NOTE
from : UK regional chair of the Caribbean
to : Dublin Group
Subject : Regional report on the Caribbean

Progress of work in the mini-Dublin Groups

For the purposes of this Regional Dublin Group report, the Caribbean region consists of Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados & Eastern Caribbean. Bridgetown’s reporting covers 7 countries (Barbados, Antigua & Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Mini-Dublin Group reports are attached.

Little has changed since the last report produced by the French Chair for the 22 February 2006 Dublin Group meeting. The Caribbean remains a major transhipment point for cocaine routes rather than a producing region.
a) Narcotics Production

Drugs production within the region is limited to marijuana (ganja), with Jamaica being the principle producer. Cannabis is grown also in Trinidad & Tobago and Belize, but largely for domestic consumption. Jamaica is the primary source of hashish oil in the world. St Vincent and the Grenadines is a significant producer and local exporter of marijuana in the Eastern Caribbean, with smaller amounts grown in other EC islands.

b) National Situation

Jamaica continues to act as the focal point for transhipments from Colombia and Venezuela. Loads are then broken up and passed to other organisations for market delivery. There is evidence of a growing command and control role for Jamaica by Colombian and other drug-traffickers. However, Belize, Dominican Republic and Trinidad & Tobago are also important transit routes. In Trinidad & Tobago, there is growing evidence that heroin is being trafficked through the region in greater quantities than previously seen. The Dominican Republic is used by a number of major drugs cartels to supply and fit out vessels. The Eastern Caribbean is a significant transhipment route, where drugs are also warehoused for onward movement.

Illicit drugs remain readily available throughout the Caribbean and in some of the islands, local drug use is severe. Ecstasy (imported from Europe) use is increasing, principally for the tourist market.

c) Work of the mini-Dublin Groups

Several of the mini-Dublin Groups in the region have not been active recently, whilst others have met as EU rather than in the mini-Dublin Group format. Therefore the mini-Dublin group reports for Belize, Guyana, Surinam and French Guiana represent UK views rather than mini-Dublin Group. Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados have all been active. Jamaica has close co-operation with the Government of Jamaica. Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean groups are involved in operational and capacity building with host governments.
d) Essential points to be followed up by the mini-Dublin Groups

Belize
- Regular mini-Dublin Group meetings including all interested parties and take forward the recommendations at Section 5.

Dominican Republic
- Regular mini-Dublin Group meetings including all interested parties and take forward the recommendations at Section 5.

Jamaica
- Counter-narcotics responses should be developed as regional interventions. Traffickers operate flexible networks choosing the path of least resistance through the region.
- Mini-Dublin discussions should broaden their focus to all related international criminal activity. Narco-trafficking and drug crime is associated with trafficking in other contra-band, money laundering, immigration crime and violence in receiving countries.

Guyana/Surinam/French Guiana
- Regular mini-Dublin Group meetings including all interested parties and take forward the recommendations at Section 5.

Trinidad and Tobago
- Identify training and capacity building opportunities in legislative work on counter narcotics, money laundering and use of DNA evidence.
- Lobby T&T Government to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Trans-national Organised Crime and accede to the Agreement concerning Co-operation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean.
- Identify training and assistance in the form of capacity building initiatives at an operational level in order to increase the effectiveness of CN operations.
- Encouraging the T&T authorities to focus on properly implementing easy-win solutions such as the RSS Maritime Assets Database.
Barbados and Eastern Caribbean

- Recommendations to be formulated.

Regional/sub-Regional nature of problems

- Endemic corruption in many of the Caribbean countries
- Proximity to the major drug producing counties and consumer markets.
- Weak, under trained/under resourced or corrupt judicial systems.
- Inadequate or poorly implemented legislation.
- Poorly resourced, under trained or corrupt local law enforcement.
- Lack of comprehensive national anti-drugs policies.
- Lack of a strategic anti-drugs policy and patchy regional co-operation.

Matters requiring treatment by the Dublin Group at the central level

Encourage mini-Dublin Groups in the Caribbean region to meet more frequently to take forward the recommendations.

Place and dates of meetings of mini-Dublin Groups

i) Belize: No meetings undertaken.
ii) Dominican Republic: No meeting since February 2006
iii) Jamaica: Kingston 7 November 2006.
iv) Guyana/Surinam/French Guiana: No meetings undertaken.
v) Trinidad & Tobago: Port of Spain 24 November 2006.
vi) Barbados: Bridgetown 19 September 2006. Country visit to St Lucia 29 June
Regional group recommendations/conclusions with respect to:

Political Initiatives

Belize
- Look into/consider training and capacity building for the Public Prosecutors Office/Judiciary
- Consider training and capacity building for the Coastguard
- Encourage the Government of Belize to undertake domestic drug demand reduction initiatives
- Monitoring of expanded air routes in/out of Belmopan once the airport modifications have taken place and undertaking a risk assessment exercise.

Dominican Republic
- Continue to monitor drug shipment routing
- Offer political and moral support for head of DNCD’s anti-corruption drive
- Identify training and capacity building opportunities for local law enforcement.

Jamaica
- Counter-narcotics responses should be developed as regional interventions. Traffickers operate flexible networks choosing the path of least resistance through the region.
- Mini-Dublin discussions should broaden their focus to all related international criminal activity. Narco-trafficking and drug crime is associated with trafficking in other contra-band, money laundering, immigration crime and violence in receiving countries.

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- Identify training and capacity building opportunities in legislative work on counter narcotics, money laundering and use of DNA evidence.
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• Identify training and assistance in the form of capacity building initiatives at an operational level in order to increase the effectiveness of CN operations.
• Encouraging the T&T authorities to focus on properly implementing easy-win solutions such as the RSS Maritime Assets Database.

