imported from Western Europe. However, there is risk of illegal transportation of such substances to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan etc. The combat of such mechanisms is based on the strict penal legislation, which stipulates the death sentence for drug dealers.

There is no discrimination between "hard" and "soft" drugs. Concerning the money laundering, there are no legal provisions to this day that would bind banks and financial institutes. The enactment of such provisions would be very useful for dealing with "Indian Mafia" which sees the United Arab Emirates as a country providing safety and clear advantages in many banking activities.

For this reason, the United Arab Emirates are now processing a draft law on money laundering and have already adopted some recommendations and conditions which should be take into account by banks in unusual account operations.

The United Arab Emirates has signed the UN Convention of 1988 against trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances. The countries from which drugs are imported into United Arab Emirates are the so-called countries of the Golden Triangle.

Drug trafficking in the Gulf region, especially in the United Arab Emirates, is made using complex networks that are sometimes directed by "honest" Indian and Pakistani businessmen; thus, drugs are distributed in the domestic and international market of Europe, Canada, Australia, USA and Saudi Arabia.

Therefore, Dubai is presented as a junction point for the distribution of heroine in Europe through the Balkan Axis. In particular, the route is: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.

This was established by the confiscations made in Saudi Arabia and Iran, which followed the said trafficking axis.
The United Arab Emirates acknowledges the extent of this problem and is receptive of any advice and assistance by the international community. However, the weak point remains the lack of genuine cooperation between the main factors of the Confederation.

In Abu Dhabi, there is a federal service against drugs without any real power, since each of the seven Emirates wants to deal alone with the problem of drugs.

Because of this fact, the creation of a central system of control and information exchange between the seven Emirates would create the conditions for controlling and dealing with drugs trafficking and would coordinate the actions of the individual prosecution authorities that, to this day, operate unilaterally, mainly due to the competition between the two most powerful Emirates.

K. The Drugs Situation in Israel

a) Illicit cultivation

Illicit cultivation of narcotic drugs is very rare. The only cultivation known in Israel is marijuana plants for self-consumption, which is quite rare.

b) Illicit trafficking

Israel is mainly a consuming country rather than a transit one. Drugs are smuggled in Israel through its land, sea and air borders, from various origins, depend on the type of drug.

c) Illicit manufacture

The basic drugs used in Israel is non-manufactured in this country. In the last two years the Israeli National Police seized 2 domestic laboratories that produced ecstasy.

d) UN Conventions

Israel is a party to the 1961 and 1971 UN Conventions on drugs. However, despite its willingness to ratify the 1988 Convention, it has still some difficulties at institutional level and especially with promoting legislation against money laundering. Since 1991, a confiscation law against drug dealers has been introduced. In Israel, there are also ways and means to overcome legal assistance barriers.

L. The Drugs situation in Iraq

There has not been reported cultivation of narcotic substances in Iraq, neither have been cases of transportation of narcotics through the country. The severe existing legislation in connection with the state security system, result to an extreme limited amount of drug-related cases. As the competent
authorities of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry have informed us, the number of persons that serve prison terms on drugs, is extremely small. The same is the case with regard to the production of psychotropic substances and chemical precursors.

Iraq has signed and ratified the Treaty against drugs of 1998. The ratification took place last summer.

Due to the embargo on Iraq the subsequent interdiction of capital flow to and from Iraq, money laundering is not possible.

This report does not cover the three Kurdish Directorates of the North which are not controlled by the Central Government.