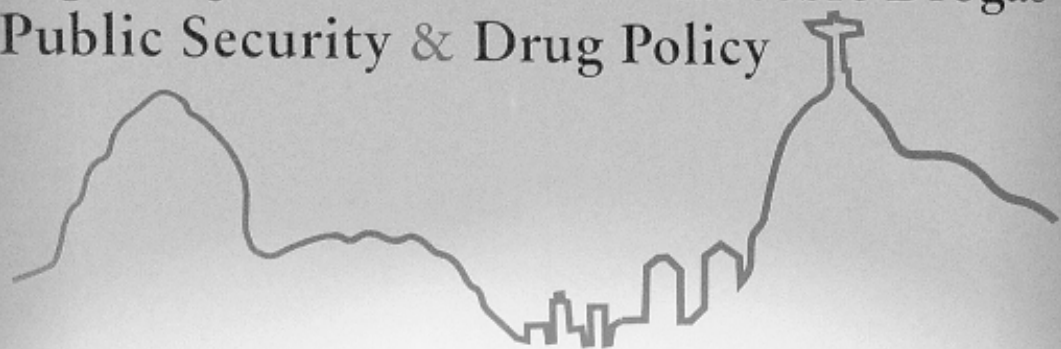


Part One

PUBLIC SECURITY AND THE PROBLEM OF DRUGS

Rio International Symposium 25-27 February 2008
Rio Simpósio Internacional 25-27 Fevereiro 2008

Segurança & Políticas Públicas sobre Drogas Public Security & Drug Policy



PUBLIC SECURITY AND THE PROBLEM OF DRUGS

The first session of the seminar was on Public Security and the Problem of Drugs. Brazilian and international authorities, who act directly in reducing drug supply and demand, made presentations. Speakers demonstrated the impact of the problem of drugs on public security activities, and ways to minimize the problem.

The mediator, Vitalino Canas, Congressman and ICOS senior advisor explained that there is a confluence between Brazil and Europe regarding the multidisciplinary and multidimensional view on public security and the problem of drugs. According to Mr. Canas, Brazil avoids policies focused on repression and is today one of most progressive and innovative countries. As an example, he mentioned PRONASCI and law 11.343 (the updated Brazilian Law on drugs) which, according to him, demonstrates a progressive and correct concession.

General Yog de Miranda Uchôa, Brazil's National Anti-drugs Secretary, started his speech evaluating the physical dimensions and geographical situation of the country, a structure prone to facilitating drug transit and consumption. General Uchôa described the creation of the national anti-drugs policy, emphasizing the integrated federal and state endeavours, and how it was

updated and harmonized with the Brazilian Constitution and the UN resolutions. He affirmed that, in 2006, it was approved as law giving more emphasis to a drug user's recovery than gave to his or her arrest, as much as it emphasized the drug demand reduction.

Luiz Fernando Corrêa, Director-General of Brazil's Federal Police contextualized the role of his institution in the Anti-drugs National Policy framework. Due to the Policy, the Federal Police started to coordinate activities regarding the repression of drugs, also articulating with other governmental institutions, and transferring to state police forces the duty of investigating and curbing drug traffic. Mr. Corrêa also pointed out focus points of the Federal Police: such as cooperating with foreign police institutions, improving intelligence, and expanding the institutions working capacity, in order to respond to the raising demands of its services.

Antônio Carlos Biscaia, the then National Public Security Secretary, discussed this issue from SENASP's perspective. Recognising the multiple aspects of the drug trade and affirming that the government's action should be multidisciplinary and coordinated, impacting at the same time, on a number of aspects. The Secretary emphasized the role of the law 11.343,

while criticizing the judicial system's lack of efficiency in addressing each case. Finally, Mr. Biscaia described SENASP's duties, which initially only supported policies against drugs, but currently now, in coordination with PRONASCI, combines public security policies with social inclusion measures.

José Luís Lopes da Mota, president of EUROJUST, affirmed that organised crime takes advantage of the opportunities provided by globalisation, and that the drug traffic is the most important segment of the international crime industry. Mr Lope da da Mota explained that the drug problem must be approached through multidisciplinary interventions, in order to prevent the harmful effects of over-incrimination. An increase in international cooperation and coordination are key elements for the police and justice systems to be capable of dealing with this highly profitable criminality, and detecting, processing and convicting those held responsible, while also avoiding harmful situations, such as incrimination due to poverty. Mr Lopes da Mota presented EUROJUST as a world class Juridical cooperation laboratory, since it aims to stimulate and promote Juridical coordination whenever criminal cases involve two or more states.

Raymond Kendall, Honorary Secretary General of INTERPOL, and Senior Advisor to ICOS, explained that in the Special Session on drugs of the United Nations in 1998, drugs were seen as a dangerous threat to all societies. Given this, Mr Kendall explained that it is necessary to balance repression with the reduction of demand. Mr Kendall commented that Brazil's PRONASCI programme is an initiative which recognises that a multidisciplinary approach is necessary to tackle the

challenge of tackling drugs and providing security. ICOS' Senior Advisor spoke of the inefficiency of periodic police operations in areas which the state does not control. In conclusion Mr Kendall highlighted the importance of security, and that security cannot be provided without development.