

TOPIC 2

CURRENT SITUATION OF ORGANIZED CRIMES (EXCEPT DRUG TRAFFICKING)

Chairperson	Mr. Abdul Wahhab Sarkar	(Bangladesh)
Co-Chairperson	Mr. Yutaka Nagashima	(Japan)
Rapporteurs	Mr. Alberto Rama Olario	(Philippines)
	Mr. Surasakdi Chungsanga	(Thailand)
Assistant Members	Mr. Pham Ba Khiem	(Vietnam)
	Ms. Kuniko Hokin	(Japan)
	Mr. Ken Umemura	(Japan)
Advisers	Mr. Masahiro Tauchi	(Deputy Director, UNAFEI)
	Mr. Ryosuke Kurosawa	(Professor, UNAFEI)

I. PREFACE

Topic two is the discussion of “the Current Situation of Organised Transnational Crime (except illicit drug trafficking)” happening in the respective participating countries. Transnational crimes to be discussed and analysed include 1) illicit firearms trafficking, 2) smuggling of illegal migrants, 3) illicit trafficking of women and children, 4) illicit trafficking of stolen motor vehicles, 5) money laundering, 6) transnational economic crimes. We also aim to look into the current trends and manifestations of such crimes, the types and names of groups involved, and the size and extent of their organisations.

II. CURRENT SITUATION

A. Illicit Firearms Trafficking

Among the participating countries, Japan and the Philippines manifested the most apparent problem. Japan is a destination of illicit firearms, mostly handguns, from several countries. In the last five (5) years, from 1992 to 1996 a total of 7,261 firearms were seized by the Japanese Police, 2,392 of which came from the U.S.A. (accounting for 32.9%), 1,352

from China (18.6%), 657 from the Philippines (9.5%), while the rest came from several other countries.

A total of 1,702 authentic handguns were seized in 1995, and over 90% of this number were of foreign manufacture. This shows the importance of stopping the smuggling at the country borders. Smuggling routes have increased to include Russia, China, South Africa and Peru in addition to the United States and the Philippines. Smuggling is also being done by fishing boats entering small unopen ports. The smuggling methods have become clever, and include use of foreign mail.

In 1997, from January to November 708 handguns were also confiscated by the Japanese police from Boryokudan members (an organised crime group in Japan) accounting for most of the firearms illegally shipped to Japan. This seizure however was a decrease of 28.3% from previous years confiscation from Boryokudan groups, indicating that the groups have managed to skillfully handle their illicit firearms trafficking.

Firearms trafficking in the Philippines on the other hand, is a two-way activity.

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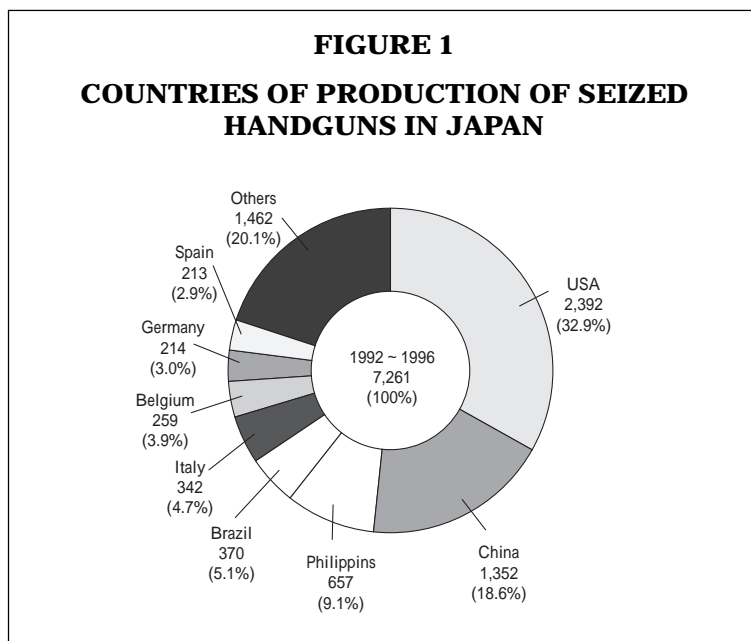


TABLE 1
SEIZED HANDGUNS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS FROM PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN JAPAN

Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Total	Ratio(%)
USA	407	469	489	591	436	2,392	32.9
China	233	297	311	304	207	1,352	18.6
Philippines	86	103	140	169	159	657	9.1
Brazil	73	56	71	91	79	370	5.1
Italy	66	91	82	81	22	342	4.7
Belgium	41	33	54	75	56	259	3.6
Germany	38	37	46	48	45	214	3.0
Spain	33	23	67	50	40	213	2.9
Others	313	247	253	293	356	1,462	20.1
Total	1,290	1,356	1,513	1,702	1,400	7,261	100.0

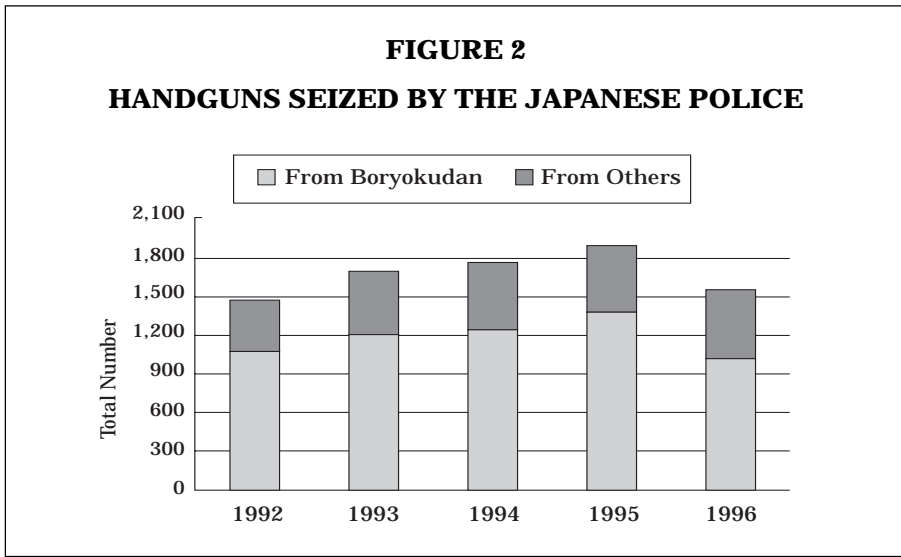


TABLE 2

COUNTRIES OF SHIPMENT OF SMUGGLED HANDGUNS IN JAPAN

Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Total
Total	27	60	64	9	14	174
USA	15	43	2	2	8	70
Thailand			61			61
Philippines	1	9			6	16
Argentina	7					7
South Africa	1	2		4		7
Russia	2	1				3
Others	1	5	1	3		10

Note: 174 handguns seized on the charge of smuggling during last five year.

Crime groups and even ordinary individuals smuggle illegal firearms mostly from the U.S.A. to the Philippines through airports and seaports of the country. This is done by simply misdeclaring or non-declaring, and mixing or hiding firearms in cargo consigned to fictitious names and addresses. They also dismantle the gun parts and hide them among metal items or machinery legally shipped into the country. Clandestine shipments of high powered

TABLE 3

SEIZED HANDGUNS FROM DIFFERENT GROUPS IN JAPAN

Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Number	1,450	1,672	1,747	1,880	1,549
From Boryokudan	1,072	1,196	1,242	1,396	1,035
Ratio(%)	(73.9%)	(71.5%)	(71.1%)	(74.3%)	(66.8%)
From Others	378	476	505	484	514
Ratio(%)	(26.1%)	(28.5%)	(28.9%)	(25.7%)	(33.2%)

firearms, intended for rebel groups fighting the Philippines Government, is also done through the long coastline of the country from the north to the south. The other activity is the shipment of locally made firearms in the Philippines intended for some Asian countries particularly Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The illicit trafficking is done aboard ocean-going vessels plying the Philippines and these countries.

Illicit firearms trafficking in the other participating countries of the Asia-Pacific region is also apparent in Korea, where organised groups bring in firearms

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intended for local crime syndicates. The modus operandi of smugglers includes disassembling of the parts of the firearms and contraband and hiding them in other materials such as VCR's, vacuum cleaners and irons. Aluminium containers are used to evade X-ray detection at the airports.

