

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The Second Meeting of ASEAN Drug Experts was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 21-25 November 1977.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Police Maj.-Gen. Pow Sarasin, the leader of the Thai delegation, and Police Brig. Gen. Sukardjo Subadi, the leader of the Indonesian delegation, were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

Mr. Pratuang Sindhpong, Governor of Chiang Mai Province, presided over the opening ceremony and delivered a message from H.E. Gen. Kriangsak Chamanan, Prime Minister of Thailand. In his message, the Prime Minister welcomed ASEAN joint efforts in the prevention and suppression of narcotic drugs and reaffirmed the steadfast intention of the Thai Government to seriously carry out its part both in the Kingdom and in co-operation with ASEAN member countries and other nations outside ASEAN. He emphasized that the problems of narcotics must be dealt with collectively.

The Meeting reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of the First Meeting of Drug Experts and discussed drug problems in the fields of law enforcement; treatment rehabilitation and research; and preventive education and information.

The Meeting took note of the information presented by the delegations concerning modus operandi, the route of trafficking and the trend of narcotics trafficking in ASEAN

member countries. It noted with satisfaction the increase in co-operation among member countries in the field of law enforcement.

The Meeting reiterated the importance of ASEAN member countries notifying each other of any arrest of ASEAN-national on charge of drug offences and felt that there should be extradition treaties, covering drug offences, on a bilateral basis among ASEAN member countries.

The Meeting agreed that the organization of training programs by ASEAN member countries would be a beneficial measure in promoting technical co-operation, and would welcome any offer of assistance to the said project.

The Meeting took note of the progress made in the area of crop-substitution program under the auspices of the United Nations.

In the field of treatment, rehabilitation, and research, the Meeting, recognizing the need to increase the trained personnel and to improve the facilities to meet the growing number of drug dependants/abusers, agreed that measures which could help solve these problems include the establishment of ASEAN Training Centre or Centres for the Prevention of Drug Dependence/Abusers and the setting up of a Clearing House within the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the exchange of information, research and expertise.

The Meeting was of the opinion that a more balanced approach should be adopted for drug control by giving more consideration to the preventive¹⁰⁷ education. Such an approach includes supply and demand reduction efforts that emphasize

psycho-socio-cultural factors.

As a follow-up to the First ASEAN Seminar-Workshop on Drug Education for Teacher Educators and Curriculum Designers, the Meeting agreed that the Second ASEAN Seminar-Workshop should be held, emphasizing the developmental potential of human resources.

The Meeting noted that the mass media should be encouraged to give more space and time to the positive components of the total drug abuse prevention and control program such as preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation.

The Indonesian delegation offered to host the Third Meeting of ASEAN Drug Experts in Indonesia at a date to be announced later.

The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government and people of Thailand for the hospitality accorded to the delegates and the efficient arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was held in the ASEAN traditional spirit of cordiality and mutual understanding.