Donor community priorities

• Capacity building training for local law enforcement agencies
• Good governance training for law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.
• Encourage host governments to implement and enact all necessary anti-narcotics and money laundering legislation.
• Identify domestic demand reduction initiatives.
• Encourage regional intelligence sharing (e.g. through the EU-LAC ISWG mechanism) and joint working by law enforcement agencies.
• Encourage host governments to develop national drug strategies.
• Encourage the development of a regional anti-drugs strategy.

Report on the implementation of recommendations/conclusions endorsed a year before

Belize
• No previous recommendations.

Dominican Republic
• the authorities of the Dominican Republic should be more keenly urged to combat money laundering effectively;

     Progress not known.

• the Group acknowledges that the national police and the NDCD need help from international co-operation in order to combat drug trafficking and money laundering effectively and – in broader terms – organised crime;

     Progress not known.
while the NDCD receives adequate resources, the national police do not have enough resources to function properly. The United States, which had been channelling its aid away from the national police for some years, is once again proposing aid to develop co-operation programmes with the national police, particularly on community policing projects. The standing of the Head of Police, who has a good reputation, and the new Public Prosecutor, is such as to encourage representatives of the international community to propose new contributions in these areas.

_Progress not known._

_Haiti_

- It is essential that police and judicial institutions are given the resources to combat the extremely well-established and powerful gangs.

_Progress not known._

_Jamaica_

- The mini-Dublin Group felt that it lacked information on drug trafficking and money laundering (statistics and up-to-date data). It would like more co-operation with the Jamaican authorities. The mini-Dublin Group regretted that it did not meet more often and accordingly left its members the option of meeting informally throughout the year;

*Still a requirement for more information on money laundering although members of the Mini-Dublin group have pursued this on a bilateral basis. Jamaican min-Dublin Group report shows that our awareness of narco-trafficking activity continues to increase. Co-operation is limited by lack of capacity in Jamaica. Members did not arrange to meet more regularly.*

- Canada proposed hosting the mini-Dublin Group in the premises of the Canadian High Commission when a Canadian anti-drug trafficking expert visited the island;

_Was not pursued._
Belgium and the United Kingdom sought a broader approach to drug-trafficking issues especially in the Caribbean area and wanted to develop the mini-Dublin Group's studies on cocaine trafficking, which was declining in Jamaica;

*The UK, the US and Canada had undertaken operational work which lent weight to the trends already described. It was noted that narco-trafficking is flexible, and trends are indicative of how difficult or easy a preferred route might be at a given point in time.*

Spain and the United States stressed Jamaica's economic difficulties, which led the poorest members of Jamaican society to drugs. The Government of Jamaica should take these problems on board;

*No action to follow up.*

Germany wanted more information on the resources deployed in the surveillance of coastal areas (number of vessels, co-operation with other countries, etc.).

*Individual members deploy military assets in the region on a rolling basis. Jamaica had stepped up efforts to control its borders through maritime patrols. Both the Jamaica Defence Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) own patrol vessels. At present there was no clear procurement or deployment strategy for the JCF fleet, although this was likely to change with the recruitment into the JCF of an experienced Assistant Commissioner of Police responsible for border security.*

Guaya/Surinam/French Guiana

*No previous recommendations.*

Trinidad & Tobago

*the country to be given every possible methodological aid to facilitate collection of statistics on drug consumption and trafficking, without which it is impossible to know which kind of assistance to propose;*

*Progress not known.*
the Trinidad and Tobago Government to be urged to ratify the United Nations Convention against Trans-national Organised Crime and accede to the Agreement concerning Co-operation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area; the local authorities to be encouraged to develop information-sharing with Colombia and other neighbouring South American countries.

*Trinidad and Tobago have not yet ratified the UN Convention or acceded to the Agreement. Invited to attend the last meeting of the EU-LAC ISWG meeting in Rio de Janeiro but delegate was unable to attend because of a court case.*

**Barbados and Eastern Caribbean**

*Aruba Agreement;*

*Barbados and Eastern Caribbean states have made no progress.*

- Barbados and other Eastern Caribbean states to enhance their sharing of intelligence on drug trafficking in the region, including through the early development of CARICOM's "CIMA" mechanism for improved intelligence sharing;

*Through regional activities for the Cricket World Cup 2007 (CWC), Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean states and other CARICOM member states are beginning to work together to share intelligence in a number of areas. Progress towards a fully functioning CIMA has not been positive.*

- Barbados and other Eastern Caribbean states to adopt legislation on the intercept of telecommunications following the excellent lead given in this area by St Lucia;

*No progress has been made on this the adoption of legislation on the intercept of telecommunications in states other than St Lucia.*
Barbados and other Eastern Caribbean states to make effective use of the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council's (CCLEC) Regional Clearance System (RCS) for the tracking of ships and yachts entering and leaving Caribbean ports; and to ensure that the data entered into the RCS by Customs agencies is fully shared with all other law enforcement agencies; some progress has been seen on the improved functioning of the Regional Clearance System during the year with improved equipment and a mentoring programme. A 4-fold increase in the level of entries to the system has been achieved.

Barbados and other Eastern Caribbean states to set in place sustainable ways of financing the running costs of the Regional Security System (RSS) Air Wing;

Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean states have committed to funding the running costs of the RSS Air Wing to the level of approximately US$1 million, with Barbados taking the majority share, based on their contribution to the RSS. This covers salaries, operations and maintenance. In practice, implementation has been patchy resulting in a diminution of missions flown. Discussions with donor countries continue.

