

heroin found in the possession of drug couriers bound for European destinations.

Based on reports received from United States drug law enforcement agencies, approximately 68% of the heroin seized in the United States during 1994 originated from South-East Asia. Countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Indonesia, where there is domestic heroin consumption, were also used as transit countries. Australia was another major recipient of South-East Asian heroin — organized criminal groups (Vietnamese) played a major role in the heroin trade there.

Europe and North America remain the two major heroin markets in the world today. As noted above, heroin in the United States originates mainly from South-East Asian countries which have well-knit networks in the United States. The United States authorities seized about 1,348 kg of heroin in 1995 (1,244 kg in 1994). In 1994, 68% arrived from South-East Asia, 9% from South-West Asia, 15% from Colombia and 8% from Mexico. Mexican heroin traffic to the United States continues to be controlled by Mexican criminal groups. Colombian heroin is increasingly transported by Colombian nationals using commercial airlines that fly to New York and Miami. Intelligence reports also suggest that South American cocaine cartels may be using existing cocaine smuggling networks to facilitate the shipment of Colombian heroin to North America and Europe.

Cocaine

The most newsworthy event of 1995 was the arrest of several of the major leaders of the Cali trafficking organization and the head of the Gulf of Mexico Cartel. It was to be expected that cocaine distribution would be affected. However, by the end of 1995 and to date in 1996, it was not clearly evident that fluctuations in numbers of seizures were directly



Members of the Canadian Delegation

related to those arrests. Prices and street supplies appear to be basically stable in the worldwide cocaine market. Using Europe as an indicator of supply, seizures across the region were relatively evenly spread throughout the calendar year 1995. This rudimentary statistical evaluation gave no indication that the supply of cocaine had diminished.

Preliminary worldwide figures gathered by the Interpol General Secretariat for 1995 indicate an overall decrease in cocaine seized during the 12-month period. All in all, the majority of cocaine seizures occurred at entry points into the various world markets (except in Colombia), as opposed to resulting from interior trafficking investigations. Colombian organizations still dominate the movement of cocaine into Europe and everywhere else around the world with the exception of the United States, where Mexican criminal organizations have further expanded their trafficking efforts. What is changing is the proliferation of non-Colombian nationals involved across the spectrum of traffickers and transporters.

Europe

As expected, a significant number of cocaine couriers arrested at European airports were of West African origin or working

for traffickers of West African origin. Colombians, however, remained the number one group of traffickers arrested, with Germans second.

In spite of the record amount of cocaine seized in 1994, evidence of a market glut did not surface in 1995. Cocaine continues to be the second drug of choice (after cannabis) throughout Europe. The secondary drug market may be facing competition from the use of MDMA and other psychotropic substances. Crack cocaine, experienced in the United States as an indicator of market conditions, has yet to gain a strong foothold in Europe, being evident mostly in the United Kingdom because of Jamaican gang influence.

North America

Seizure data from the United States showed a downturn in total cocaine seized from 1994 to 1995. Preliminary figures for 1995 show that almost 98 metric tons were seized by United States authorities compared with over 120 tons in 1994. This trend may be related to the increasing demand for heroin in the United States. Seizures of heroin at entry points (in the South East of the country and on the Mexican border) and street arrests and seizures support this premise. Heroin users appear more frequently in hospital emergency