In India, the problem is manifested by the on-going strife in the Kashmir Region, where illicit firearms are coming in via the land borders between India and Pakistan, and from sea and air routes inside India. The most recent and brazen illicit firearms trafficking in India was the Purulia arms drops case, where a Russian made Antonov 26 aircraft air-dropped 300 AK 47/56 rifles and 20,545 rounds of ammunition, dragnov sniper weapons, rocket launchers and night vision devices in the Purulia Village in West Bengal State. The aircraft was bought in Latvia for US\$2 million and chartered by a Hong Kong registered company named CAROL Travel Company. The firearms were picked-up in Bulgaria by a syndicate composed of one (1) British, five (5) Latvians and an India national. Similar cases also happened in the Punjab and North East States of India.

In Pakistan, the country is a destination for illicit firearms coming from war-torn Afghanistan. Bangladesh and Malaysia likewise has problems of illicit firearms smuggling facilitated by crime groups engaged in drug-trafficking and gun-running for local crime syndicates. Thailand particularly is being used as a transshipment point for firearms intended for Tribal Warlords in the Golden Triangle area bordering Myanmar and Laos, for warring factions in Cambodia.

The other countries of Nepal, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar, Mongolia and Vietnam have little or no reported incidents of illicit firearms trafficking involving transnational crimes.

However in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, incidents of illegal firearms trafficking is very much apparent due to its proximity to strife torn areas of the Middle East. Turkey particularly has problems of this nature because of the on-going problems with the PPK, an organised crime group in Turkey, engaged in drug-trafficking. They are also very active in illicit firearms trafficking to protect their illegal drug business. While in Saudi Arabia, firearms arms entered the Kingdom through its boundaries carried by illegal immigrants. Most of the weapons are pistols, machine guns, shot guns and TNT. Some of these firearms fell into the hands of terrorist and criminal elements who uses them for bank robberies.

In the Latin America Countries of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Nicaragua, firearm trafficking is also very apparent mainly due to the high profile drug production and drug trafficking in these countries, particularly Colombia and Mexico. Nicaragua was once a strife-torn country due to its internal civil war and illicit firearms poured into the country. In addition, Mexico and Colombia are facing an internal insurgency problem. Mexico in the Chiapas Region and Colombia by leftist and rightist rebel groups. Only Venezuela has manifested slight problems in firearms trafficking due to its relatively stable economy and peace and order conditions.

B. Smuggling of Illegal Migrants

Among the participating countries of the 108th seminar, serious cases of illicit trafficking of migrants were reported by presentors from the Asia-Pacific region like the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan towards developed countries or regions like Japan, the U.S.A. and the Middle East. The Latin America countries of Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua and Venezuela also reported illegal migrant trafficking

towards developed countries and regions like the U.S.A. and Europe.

Economic adventurism is the common motive for these illegal migrants to venture out of their native countries. They are the so-called “economic aliens” who seek better lives away from their impoverished homelands. The other type of illegal migrants are the so-called “political aliens.” They flee from their native countries due to persecution because of their different political, religious, cultural views or because of war. These unfortunate people are easy prey of transnational crime groups who provide the incentive to travel abroad by facilitating their papers and transportation. It has been reported that the price for moving an alien from Southern China, particularly the Fujian Province to Japan is US\$20,000 and to the U.S.A., US\$33,000. To find these fees, illegal migrants borrow money from relatives or friends but more usually from the smuggling syndicates at extraordinary rates set by them. As a result, both the immigrants and their family members may become indentured workers or forced to turn to crime to repay debts.

In Japan, Boryokudan crime groups facilitate the entry of illegal migrants in collaboration with Chinese crime groups such as “Snakeheads.” The number of arrested illegal immigrants and the number of incidents (cases) from 1995 to 1997 in Japan is as follows. In 1997, 90% of the arrested were Chinese and most of them came from the Fujian Province of Mainland China.

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF ARRESTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

	1995	1996	1997(Jan.-Sep.)
Arrested Illegal Immigrants	350	670	1,070
Cleared Cases	15	28	51

Cases of illegal migrants from the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam were reported to have been lured to Japan, Hong Kong, Europe and the Middle East hoping to find high paying jobs and better lives. In the transport of these illegal migrants, transnational crime groups collaborate with their counterparts in the countries of destination and along the routes to facilitate the transport of these illegal migrants. Some hapless victims have been said to suffer enormous difficulties and some have died in mishaps while being transported by the syndicates. One such incident happened in the Malta Sicily Channel (Italy) when 200 people, including 170 illegal migrants from India, drowned while crossing the channel in small boats. Many were also reported to have died while being transported across mountains and the Swiss Alps just to reach their destination in the Western European countries.