Belize mini-Dublin Group Report

1. General situation in the country

Belize is a transit point for South American cocaine heading towards the Mexican Yucatan peninsula and then the US. Usually transported by boat along Belize's relatively undeveloped and unprotected coast. As there is currently no direct air link from Belize to the UK or Europe, drugs do not get transported there from Belize. This is subject to change as work is underway at the international airport to make it capable of taking long haul flights from Europe and Canada.

Drugs are not processed in Belize, and only marijuana is grown. In the first 6 months of this year 5,000 kgs of cannabis (seeds, leaves and compacted leaves) and 120kgs of cocaine were seized by officials. Controlled and prescription drugs have been manufactured here and sold over the Internet; for which a prosecution is currently underway in the US.
Drugs are readily available for consumption in Belize. Belizeans are paid for their assistance in trafficking in cocaine and bags of cocaine are regularly found in the sea. Marijuana is grown in fields mainly for local consumption. Crack is used but no manufacturing of meth, crack or ecstasy for export has been reported. Generally conspicuous drug use is by poor youths. The rich kids party in the US and the wealthier adults socialise in each others homes. Shootings and machete attacks disputing ownership of cocaine and over local drug territories are frequent amongst the poor.

2. Country's anti-drugs strategy

No information available at present.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs

The US has a DEA office in Belize and have put substantial financial and human resources into combating illegal trafficking.

The US’s provision of equipment to monitor small aircraft has meant an end to air shipments via Belize. A coastguard was formed in 2005 supported heavily with US assistance. But they are spread thinly. US provided forensic equipment to enable successful prosecutions court, but lay mouldering in a store whilst the government claim a contractual dispute with the builder of the laboratory. The US fly regularly interdiction missions (as a joint expression of co-operation) but have some doubts as to whether these are productive as deterrents or for drug seizures. There is no organised crime linked to drugs within Belize. It is considered that Colombian and Mexican partnerships are the masterminds. Belize is not a drug financial centre and contains no major developments which could be assets acquired with drug money or used for money laundering. Although Belize’s banking laws have led to accusations of offshore drug accounts nothing has been proved. The banking laws do provide for seizure of drug assets. The Office of the Public Prosecutor remains under-trained and under-funded. In Belize convictions for any crimes committed the middle classes upwards are rarely successful.
4. **Place and date of meeting**

The mini Dublin Group has not met, The UK are the only EU country represented in Belize and EU countries do not have concerns that drugs in Belize are harming their countries.

5. **Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance**

- Training and capacity building for the Public Prosecutors Office/Judiciary
- Training and capacity building Coastguard
- Domestic drug demand reduction initiatives

6. **Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs**

**Emerging threats/trends**

- Development of Belize international airport to include capacity for flights to Canada/Europe – once complete will need to monitor to ensure it does not become a trafficking route.

**Political initiatives**

- Lobbying Government of Belize to build capacity of Coastguard
- Lobbying Government of Belize to invest in the Public Prosecutors Office and the judicial system.
- Lobbying Government of Belize to monitor new flight routes an make a risk assessment.

**Recommendations**

- Mini-Dublin Group to meet at least once in 1st quarter of 2007 to monitor situation, discuss potential areas for action an the priorities identified at sections
Dominican Republic mini-Dublin Group Report

1. General situation in the country

The Dominican Republic continues to be a focal point for a number of large drug cartels to move quantities of cocaine both in large and courier amounts to the UK and Europe. The charter flights running from Europe to the North and East Coasts are still proving popular with tourists and courier traffic as well as organisers who are using them to travel to the Island to make their meetings and contacts.

The Dominican Republic, along with neighbouring Haiti, continues to provide havens for vessels that are used in large multi-ton transhipments around the Caribbean and between various source and transit countries in South America. One method used is the purchase of vessels on the open market in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, usually for around USD$500-800k which are then fitted out, crewed and set sail with both a legitimate and illegitimate cargo. The current price of cocaine in Venezuela is around US$3k per kilo and in EU it reaches between US$22-28k. So the cost of the vessel is easily outweighed by the profit made. The local cost of cocaine is about $7k a kilo, so the profit for courier traffic is excellent.

The Dominican Republic is a meeting place for a number of drug cartels. Efforts by local law enforcement agencies are hampered by corruption, poor training, lack of expertise and poor leadership. Historic cultural links with South America and Spain prove ideal for the movement of drugs and money.

The Dominican National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) chief, Major General Radhames Ramirez, commented recently that the Dominican Republic was “loaded” with drugs. The DNCD has been totally restructured away from the former non-functional military structure and is currently training up over 100 recent high school graduates as intelligence officers. From August to November 2006, Ramirez dismissed over 600 DNCD staff on accusation of corruption. He has also taken away powers formally given to a wider group of people on the periphery of drug enforcement in order to bring the anti-narcotics efforts back in-house where it can be better controlled and monitored.
Dominican Attorney General, Radhames Jimenez, has also supported a move to set up a cadre of judges specialising in drug cases. In the past these cases were heard by any qualified judge resulting in sentences which reflected either a misunderstanding of the penalties that should be applied or possible corruption. Indeed the Chief Attorney of Santo Domingo, Jose Manuel Hernandez, has just delivered a report to the Attorney General accusing certain judges of collaborating with narco-traffickers to issue lenient sentences.

2. **Country’s anti-drugs strategy**

No information available at present.

