

FIRST MEETING

ASEAN DRUG EXPERTS

Singapore, 26-28 October 1976

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

1           The First Meeting of ASEAN Drug Experts was held in Singapore on 26-28 October 1976.

2           The Meeting was attended by delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Mr John Hanam, Leader of the Singapore Delegation, and Khunying Suparb Viseturakarn, Leader of the Thai Delegation, were the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

3           The Meeting was opened by the Honourable Mr Chua Sian Chin, Minister for Home Affairs and Education, Singapore.

4           Recognising the seriousness of the drug problem, the Meeting explored further areas of co-operation in law enforcement, preventive education, and treatment and rehabilitation. The Meeting underscored the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to the drug problem.

5           The Meeting noted that Member Countries had implemented most of the recommendations made at earlier meetings of ASEAN officials involved in combatting the abuse of narcotic drugs.

6           The Meeting examined and compared the drug laws of Member Countries and discussed the provisions for capital punishment.

7           The Meeting considered, among others, procedures to implement the ASEAN Declaration of Principles to Combat the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs.

8           In regard to preventive education, the Meeting recognised that although children and youth are the main targets of the drug education programme, those who have influence over them also need orientation and education in this field. The Meeting, therefore, recommended that each ASEAN country formulates a drug education programme integrated with health education and/or allied disciplines.

9           The Meeting also called for greater emphasis to be given to mandatory aftercare for drug dependants and tougher measures against drug traffickers and manufacturers, including refusal of entry or expulsion of suspected drug traffickers and manufacturers.

10          The Meeting was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship and cordiality.