In the Republic of Korea, illegal immigration comes mainly from China. In 1994 through 1997, 2,667 Chinese entered the Republic of Korea illegally through sea routes. It is estimated that there are 40 groups engaged in facilitation of illegal immigrants who pay 40,000 to 50,000 Chinese yuan per head to the syndicates. Another modus operandi employed in the Republic of Korea by the syndicates is to arrange marriage of Chinese illegal entrants to Korean nationals to obtain residential registration cards.

In the Latin America countries, Mexico comes out as the most prominent, as exemplified by the never ending influx of illegal Mexican migrants to the U.S.. Colombia, Nicaragua and Venezuela also this problem where citizens leave their country to look for more economic opportunities in the U.S. and Europe.

The countries of Mongolia, Fiji, Papua

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New Guinea and Madagascar have reported fewer cases of problems of illegal migration, at least in the context of organised migration facilitated by International Syndicates.

In Saudi Arabia and Turkey however, these two countries are destination points of illegal migrants from neighbouring war-torn countries. In the case of Saudi Arabia, illegal migrants from Iraq and some poorer countries from Asia and Africa find havens in the desert Kingdom. It is estimated that there are about 100,000 illegal immigrants staying in the country from Yemen, Ethiopia, Erithria and Somalia. Turkey likewise has a great number of illegal migrants or refugees from Northern Iraq and some neighbouring countries.

C. Illicit Trafficking of Women and Children

In the Asia-Pacific region, illicit trafficking of women and children are mostly apparent in developing countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Women victims in these countries fall prey to crime groups offering them high paying jobs in other countries like India, Japan, Hong Kong or some Middle East Countries and even Europe. However, some of the women who come under the control of the syndicates are sold to other crime groups and forced into prostitution. Some victims are somewhat fortunate enough to be sold only as maidservants in such countries as the Middle East and Europe. In Bangladesh, fifty-five women were confirmed to have been victimised during the period from January to September 1997.

In the Philippines, syndicates recruit would be victims as cultural dancers or domestic helpers but end up as prostitutes once they reach their country of destination. Others fall prey to "mail order

brides" schemes prevalent in European countries and Australia, featuring 30-day trial marriages. When the trial marriage fails, these girls resort to prostitution to make ends meet and survive.

In the other participating countries like Mongolia, Fiji, Madagascar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, the participating presenters reported no significant incidences.

However, in the Latin America countries of Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Venezuela, incidents of illicit trafficking of women were very apparent, mostly for prostitution activities. Colombian women are favorite objects of organised crime groups and many arrests were registered in such countries as Japan, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Trafficking of children cases were also reported in Bangladesh where seventy (70) children were victimised during the period of January to September 1997. In Bangladesh and Pakistan, children who were illegally shipped to some Middle Eastern countries, were reported to be utilised as camel boys.

In the Philippines and Thailand, young boys are the object of European and Australian Paedophiles who visit who visit these countries looking for child prostitutes. International syndicates advertise these countries in the "Spartacus" magazine as locations for cheap, perverted sex.

D. Illicit Trafficking of Stolen Motor Vehicles

This crime activity is prevalent in such countries as Japan and U.S.A. where vehicles are stolen and shipped to countries like China, Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam. Hong Kong has incidents of vehicles being stolen and shipped to China aboard fast crafts called "Dai Fei". Russian

Mafia Groups facilitate this illegal trade in Japan and Europe for shipment to Russia and former Soviet Union countries, while the Chinese Triads facilitate this business in Hong Kong and Japan for shipment to China. Japanese crime groups collaborate with Russian Mafia in these activities. In the Philippines, stolen vehicles from Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan and the U.S. found their way into the country through ocean-going vessels and were smuggled to Philippines seaports or dropped at the high seas to be picked-up later by smaller boats.

In Pakistan, cases of stolen vehicles occur in the cities and urban areas, to be brought to tribal areas by local tribal crime groups demanding redemption of the vehicles in exchange for cash. Unredeemed vehicles are transported across the Pakistan borders to be sold to other neighbouring countries.