3. **Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs**

The DNCD works closely with the DEA which coordinates operations with European anti-narcotic organisations. As a result, there have been a number of high profile drug seizures over the past few months. Most notably, the largest quantity of cocaine ever intercepted in the Dominican Republic, 2,250 Kilos, was seized at the Santo Domingo container port of Caucedo. The drugs, which were destined for Belgium, were detected using X-Ray equipment donated by the DEA as well as the DNCD K-9 unit. A joint operation also saw the seizure of 150 kilos of cocaine in Barcelona hidden in bamboo furniture shipped form the Santo Domingo port of Haina. In the latter case, local arrests followed. There has been a steady trickle of couriers captured at airports around the DR, including a high number of foreigners. Four British nationals were arrested in Puerta Plata on 6 November with a considerable quantity of cocaine, three remain in prisons and one on bail pending investigations and trial preparations. The DNCD has also been busy seizing drugs and making arrests in poorer districts of Santo Domingo and along the border with Haiti.

In August, the US Ambassador announced that US experts would be assisting the DNCD in monitoring key points in the eastern part of the country, where in the previous seven months over a ton of cocaine had been seized. In particular the experts were helping the DNCD fight their latest ploy which was to drop drug packages from low flying planes, most of which came from Venezuela.
4. Place and date of meeting

The Mini Dublin Group has not met since February, when it was chaired by the French. The newly arrived British Ambassador is encouraging colleagues to reconvene in early 2007.

5. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance

- Additional sniffer dogs for use at the airports.

6. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs

**Emerging threats/trends**

- Drugs flights by low flying aircraft from Venezuela.
- Porous border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti and the easy of getting drugs in Haiti.

**Political initiatives**

- Support for the Head of DNCD’s anti-corruption drive.

**Recommendations**

- Training and capacity building for local law enforcement.
- Mini-Dublin Group to meet twice in 2007.

_Jamaica mini-Dublin Group Report_

1. General situation in the country

Jamaica’s role in Caribbean cocaine-trafficking appears to have taken a shift away from go–fast boats back to the light aircraft that dominated the late 80’s and 90’s. Jamaica has over 100 unmonitored airstrips that facilitate this activity. Aircraft leave from the north coast of Colombia and Venezuela and head straight for Jamaica, returning directly to their embarkation point. We have also seen a shift away from the “land and deliver” to “air–drops” where aircraft drop their waterproofed load into the sea close to the coast for collection by boat.
Once in Jamaica the loads tend to be broken down into smaller amounts and passed to other organisations for onward transmission to markets abroad. Couriers are generally preferred to move cocaine to the UK. The risk of interception is low and the load is normally split amongst a number of couriers to further minimise any potential loss. There has been an increase in seizures at Kingston and Montego Bay airports of British couriers returning to the UK with cocaine, and also a slight increase in the number of swallowers apprehended at both airports also destined for the UK. The existence of corruption at the airports amongst baggage handlers, airport staff, security, police, narcotics officers and the canine unit mean that Montego Bay and Kingston airports are fairly open and the incidence of unchecked bags containing drugs that by-pass security is high.

The price of cocaine in Jamaica has remained steady at around 7,500 – 8,500 USD per kilo for over 18 months. In 2003/04 the price was as low as 2,000 – 3,000 USD per kilo, which indicates that cocaine supply to Jamaica has been limited by law enforcement activity. However the average price in overseas markets remains high: in the UK around £22,000 per kilo, in Canada C$ 33,000 and US$ 22 – 26,000. High profits and good transport links to the UK, mainland Europe and North America make Jamaica an attractive proposition for traffickers.

Jamaica appears to have a growing role as a command-and-control point for Colombian and other South American groups. They have chosen Jamaica in order to take advantage of law enforcement loopholes and use the island as an operational platform to move money and drugs around the Caribbean. These gangs operate throughout the region and are flexible, choosing the path of least resistance through Latin America and the Caribbean.

The on-going expansion of the Port of Kingston will turn it into the largest transit container depot in the Caribbean and the centre for operations for Maersk. It is envisaged that most if not all containers originating out of South America will transit Kingston before onward movement to Europe and the USA. The port will become a natural choke-point for interdiction of drugs moving through to Europe and elsewhere.
Resources, including x-ray and scanner units, have been provided by international partners, but considerable quantities of drugs continue to pass through the port. A number of containers by-pass scanners, drugs are added after scanning and fake scanned pictures are inputted into the system for containers that actually contain drugs. The US signed a bilateral Container Security Initiative in June 2006, which permits closer scrutiny of containers shipped via the US.

Jamaica remains the largest Caribbean producer and exporter of ganja. There are no accurate measures of the scale of ganja production, but recent seizures in excess of 10 metric tons in three different locations and at Kingston port give an indication. A single seizure of 7,500 kg of cannabis seeds this year is indicative of a suspected step-change in cultivation of ganja, compared with an overall seizure of 551 kg of seeds in 2004. Jamaica is the world’s primary source for hashish oil.

Many criminals previously involved in cocaine-trafficking have returned to ganja-trafficking in response to tighter law enforcement controls targeted at cocaine. There are two principal channels. Most shipments are moved by boat to Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas as well as by container to Europe and North America. Canada has seen a consistent number of intercepted containers concealing compressed ganja. These problems are exacerbated by port security concerns as mentioned above. Light aircraft are also used to move ganja from Jamaica to the Bahamas.

Ganja-trafficking finances wider criminal activity in Jamaica. The drug is exchanged for small arms, in particular with Haiti and is also increasingly used in cocaine swaps, in particular with the Dutch-speaking islands.

It is believed that although production is concentrated on small-holdings in remote parts of Jamaica, the techniques employed are relatively sophisticated. The primary method of eradication is manual cutting by police and defence force officers. This can be undermined by bribery of law enforcement officers to overlook certain ganja fields.

