

Dear delegates,

In 1950, exactly half a century ago, an English police officer together with some of his colleagues founded the International Police Association under the motto 'Serving through friendship "SERVO PER AMIKECO' (in Esperanto)

The aims of the association were and still remain:

- to build up and foster friendly relations and mutual assistance between police officers at both national and international level;
- to promote and support the exchange of experiences in the field of police work in a bid to facilitate international cooperation;
- to lend the police force a positive image and improve citizen/police relations through PR work;
- to become active and offer assistance, as far as possible, on a social level; to encourage mutual tolerance

with the aim of improving understanding between ethnic groups and ensure world peace.

With around 300 000 members in 61 countries, the International Police Association is now the largest international professional organisation, embracing all police officers regardless of their rank, function, language, race, religion and personal standpoints. The IPA is independent of all political parties and trade unions and is not linked to any other group or institution. Since 1977, the International Police Association has held an advisory status as NGO at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and since 1995 has maintained the same status at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

In our capacity as NGO, it's a great honour for us to offer our assistance as police officers and advisers to the United Nations. Over the past years, our representative here in Vienna has formed beneficial contacts, most notably with the sections for drug control and crime prevention.

As police officers involved in various ways with the daily fight against crime and drugs, we are aware how difficult it is to achieve positive results. Therefore, we frequently ask ourselves the following questions:

- Is the fight against drugs still relevant?
- Wasn't the battle lost a long time ago?
- What would be the risks of legalising drugs?
- What would be the most correct and successful policy to pursue in order to protect our children from drugs?

We must tackle the problem at its root by ensuring that ideally no more or certainly less roots are planted by producers in all countries where we know such plants are cultivated. Of course, alternatives must be found, since cannabis producers also have to make a living in order to survive.

Moreover, closer international cooperation is required in the fight

against crime, but not only within the police forces. Protecting citizens is one of the main tasks facing the police, but not the police alone.

The two UN sections for drug control and crime prevention are both led by Mr Pino Arlacchi and have already been carrying out important preparation work that is well known to the International Police Association.

In 1994, the IPA World Police Prize was awarded for the first time in recognition of exceptional service to the police. Following a proposal from the Austrian IPA section, the IPA's Permanent Executive Bureau decided to present the 2000 prize to the United Nation's ODCCP in Vienna for the work they have performed over the past years in the fight against drugs and crime.

In the presence of the International Secretary-General, the International Treasurer, the National President of the Austrian IPA section and the Permanent Representative of the UN in Vienna, I feel both honoured and

privileged as International President of the IPA to award this prize - a statue representing justice and bearing the IPA logo - to Mr Pino Arlacchi.

Furthermore, I should also like to present you with a cheque for CHF 10 000. I am quite convinced that you will use this sum wisely in the fight against drugs.

Armand Jaminet
President of the IPA