Stolen motorcycles from Japan are mostly shipped to China, Hong Kong, the Middle East, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

E. Money Laundering

Among the participating countries, money laundering is most apparent in the developed countries where transnational crime groups are actively operating. Hong Kong rates high in this category due to the high profile activity of the Hong Kong Groups. Mexico, Colombia, Pakistan, Turkey, Thailand, the Philippines and India come close due also to organised crime group activities engaged in highly lucrative illicit businesses such as drug trafficking, illegal gambling, trafficking of firearms, stolen vehicles and other economic crimes like credit card fraud, bank frauds and money counterfeiting.

Other participating countries, where economic stability and progress is still

wanting, like Vietnam, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Madagascar, have little or no significant reports of money laundering cases. Nicaragua and Venezuela have reported some incidents mainly coming from organised crime groups engaged in drug trafficking in these countries.

Of the countries mentioned, only Japan, Colombia, Hong Kong, Madagascar, Mexico and Pakistan have anti-money laundering laws, while the others are still drafting or deliberating on their respective laws governing money laundering.

In Pakistan, money laundering comes in the form of placement, where physical disposal of each illegal proceed is made. Layering is another form where separation of illicit proceeds from their source is created by complex layers of financial transaction designed to disguise the audit trail and provide anonymity. Integration on the other hand is the provision of apparent legitimacy to criminally derived wealth. There is also the so-called "Hawala" scheme in India and Pakistan where money is given to a person in one country, and intended for a beneficiary in another country. His associates in the other country disburses the money to the recipient, of course with a fee or percentage.

In many countries, laundered money finds its way to business investments like hotels, night-clubs, travel agencies, construction businesses and other big business activities.

F. Transnational Economic Crimes

Again, these types of crimes are prevalent in the more developed countries like Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. It is also prevalent in developing countries like the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Colombia, where

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transnational crimes groups operate.

Among this type of crimes, credit card fraud is mentioned as the most popular crime among participating countries. In the Philippines, an international syndicate was recently busted engaging in credit card fraud. Their modus operandi involved such schemes as skimming methods, courier-intercept methods, cardholder and syndicates and the merchant-syndicate method. In Japan, foreign organised crime groups are engaging in credit card fraud and counterfeiting pre-paid cards for pachinko, telephones and cheques. Incidents of credit card fraud have become prevalent and surfacing even in such countries as Tonga and Vietnam.

In Japan, transnational economic crime is not only perpetrated by the Boryokudan but also by another Japanese organised crime group known as "Sokaiya". The latter operates in the stock market business where, after obtaining rights as stockholders, they demand undue gains from enterprises by throwing the general meeting of stockholders into confusion. However, the activities of Sokaiya is presently domestic nature, but it is possible in the future it will become transnational.

In Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Turkey, currency counterfeiting is also prevalent with many arrests registered. It is however, observed that present trends indicate a downward activity of currency counterfeiting, while activities in other economic crimes such as credit card fraud, bank frauds and other sophisticated computer-technology frauds are on the upswing.

G. Other Crimes

Peculiar crimes being perpetrated by transnational crime groups as reported by the participating countries include the following:

- (1) Maritime fraud or phantom ship fraud. The Philippines and Thailand have experienced these types of fraud where ships loaded with goods mysteriously disappear in transit, and consignees turn out to be fictitious.
- (2) Illegal Transport of internal organs. International syndicates kidnapped children and used their internal organs for sale in big hospitals in Europe and the U.S.A.
- (3) Smuggling of rare and endangered animals. India, Vietnam, Madagascar and Thailand have cases reported on these activities. Tigers in India and Thailand are being killed for their bones and hides, and smuggled to China and Hong Kong. Elephant tusks in India are likewise the object of international smugglers. In Vietnam, smuggling of animals includes rare snakes, pangolins, monitions, wild ducks and turtles.
- (4) Smuggling of cultural assets, religious artefacts, antiques, precious metals. international syndicates induce the theft of valuable cultural assets of such countries as India, Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand. In the Philippines, religious artefacts from churches, mummies from tribal grave yards, antiques from museums and private homes are being stolen and sold to foreign buyers for resale to big museums in the U.S. and Europe. Thailand also has cases of Buddha images being stolen and sold to foreign smugglers.