Use of Ecstasy, labelled as the “Party Drug”, is rising in Jamaica. Both Ecstasy and ganja feed a tourist market including the “Spring Break” American market. Ecstasy is imported mainly from the Netherlands (as well as the UK) by couriers on charter flights from Amsterdam. Although not a prevalent drug of use amongst Jamaicans compared with ganja, there is a growing domestic market.
Tighter security controls in Latin America and the Mexican border may drive the methamphetamine trade, which feeds the US market, through Jamaica.

2. Country's anti-drugs strategy

The Money Laundering Act implemented in January 1998 governs Jamaica’s anti-money-laundering regime. In February 2000 it was amended to add fraud, firearms trafficking and corruption as predicate offences for money-laundering.

A substantial amount of money from both ganja- and cocaine-trafficking to Europe is washed through Jamaica. This is usually through the construction industry, including rental properties, private residences and shopping plazas as well as other luxury items for the principals themselves. Money is also routed through Jamaica on its way to Colombia and the banks of other South American countries.

A related concern is the physical movement of large quantities of cash payments destined for Latin American producers. In addition there are concerns that remittance flows are being used as a cover for money laundering.

The Jamaican Parliament has not finalised its long-awaited Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) which would enable it to trace, freeze, seize and forfeit narcotics-related assets as well as those derived from other serious crime. The civil forfeiture element of this Act would be a huge step forward, but the parliamentary process remains frustratingly slow.
Corruption within Jamaica is endemic and is one of the biggest obstacles to counter-narcotics and other counter-criminal activity. On 21 August 2006, Minister of National Security Peter Phillips gave an interview with one of the national papers where he warned of a “narco-political link” in Jamaica. When discussing investigation of public sector corruption he added that “…anyone, no matter their status, who falls afoul of the law, will be brought before the courts and the security forces know that they have that particular mandate. It is a mandate not to victimize politically but it is a mandate to ensure that no one, politician, businessman, or high status or whatever, is going to breach the laws of this country….”. These fine words have been echoed by members of both the governing and opposition parties but they have not been followed up by serious action. Despite recent political scandals, legislation that requires civil servants to disclose their financial gains has not been implemented in practice and there has been no prosecution of high-level officials.

The introduction of polygraphing of certain police force units with particularly sensitive roles has revealed the extent of vulnerability within the police force. This is compounded by use of private security companies at the airports and ports. The Jamaican Government has established a Police Civilian Oversight Authority, which has begun to function. Legislation which will enable a National Independent Investigative Authority (NIIA) to govern all aspects of the public sector should soon be tabled in Parliament. But the uncertain political situation with elections required to take place by September 2007 may act as a further brake on progress.

Human trafficking and human smuggling activities exploit the same loopholes and channels used by drugs traffickers. The influx of tourists visiting the region for the 2007 Cricket World Cup will provide an opening for enhanced criminal activity. In particular, the opening of a common domestic space for the duration of the games in the English-speaking Caribbean states will permit greater intra-regional movement, both legal and illegal. A Human Trafficking Act is being prepared for the Jamaican Parliament.

Members of the Mini-Dublin group work closely with the Jamaican Government and in particular with the Ministry of National Security on counter-narcotics interventions. In many cases there is good co-operation but there appears to be a lack of political will to drive forward changes that would facilitate investigation of criminal activity and subsequent prosecution. This could be in part related to capacity constraints, with a small number of officials within the Ministry holding responsibility for all key policy and legislative amendments.
Delays to changes in the legislative framework are frequent, and once in place, this legislation is not generally enforced. Jamaica already has a “tool kit” of controls at its disposal to tackle criminal activity. For example, on money laundering, the Financial Investigation Division (FID) of the Ministry and the Tax authority do not collaborate as they should to make use of all the powers currently available to them. The Tax Authority’s criminal investigative group primarily focuses on “failure-to-pay” revenue cases rather than criminal tax fraud cases, and does not consistently share human resource or expertise with the under-resourced FID. In addition, Jamaican officials have been uncooperative in helping other Government’s efforts against money-laundering.

Furthermore, there appears to be a disconnect between the Ministry of National Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which hampers international investigations.

3. **Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs**

The UK, Canada and US all have significant long-term operational and political programmes of cooperation with Jamaica on counter-narcotics and related issues. The European Union has funds available for Government budgetary support in the security and justice sectors.

4. **Place and date of meeting**

Jamaica, 7 November 2006.

5. **Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance**

- Counter-narcotics responses should be developed as regional interventions. Traffickers operate flexible networks choosing the path of least resistance through the region.
- Support to tackle corruption at all levels of the public sector.
- Support for reform of the judicial system to ensure successful prosecution and build public confidence in official channels. Note that this work has already begun under the auspices of a Canadian-funded programme: *Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST)*.
• Capacity-building to tighten border security at the ports and the international airports.
• Intelligence-gathering on money-laundering through Jamaica.
• Support for establishment of community policing initiatives, to increase intelligence flows to police operations and reduce support for criminal gangs in marginalised communities.

6. **Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs**

*Emerging threats/trends*

• Regional compilation of intelligence on displacement resulting in an ability to predict emerging trafficking routes.
• Stronger border security capacity required at ports and international airports to prevent narcotics flows through Jamaica.
• More comprehensive intelligence on money-laundering routes through Jamaica.

*Political initiatives*

• Passage of all anti-corruption initiatives tabled by the Ministry of National Security.
• Stronger human resource management in the JCF and related security institutions to combat internal corruption.
• Legislation that combats illegal migration in particular strengthening sentencing for use of fraudulent documentation.

