

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FIGHTING CRIME

We all know that the world is becoming smaller and more inter-related from to day. Advances in telecommunications, transportation, and technology make it possible for people in every nation to feel more interconnected than at any time in human history. The same breakthroughs in telecommunications (including the growth of the Internet and the development of advanced new systems of wireless and satellite-based communications) allow virtually every person on the planet to have access to anyone else. The advances that have so greatly facilitated trade, travel, and telecommunications have also benefited international criminal activity.

Organized crime knows no administrative borders. It is especially widespread in the countries emerging from post-conflict situations, due to their nascent structures and present trends of major social, economic, rule of law and other undergoing reforms.

With this in mind, how significant is the problem of transnational organized crime? Let me offer some facts that illustrate the matter for you.

- All \$48 billion worth of cocaine and heroin in the United States each year originates abroad, and is brought here by transnational organized crime groups.
- Two thirds of all counterfeit currency detected in the U.S. is actually created outside of the United States.
- About 200,000 of the automobiles stolen in the U.S. each year, worth over a billion dollars, are taken outside our borders for sale abroad.
- Theft of trade secrets from U.S. companies by their foreign business competitors resulted in losses to the U.S. economy estimated at \$18 billion in 1997.
- The production and sale of counterfeit products and other forms of copyright, trademark, and patent infringement cost U.S. companies over \$23 billion annually.
- Organized terrorist groups continue to maim and kill the innocent and unsuspecting. Americans seem to be a favorite target, and the recent, tragic bombing of our Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, in which hundreds of innocent people lost their lives, show clearly that the work of these organized terrorist groups can be deadly.

In response to this growing threat from transnational organized crime, many nations have stepped up their efforts to confront and contain transnational organized crime. You have already heard from Mr. Nilsson about the response by the European Union and the Council of Europe to this problem, and Dr. Plachta will tell you more about the efforts of the United Nations to develop a global treaty in this area. The United States has supported all of these efforts.

I would like to describe the key features of modern mechanisms for international law enforcement cooperation.

1. Police to Police Assistance
2. Letters Rotatory
3. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties
4. International Extradition

In conclusion, I want to say that the global battle to confront and destroy transnational organized crime is a contest that demands the best of all of us, as participants in the criminal justice system. The stakes are enormous. President Clinton has said that International criminals jeopardize the global trend toward peace and freedom, undermine the fragile new democracies, sap the strength from developing countries, [and] threaten our efforts to build a safer, more prosperous world. For these reasons, it is important that we make the most of opportunities like this conference, to learn all we can about the tools available for international cooperation, and take these lessons with us to our homes for use in building the brighter future we and our families deserve.

Список використаних джерел:

1. John E. Harris. International cooperation in fighting transnational organized crime: special emphasis on mutual legal assistance and extradition,.
2. Our South East Europe. Newsletter 3/2010