

**REMARKS OF MR. JAMES F. MACK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF
CICAD, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

I AM HONORED TO WELCOME YOU ON BEHALF OF THE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AMBASSADOR LUIGI EINAUDI. AMBASSADOR EINAUDI MADE TRIED VERY HARD TO BE HERE WITH US TODAY BUT WAS PREVENTED BY PRIOR COMMITMENTS. HE TOLD ME THAT HE DEEPLY REGRETS NOT TO BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND RESUME THE GREAT FRIENDSHIPS HE HAS HERE, AND HE SINCERELY HOPES THAT THIS MEETING OF CICAD WILL BE A HUGE SUCCESS FOR ILLICIT DRUG CONTROL IN THE AMERICAS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THANK YOU FOR THE HOSPITALITY OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AT THIS, THE FIRST MEETING OF CICAD TO BE HELD IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK GENERAL SANZ JIMINIÁN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND THE INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE OF HIS TEAM AT THE NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS MEETING.

CICAD AND THIS MEETING ARE A REFLECTION OF THE MATURITY OF THE COLLECTIVE POLICIES AND MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS IN OUR REGION. THE DAYS OF SIMPLISTIC PRESENTATION OF OUR PROBLEMS, AN INCLINATION TOWARD EQUALLY SIMPLISTIC SOLUTIONS, AND THE INEVITABLE WAVE OF RECRIMINATIONS THAT FOLLOWED WHEN OBJECTIVES WERE NOT MET ARE A THING OF THE PAST. NOW, WE ALL KNOW THERE ARE NO MAGIC FORMULAE, NO QUICK FIXES, NO SILVER BULLET THAT SOLVES EVERYTHING IN ONE STROKE.

INDEED, THE ONLY WAY TO TACKLE THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGES FACING THE REGION –AND THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF THE DRUG ISSUE– IS TO RECOGNIZE THE COMPLEXITY OF

THE PROBLEM AND TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND ALL ITS ASPECTS AND VARIATIONS.

THAT IS WHAT WE ARE DOING AT CICAD:

- WE HAVE STRENGTHENED THE INTER-AMERICAN OBSERVATORY ON DRUGS SO AS TO HAVE INCREASINGLY GREATER AND BETTER INFORMATION;
- IN THE AREA OF DEMAND REDUCTION WE PROVIDE TRAINING TO PROFESSIONALS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION, SO THAT THEY CAN BECOME MULTIPLIERS OF TECHNIQUES AND PROGRAMS TO PREVENT OUR CHILDREN FROM FALLING PREY TO DRUGS;
- IN SUPPLY REDUCTION AND CONTROL WE ARE STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES TO PREVENT, INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE DRUG-RELATED CRIME THROUGH THE USE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES AND CIRCULATION OF BEST PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES;
- IN MONEY LAUNDERING WE PROVIDE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS AS WELL AS TRAINING FOR JUDGES;
- IN INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WE CONTINUE TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE TO SEVERAL MEMBER STATES, IN ORDER TO HELP THEM PREPARE THEIR ANTI-DRUG STRATEGIES AND STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG COUNCILS;
- AS REGARDS ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING SEVERAL PROJECTS INITIATED SOME YEARS AGO TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE POPULATIONS CONCERNED;
- WITH RESPECT TO THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM), WHICH I WILL COME TO, AT THIS MEETING WE WILL PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND.

RECOGNIZING THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL ASPECT OF SECURITY THAT OUR HEADS OF STATE HAVE ARTICULATED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS, AND CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE COORDINATION OF ITS ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER OAS ENTITIES AND AGENCIES, CICAD HAS BEEN WORKING INCREASINGLY CLOSELY WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE) AND WITH THE STATES PARTIES TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS (CIFTA).

LET ME RETURN TO THE SUBJECT OF THE MEM. A CORE ASPECT OF THIS MEETING WILL BE THE APPROVAL OF THIS MECHANISM'S NATIONAL REPORTS AND HEMISPHERIC REPORT. THESE REPORTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY EXPERTS FROM ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS TO MEASURE PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL IN EACH COUNTRY. THE MEM - THE ONLY TOOL OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD - IS A MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OAS. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MEM IS TO ENHANCE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES, AND HELP THEM TO RALLY INTERNAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS. THE PURPOSE IS TO STIMULATE AND IMPROVE THE CAPACITY OF MEMBER STATES TO FIGHT DRUGS ON ALL FRONTS - AND IT IS HUGELY SATISFYING TO SAY THAT THIS GOAL IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEM EVALUATION IS NOT TO SANCTION ANY COUNTRY. ON THE CONTRARY, THE COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE MEM NATIONAL REPORTS OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL BECAUSE THEY ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO DO SO. IF THEY WISH, MEMBER STATES CAN REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM CICAD TO REMEDY A NUMBER OF SHORTCOMINGS IDENTIFIED IN THE PROCESS.