*Recommendations*

• Counter-narcotics responses should be developed as regional interventions. Traffickers operate flexible networks choosing the path of least resistance through the region.
• Mini-Dublin discussions should broaden their focus to all related international criminal activity. Narco-trafficking and drug crime is associated with trafficking in other contra-band, money laundering, immigration crime and violence in receiving countries.
Guyana, Surinam and French Guiana mini-Dublin Group Report

1. General situation in the country

Cocaine is trafficked into Guyana and Suriname by non-commercial aircraft from Colombia and Brazil, sometimes in exchange for arms, and into Guyana by river from Venezuela. The threat is high due to strong links with the Netherlands, a major transit hub for drugs within Europe, and established trade routes. Large scale consignments are also delivered by ‘pirogues’ to Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, primarily destined for the US market. However, ongoing air seizures at UK and European airports indicate that increasing amounts are being moved from the Dominican Republic to Europe.

2. Country's anti-drugs strategy

No information available at present.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs

At a recent drugs conference in Surinam in October there was a meeting between the UK, Guyana, Surinam and Dutch delegations on possible co-operation in this field between Guyana and Surinam. Action is in hand to follow this up. Suriname remained very interested in the initiative (including police, customs and immigration), but there was little reaction at the Guyana end. The British High Commissioner raised the matter with Minister Rohee (Guyana Home Affairs) and he was enthused and planned to invite a delegation from Suriname shortly. It was agreed with the Dutch in Suriname that there would be joint UK/Dutch funding of some activity such as a workshop on co-ordination between Guyana and Suriname on cross-border organised crime.

4. Place and date of meeting

The mini Dublin Group has not met. The UK’s new High Commissioner in Georgetown will establish mini-Dublin Group, covering Guyana, Surinam and French Guiana as soon as possible (probably via a video conferencing link).
5. **Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance**

To be confirmed following the above mentioned meeting.

6. **Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs**

*Emerging threats/trends*
*Political initiatives*
*Recommendations*
- Mini-Dublin Group to meet twice in 2007.

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**Trinidad and Tobago mini-Dublin Group Report**

1. **General situation in the country**

Trinidad & Tobago remains a major transhipment point for narcotics originating in Latin America, particularly Colombia and Venezuela. There has also been a recent upsurge in domestic cannabis cultivation. The drug intercepted in the highest quantity is cannabis, followed by cocaine. Lesser quantities of heroin are intercepted, although there has been a significant increase in the amounts detected during 2006, suggesting that heroin trafficking is a growing trend. Heroin accounted for 4.1% of all drugs seized in 2005. The Strategic Services Agency (SSA) estimates that up to TT$1bn worth of narcotics passes into T&T waters in any one-month period. Narcotics are transhipped through T&T by a number of means including commercial flights, containers, yachts, go-fasts and mules.

Following some statistical research, the SSA judges the drug consumption rate in T&T to be extremely severe, demonstrating the growing domestic impact of drugs transhipment.
2. **Country's anti-drugs strategy**

T&T's counter narcotics institutional framework was strengthened during 2006 with the formal adoption of a National Drugs Strategy put together by the SSA. The Strategy puts in place the policy framework for a comprehensive national plan to deal with T&T's narcotics problems. The authorities are now looking at making legislative amendments in line with the Strategy in order to enable ratification of the UN convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

T&T is in need of a number of legislative changes, which have yet to be made due to a lack of qualified draughtsmen. There is recognition of the importance of seizing assets associated with proceeds of crime, and work is therefore being undertaken on money laundering legislation. However, disagreement on which Ministry or Agency should lead on financial crime is hampering progress. A committee was established in 2006 to deal with precursor chemicals.

The T&T government fully recognises the need for a comprehensive anti-drugs policy and has devoted significant resources to drawing up their National Strategy. But difficulties in agreeing on which Ministries and agencies should lead on particular aspects of the Strategy has hampered progress.

3. **Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs**

The UK has run several projects with a CN focus, including training for officials at both international airports in drugs interdiction, sponsorship of and expert training for the Caribbean Security Sector Senior Command Course, sponsorship of the first EU/LAC Drugs Intelligence Sharing Working Group (hosted in T&T), and has plans for a follow-up to last year's 'Whitesands' inter-agency command and control exercises.
The USA's Drugs Enforcement Agency has a presence in T&T and focuses on dismantling major criminal organisations. The Embassy has also assisted with projects on financial crime, border control, and schools education. Canada has a regional RCMP Liaison Office based in Caracas, which regularly collaborates with T&T authorities in drug investigations and projects aimed at dismantling criminal organisations. The RCMP regularly offers sponsored courses/training as a contribution to the Capacity Building Program of T&T in Drug Investigation Techniques, Major Case Management, Border Control, Port Security and others. These courses are offered in Canada or regionally in the Caribbean or South America.

The Netherlands currently has no bilateral CN programmes, but are investigating the possibility of offering drugs interdiction assistance at the airports. They also have maritime assets within the region as a whole. Germany has provided police training, specifically looking at evaluation of information/intelligence. France currently has no bilateral CN programmes, but has regional maritime assets.

4. **Place and date of meeting**

The mini-Dublin Group met at the British High Commission on Friday 24 November 2006.

5. **Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance**

There is an urgent need for assistance with legislative work on counter narcotics, money laundering and use of DNA evidence. T&T will be unable to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Trans-national Organised Crime and accede to the Agreement concerning Co-operation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean until relevant legislative changes are made.

There is also a need for continued bilateral assistance in the form of capacity building initiatives at an operational level in order to increase the effectiveness of CN operations. The T&T authorities have identified an urgent need for trained pilots for air operations.
6. **Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs**

*Emerging threats/trends*

- T&T remains a significant transhipment point and the increase in heroin smuggling is of concern, as is the increase in the domestic drug consumption rate.