III. ORGANISATION OF MAJOR TRANSNATIONAL CRIME GROUPS

A. Japan

Boryokudan is estimated to have 80,100 members including associates, with 44,700

official members. There are three (3) major groups, Yamaguchi-Gumi, Inagawa-kai and Sumiyoshi-kai. Each group has a distinct territory or “Nawabari” and practices the “Jonokin” or tribute system. Members are governed by the quasi-blood relationship or “Oyabun” and “Kobun” and entry into the organisation is made after an initiation ceremony or “Sakazukigoto”. The group is characterised by high criminality and violence, often engaging in “Turf-War” to settle disputes.

Its traditional sources of income are the following:

- (1) location fee (protection money)
- (2) drug trafficking
- (3) gambling
- (4) bookmaking

A new source of income is derived from intervention in civil affairs, corporate racketeering and “Sokaiya”. They recently have ventured into legitimate business by investing their illicit proceeds into legitimate businesses.

B. Hong Kong

The Chinese Triad, 14K, Bamboo Gang, SUN YEE ON, WO GROUPS engages in drug trafficking, firearms smuggling, smuggling of illegal migrants, stolen vehicles, and economic crimes. They operate in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.

C. India

- (1) DAWOOD Gang: operates in the Bombay area. Has a membership of 4,000 to 5,000. Engages in extortion, contract killing, film financing, drug trafficking, smuggling in computer parts and firearms.
- (2) Arun Gawli Gang: Has 200 to 300 gang members engaged in protection money and contract killings. Leader is an active politician in Maharashtra province.
- (3) Aman Nail Gang: Operates in the Dadar area of Bombay. Has a strength of 200

criminal gang members.

- (4) Chota Rajan Gang: Operates in the Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi area. Has a membership of about 800.

D. Philippines

Identified transnational crime group personalities:

- (1) Alfred Tionko : Fil-Chinese, drug trafficking
- (2) Lawrence Wang : Fil-Chinese, drug trafficking
- (3) Relly Barbon Gang : Kidnap for ransom, robbery
- (4) Solido Group : Bank robbery, drug trafficking
- (5) Paracale gangs : Bank robbery, drug trafficking
- (6) Andres Manambit Group : Kidnap for ransom, drug trafficking
- (7) Chen Ting Lun : Chinese Triad, drug trafficking
- (8) Chen Chi Chuing : Chinese Triad, drug trafficking
- (9) Wei Kuen Keung : Chinese Triad, drug trafficking
- (10) Wong Kuen Alan Tong : Chinese Triad, drug trafficking
- (11) Choo Yeh Leong : Chinese Triad, drug trafficking
- (12) Yan Po Weng : Chinese Triad, drug trafficking

E. Colombia

- (1) Madellin Cartel: Drugs, firearms trafficking
- (2) Cali Cartel: Drugs, firearms trafficking

F. Mexico

- (1) Arrellano Brothers: Drug trafficking
- (2) Rapael Caro Quintero: Drug trafficking
- (3) Juarez Cartel: Drug trafficking
- (4) Amado Carrillo “lord of the sky” : Drug trafficking

G. Former Soviet Union(Russia)

- (1) Russian Mafia: Drugs, illegal migrants,

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- prostitution, firearms trafficking, stolen vehicles trafficking, economic crimes
- (2) MVD; 8,000 criminal groups in Russia with approximately 100,000 members, operate in over 50 countries.

H. Thailand

- (1) Kun-Sa or Jang See Fu Syndicate: Engaged in drug trafficking and war arms smuggling.

I. Turkey

- (1) Hursit HAN crime group.

IV. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Organised crime is first of all a domestic problem and when unchecked, it assumes a transnational character. Encouraged by apparent success in domestic crime, they graduate into large scale and transnational scenarios by collaborating with counterpart crime groups in other countries. Profit motive is the biggest inducement for transnational crime groups. Activities entered into like drug trafficking, illegal migrant smuggling, women trafficking (prostitution), firearms smuggling and economic crimes, brings in enormous, easy monetary incomes. Their accumulation of wealth translates into more power and clout as the transnational crime syndicates can now engage in corruption of public officials, invest in profitable businesses whether legal or illegal. The dimensions of the accumulation of wealth, power, influence and capabilities of organised transnational groups have in recent years transcended beyond imaginable means. Ironically, victim countries have abetted the growth and expansion of these transnational organised crimes groups through their continued poor economic conditions and status. Vivid examples of these are the illegal trafficking of migrants, and the trafficking of women and children who, in their desire to escape the poverty in their native homelands, have become

willing or unwilling victims of these crime groups. On the other hand, richer or more developed countries, are targeted for the ready market and opportunities that exist for illegal drugs, illegal fire arms, stealing of motor vehicles, the entry of illegal migrants, prostitution, gambling and favourable atmosphere for the commission of transnational economic crimes.

