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Narcotics Control & AIDS Dept

DATE: 17 June 1988

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CC: PS/Sir John Fretwell
Sir R Braithwaite
Mr Slater
Mr Williams, UND
Mr Richardson, ERD
Mr Wicks, No 10
Mr Cook, C5 Division,
Home Office

PS/Mr Eggar
Private Secretary

TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT: DRUGS

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1. Miss Anstee (Director General of the UN office in Vienna and Co-ordinator of UN drugs work) handed over an aide memoire for the Secretary of State this morning with the request that the UK take it into account in responding to the US initiative on drugs at the Toronto Economic Summit.

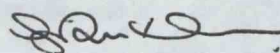
2. The version of the US initiative received by Miss Anstee from the US Ambassador to the UN in Vienna mentions four points. Three of these appeared in the paper on narcotics issues for Toronto received from the US Embassy in London and are covered in the Summit briefing. The fourth (and that to which Miss Anstee attaches highest importance) refers to the funding of the Division of Narcotic Drugs (DND) and the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in the UN. The US Embassy paper did not refer specifically to this point. (It did however call for pledges of increased assistance to the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control as part of "overall support for the UN Commission on Narcotics Drugs and its constituent bodies" which include the INCB and the DND.)

3. If the US do raise this extra point, we should have no difficulty in supporting a proposal that the drugs bodies should be funded adequately. We have consistently expressed our concern over the potential effects of the proposed staff cuts (arising from the UN reform process) on priority areas such as the drugs bodies.

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4. The paper also refers to the related issue of co-ordination, although this is unlikely to arise at the Summit. But we have made it clear on numerous occasions that we attach importance to the effective co-ordination of UN drugs work and have given Miss Anstee our public support. The Secretary of State raised our concerns with Sig Andreotti (a close personal friend of the Executive Director of UNFDAC, Dr di Gennaro) last November.



G L Minter

Mr Winter, NCAD

cc PS

PS/Mr Eggar

Mr Slater

Mr Williams, UNO

CONFIDENTIAL

A I D E M E M O I R E

Handed over to me
this morning for onward

1. United States authorities have indicated their intention to raise narcotic drug control at the Toronto summit. They propose four lines of action, all related to the follow-up of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, (ICDAIT) and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations:

transmission
to the
Secretary
of State.
Urgent
advice please
(for Bartonig
to connect
before Toronto)

- a) increased financial support for the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). (These are voluntary contributions);
- b) full support of the new and much stronger U.N. convention on illicit drug trafficking, which it is expected will be finalized at a plenipotentiary Conference in Vienna in December 1988;
- c) pressure on the United Nations to ensure adequate funding for the two U.N. bodies financed from the assessed Regular Budget, the Division of Narcotic Drugs (DND) and the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB);
- d) greater involvement of other U.N. organizations, such as the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

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(A fifth point which would make bilateral aid to producer countries dependent on their satisfactory performance in anti-drug policies has been dropped because some countries taking part in the summit were likely to object).

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2. All four points are important, but c) is key, since both the DND and the INCB, always very modestly staffed, (combined total budgets approximately US \$4 million per year) are threatened with severe post reductions as part of the current budget reduction exercise, requested by the General Assembly, involving overall staffing cuts of 15%. It is no exaggeration to say that the mainstream U.N. activity in drug abuse control is in crisis. If the cuts go through it will be quite unable to carry through the increased responsibilities conferred on it by the international community at the International Conference (ICDAIT) last year or that will devolve on it from the new convention. Indeed, some existing mandates could no longer be handled adequately and it is questionable whether the units would remain viable.

3. There is an additional matter on which it is vital for agreement to be reached among major contributing countries: the vexed question of coordination of U.N. drug control activities. In response to many calls from General Assembly Resolutions etc., the Secretary-General conferred this responsibility on an Under-Secretary-General close to him in 1984. Since March 1987 this responsibility falls on the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna where the three U.N. units (UNFDAC, DND and INCB) are located. The arrangement works well for inter-agency coordination with other organizations of the U.N. system. It does not work within the U.N. itself because of the entrenched opposition of the Executive Director of UNFDAC, a personal position apparently supported by the Italian Government, which opposes the concept in every possible forum. They express a preference for "horizontal", as opposed to "vertical" coordination. This is meaningless and will not work. It is essential that

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the U.N. Secretary-General's efforts to bring order in this vital area and to ensure maximum impact and optimum use of exceedingly scarce resources, receive the unequivocal support of major donor countries.

4. There have been indications that the Italian Government favours unifying the three U.N. units (UNFDAC, DND and INCB) perhaps under a "High Commissioner". There have also been moves to propose Venice as a site for UNFDAC. It is certainly premature to consider uniting the three units. A move of UNFDAC to Venice would be very undesirable and destroy any hope of pulling the U.N. operation together.

5. Italy exercises much influence on UNFDAC because it has promised to provide up to US \$300 million to the Fund. In terms of actual commitment, however, their contribution, though still the largest, is far from that total. The United Kingdom's contribution has been increasing and is by no means insignificant. In 1987 it stood third in rank and amounted to US \$4.2 million (Italy 11.3 million).