*Political initiatives*

- T&T has yet to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and accede to the Agreement concerning Cooperation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean are, and should continue to be encouraged to do so.

*Recommendations*

- Members should consider providing assistance in the form of legislative advice and drafting as a matter of urgency.
- Members should continue to undertake capacity building initiatives at an operational level in order to increase the effectiveness of CN operations (including where possible training for fixed wing and rotary pilots).
- Members should consider encouraging the T&T authorities to focus on properly implementing easy-win solutions such as the RSS Maritime Assets Database.
Bridgetown mini-Dublin Group Meeting  
Tuesday, September 19th, 2006  
Canadian High Commission

In attendance:

Fred Jacques  
Charlotte Blumenshein  
Alan Drury  
Mike Gough Cooper  
Gilly Metzgen  
Elsa Fenet  
Sterling Mungal  
Anthony Eterno  
John Bothwell  
Don Dupsquier  
Wendell Goodin  
Kemal Kurspahic  
Claude Paul  
Canadian High Commission  
Canadian High Commission  
British High Commission  
UKSAT  
British High Commission  
European Delegation  
European Delegation  
Embassy of the United States of America  
Canada Border Security Agency  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
OAS  
UNODC  
CCLEC  

1. Introductions:

We welcomed several new members to the group, namely Elsa Fenet, Anthony Ernesto and Claude Paul and said goodbye to Kemal Kurspahic.

2. Tour de Table:

British High Commission

• April, 2006 saw the creation of the Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), an initiative announced by Prime Minister Blair. This agency will now have responsibility for the Drug Liaison Officers. This new agency will focus on tackling high level targets.
Training programmes:
Senior Command Training Course: Trinidad Oct 23-Dec 20. This course will accommodate approximately 20 participants from police, defence customs and the prison services from Commonwealth Caribbean countries. This is the 3rd and final course the UK will be funding. The responsibility for this training will now be passed on to CARICOM.
UKSAT Border Security Training: Antigua, September 25 X 2 weeks for 3 representatives from each CWC host country, plus Dominica. Course will see participants from customs, police, immigration and defence, and is set up as a train the trainer programme.

Creation of the Association of Caribbean Heads of Corrections and Prison Services (ACHCPS) came about following a UK funded meeting of prison superintendents in Grenada in June.

ISAG (International Security and Advisory Group), is a CWC working group assisting CWC host countries with security preparations. They have a meeting scheduled in Barbados Oct 11, 12, 2006 with host countries to review security issues.

St Lucia recruitment of retired UK police officers is proceeding to plan. With funding from the Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Stabilization Fund and assistance in the recruitment by the UK, the 9 officer positions are expected to be filled by December 2006.

European Delegation

Demand Reduction Projects in 4 OECS (Grenada, Antigua, Dominica and St Vincent) countries are set to expire on December 31, 2006 and no new initiatives have been announced. None of the participating countries expressed any interest in continuing them. The main reasons cited were low levels of political commitment to the concept of demand reduction, and lots of conflicting agencies within the countries.

US Embassy

The narcotics affairs division has been closed.
Funding reductions throughout the State department are effecting the programmes in this region.
No updates available on the RIB, C-26 programme or military training.
UNODC
The UNODC will close their Caribbean office, located in Barbados, officially on December 31, 2006. The region has raised strong objections to this, which have been relayed directly to the Secretary General in July, 2006. Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley referred to this decision as “an act of terrorism”. The following activities were undertaken during the past year:

- Counter Kidnapping seminar held in Trinidad for participants from Trinidad, Haiti and Guyana
- Regional conference for Caribbean and Haiti on updating legislation to deal with corruption
- Youth at Risk film produced in Jamaica and distributed to many local and regional TV stations and organizations.
- A series of activities was co-ordinated to mark June 26th, the International Day Against Drugs
- Organized a regional conference on national law
- Created computer based training centres in Barbados, Jamaica and 8 other countries

CCLEC
The organization is focusing on positioning itself more as a regionally run body. A review of the Regional Clearing System (RCS) is under way. The system is now web based, and this has resulted in more than double the number of vessel entries. CCLEC is also looking at ways of reducing the data entry burden on Customs by offering yacht skippers the option of making a pre-arrival declaration. They are also examining the possibility of sharing RCS data with other law enforcement agencies as a means of generating revenue to sustain the system and provide much needed training. The plan is to have the system grow by 10% each year over the next few years. CCLEC is working alongside UWI and some international schools to offer a customs management course. This would be used for promotions within the customs departments.

Border security-CCLEC has submitted a proposal to the IDB for a long term Border Security Project. This will not be active before CWC but will focus on the long term legacy and the impact of CSME.
Canada
DND (Department of National Defence) has just completed two back to back IT focussed training courses for RSS member states. Some 40 members of the police and defence forces were trained in digital forensics and IT security techniques.
RCMP in co-operation with the Canada Border Security Agency are commencing a large scale regional training session on Border Security in preparation for the CWC.

OAS
The following updates on the activities of the OAS/CICAD programme was provided to the Bridgetown Group:

OAS/CICAD is expected to launch, by next spring, an online graduate programme in addictions studies with UWI Cave Hill. The programme will be run on UWIDEC platform of which Prof. Stewart Marshall is the Director. The Academic Coordinator will be Dr. Winston De La Haye of Jamaica. In demand reduction activities OAS will assist Suriname and Belize to establish standard care in drug treatment, in accordance with World Health Organization guidelines. These activities are the outgrowth of requests from both countries for assistance following recommendations from the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) that they establish such standards to assure quality of care. Discussions are underway with Trinidad and Tobago to establish a pilot programme entitled "Culture of Lawfulness", designed to promote the rule of law and prevent violence and other antisocial behaviour. The locale for execution is likely to be in Tobago.