Most ironic of all is the sad reality that despite the advance of the current trend of transnational organised crime, government policies of most of the countries of Europe may have encouraged and created a favourable climate of growth for these groups. As Dr. Savona, eminent criminologist and professor from Trento University in Italy has observed, "the Current trend of globalisation of the market (i.e., European common market) seems to have induced the criminal organisation to develop also globally in their operations and have in fact concentrated in two different directions, specialisation and diversification."¹ In the European context, Dr. Savona mentioned that the Russian Mafia have successfully adopted these globalisation strategies, ironically aided and enhanced by the open-market policies of the European common market nations.

In the Asia Pacific context, Mr. Lau, Director of Crime and Security of the Hong Kong Police, has likewise observed the rapid globalisation of crimes perpetrated by transnational organised crime groups operating in the Asia and Pacific region, like the Chinese Triad, Japanese Boryokudan and other groups. He contends that to effectively fight the transnational crime group in the next millennium, new strategies, new concepts, adoption of multi-agency approaches and more international efforts in co-operation and co-ordination must be made to insure

¹ 108th Crime Prevention Seminar presentation, UNAFEI, Tokyo Japan

victory against crime. Incidents of international crime group members escaping arrest and prosecution will have to be resolved by effective and stronger co-ordination and co-operation among nations.

Since the dimensions of the problem have become globalised, governments of the different nations of the world should now realise that the threat of these transnational organised crimes is very apparent and increasingly becoming bolder, and that countermeasures to the threat must be immediately put in place. As Mr. Dimitri Vlassis, Crime Prevention and Crime Justice Officer at UN Office at Vienna, mentioned in his lecture at UNAFEI, the international community cannot afford to allow the situation to deteriorate further. It must take measures now and proceed to practical action based on agreement and founded on its collective political will.

As a conclusion, the following issues should be given special emphasis:

- (1) Governments of affected countries must effectively identify the problems posed by transnational organised crime groups, by looking into their organisation, scope and extent of their operations.
- (2) Government policies, laws and practices must be looked into to develop up to date and effective countermeasures against the operation of transnational organised crimes.
- (3) Inherent weaknesses in the economic and political conditions of affected countries should be addressed, so as not to become a continuing prey to these crimes groups.
- (4) Stronger and efficient international, regional and bilateral co-ordination and co-operation among nations must be enhanced to thwart and negate the activities of transnational organised crimes.
- (5) Political will among the community of

nations to implement the countermeasures against transnational organised crimes must be affirmed and pursued.

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APPENDIX A

Li Yung Chung Case

A deputy chief justice of a regional court, faces investigation for suspected involvement in the release on bail of drug suspect Li Yun Chung, accused of arranging the biggest shipment of heroin ever seized in the United States.

In November 1994 the US government requested extradition of 20 criminal suspects living along the border of Burma, China and Thailand who were under indictment in a federal court in New York for heroin trafficking. In combating Southeast Asian organized crime groups and heroin trafficking syndicates, the Tiger Trap Operation was set up with cooperation from the Office of Narcotics Control Board, Burma and US government to extradite those criminal suspects to the United States.

In February 1997 Li Yun Chung, who is wanted by the United States on charges of

smuggling 486 kilograms of heroin-the largest heroin seizure in US history - into Oakland, California was first arrested in Thailand. He was freed on bail seven months late and fled to Burma. In May, three months after Li fled, Burmese authorities handed him back Thailand. On June 5, he was sent to the US to stand trial.

Li, part of Khun Sa's heroin trafficking networks, spent large amount of money to bribe high ranking officials. He jumped bail in Thailand and made a beeline for neighboring Burma. However, with good co-operation among Thai, Burma and the US, finally Li was arrested and sent into custody. Extradition is an important tool to allow prosecutors in any country to try all the people involved in trafficking syndicates, not just the smaller people who may just carry the drugs or sell the drugs on the street.

APPENDIX TWO

cooperation to use fake cards in japan