THE PRESENTATION OF THESE NATIONAL REPORTS AND THE HEMISPHERIC REPORT IS TIMELY INDEED BECAUSE, IF I MAY REMIND YOU, THIS IS OUR LAST MEETING BEFORE THE NEXT

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR AT MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA. AT THE SUMMIT, WE WILL INFORM OUR HEADS OF STATE THAT WE HAVE FULFILLED THE MANDATES THAT THEY GAVE US. AND WHAT ARE THOSE MANDATES?

- PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL THROUGH THE MEM;
- DEVELOPMENT OF A METHODOLOGY TO MEASURE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COST OF DRUGS; AND,
- CREATION OF FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS TO COMBAT MONEY LAUNDERING.

WE SHOULD ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SUMMIT TO OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEM ON WHERE WE SHOULD CENTER OUR EFFORTS AND LIMITED RESOURCES IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

THE ISSUE OF FUNDING WARRANTS SPECIAL ATTENTION ON OUR PART. AS YOU KNOW, THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE OAS REGULAR FUND TO CICAD ARE STEADILY DWINDLING. CICAD HAS BEEN BADLY AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES SINCE 2002 AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO, AS WE CAN SEE FROM THE 2006 BUDGET THAT THE OAS WILL SOON SUBMIT TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL. THIS HARSH FINANCIAL REALITY HAS FORCED US TO SCALE BACK OUR PROGRAMS ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, AND PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. IF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION HAS MANAGED TO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS, IT HAS BEEN THANKS IN LARGE MEASURE TO THE EXTERNAL FUNDS RECEIVED, WHICH CURRENTLY ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 80% OF CICAD RESOURCES.

THIS SITUATION COMPELS US, THEREFORE, TO SEEK NEW RESOURCES TO ENABLE US TO SUSTAIN THE VIABILITY OF HEMISPHERIC EFFORTS AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. TO THAT END, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE ALL HAVE A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY OF OUR CICAD SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO FULFILL OUR MISSION.

AND WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

- ACT AS A HEMISPHERIC POLICY FORUM ON DRUGS;
- PROMOTE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION;
- CARRY OUT TECHNICAL PROGRAMS OF ACTION TO COMBAT THE DRUG SCOURGE;
- FOSTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THIS AREA; AND,
- DEVELOP BASIC STANDARDS AND MODEL REGULATIONS ON DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE DRUG ISSUE.

IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THE CONSEQUENCES OF PRODUCTION, ILLICIT TRAFFICKING, AND ABUSE OF DRUGS AFFECT OUR SOCIETIES, THE ECONOMIES OF OUR COUNTRIES, AND THE HEALTH OF OUR CITIZENS AND FAMILIES.

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS, LAST WEEK I READ SOME RATHER ALARMING FACTS ABOUT HOW DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AFFECTS NOT ONLY THE USER, BUT ALSO THEIR RELATIVES, IN TERMS OF WORK PERFORMANCE. ACCORDING TO THE HAZELDEN FOUNDATION, A HIGHLY PRESTIGIOUS TREATMENT CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES, 26% OF WORKING ADULTS REPORTED SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS IN THEIR FAMILIES. OF THAT 26%, 42% FELT DISTRACTED OR LESS PRODUCTIVE AT WORK BECAUSE OF THIS PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH THIS FIGURE IS SPECIFIC TO THE UNITED STATES, THIS PROBLEM IS SURELY REPEATED IN ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF CICAD IN 1986. A FEW MONTHS AFTER ITS CREATION, CICAD ORGANIZED THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DRUG PREVENTION HERE IN SANTO DOMINGO. THAT SEMINAR AROUSED A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE. NOW, ON THIS OCCASION, INTEREST IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF CICAD WILL BE FELT IN EVERY CORNER OF THE AMERICAS.

THE ULTIMATE AIM OF OUR EFFORTS, OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, OF EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES, IS TO ENSURE

DEMOCRACY IN OUR REGION AND PROSPERITY FOR OUR PEOPLES. DRUGS AND RELATED CRIMES CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST STUMBLING BLOCKS IN OUR HEMISPHERE. THIS MEETING IS FURTHER PROOF THAT THE DECLARATIONS OF OUR LEADERS ARE NOT EMPTY WORDS BUT REPRESENT THE POLITICAL COMMITMENT OF 34 NATIONS TO CONFRONT THIS VAST PROBLEM WITH DETERMINATION, LEVEL-HEADEDNESS, MATURITY, AND A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.