Aviation Security
National Programme Development Workshops. These 5-day workshops design for departments with aviation security responsibilities. Involves customs, airport law enforcement forces under the control of the civil aviation authority, immigration, foreign affairs, and air-carrier representatives. The workshop will address enhancements to the national security programme, national legislation, and oversight. All recommended enhancements would be entirely based on ICAO standards and recommended practices.

Pending funds, CICTE will undertake Aviation Security Crisis Management Courses for countries involved in the organization of World Cup Cricket. The first of such courses would commence in late 2006 ending in early 2007.
Customs & Border Protection Seminars
Designed to provide technical training for border and immigration officers on ways to develop and implement professional integrity programmes. Five public officials from each participating country will take part in the seminar – Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Dominica, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Cyber security
To protect personal information and ensure safe and sustained operations of networked systems. The objective is to upgrade the skills of national Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRTS) and enable them to more fully participate in the OAS network of CSIRTS and the network of National Points of Contact for Cyber Incidents.

Document Security
To improve the ability of law enforcement personnel to detect fraudulent travel documents and thereby improve border security. Held in Miami, July 11-13 for Caribbean countries; 13 countries participated: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

Legislative Assistance
To strengthen the legislative and prosecutorial sectors of Caribbean countries in the fight against terrorism. The programme is three-fold:

a) Encourage countries to ratify the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism and major international counter-terrorism instruments, i.e., UN Resolution 1373.

b) Provide technical assistance to countries to write effective counter-terrorism legislation or amend existing laws for those countries who have such laws but require such assistance.

c) Review progress made in implementing these laws and offer technical assistance if required.

In October, CICTE/UNODC will hold a joint workshop in Belize on counter-terrorism legislation.
**Inter-American Tourism And Recreational Facility Security (ITRS)**

Programme CICTE has conducted a series of workshops at three levels to facilitate training of public and private law enforcement and security officials in site assessments and security measures. The training is geared primarily to tourism and recreational industries. The first was conducted in Grenada, August 21-25, for frontline officers. The second for supervisors was held in St. Kitts/Nevis September 11-15, and the third for managers in St. Lucia, September 25-29.

**Port Security Programme**

Build capacity of countries to comply effectively with the security requirements of the ISPS Code for protection of port installations and ships, emphasis on access control to the port facilities and law enforcement procedures and responsibilities. In September a port security training needs assessment will be undertaken for Antigua, Barbuda, and St. Kitts/Nevis with follow on training in November. It is anticipated Guyana, Grenada and Jamaica will follow in 2007.

**Terrorism Policy Engagement Exercises**

This tabletop activity will involve senior policy-makers to better prepare countries to deal with potential terrorist incidents. It will address specific issues of contingency planning and threat mitigation with the objective of developing formal terrorist contingency plans. This activity has been ongoing for the past two years. In 2006 the event is planned around an attack on a sporting venue.

**Improvised Explosive Device**

Pending availability of funding this exercise is expected to be undertaken in the latter part of 2006. It is designed to train law enforcement and security personnel to detect explosive devices.

**First Responders Training**

Is anticipated to be executed in the latter part of 2006 subject to funds availability to train security personnel on how to manage casualty incidents as first arrivals on the scene of the casualty.

September 25-29 OAS will be conducting a regional workshop on ‘Port Cruise Management’ in Barbados to analyse the current structure of the cruise industry in the region with a view to identifying major constraints for development and consider viable solutions.
**French Customs:**

Jean Claude Garric, French Customs, Martinique, was not able to attend the meeting. He provided the following information to share with the Group.

**Bilateral security conference FWI – St Lucia**

- Delegations headed by the St Lucian Minister of National Security and French Prefect of Martinique met twice a year to review and address jointly all range of topics from security to enforcement. As a result of a conference held in Martinique on June 9th, a inter-agency team of French Enforcement officers travelled to St Lucia on Friday 15th to assess the need of St Lucia agencies for the Cricket World Cup. The conclusions of this meeting are still not available but should mainly focus on operational co-operation since a lot of technical assistance is brought to the CWC07 hosting countries by other countries.

**Border control operation**

- Funding is still not confirmed to conduct the annual exercise/operation ‘Channelita’ between the FWI and neighbouring islands in the Lesser Antilles.

**CIFAD**

- This week CIFAD is organizing a seminar on demand reduction focused on crack consumption in particular. Most of the participants are from countries of the Lesser Antilles

**French Customs**

- A meeting held some month ago between CIFAD, the UKSAT director and French Customs has resulted in regular exchange of information on respective programmes of these agencies specialized in technical assistance to the countries of the Lesser Antilles.

- At the request of the Customs department of St Vincent, training/mentoring is being provided this week by French Customs in Kingstown on ‘Intelligence gathering and profiling on vessels and air passengers’. This type of action will certainly be renewed with other countries of the Lesser Antilles.
The bid presented by the CCLEC in reply to a call from the European Commission to strengthen police co-operation in the fight against drugs has been rejected. The project aimed at the strengthening of the Customs Enforcement Network and had obtained the support of British, Dutch, French and Spanish foreign affairs.

**Border security initiative**

- The IADB initiative related to border security is still ongoing and a regional technical committee might take place in October to review the draft regional action plan which has been prepared by French consultants. Key regional stakeholders are members of the committee chaired by the CCLEC.
- In view of the technical assistance already brought or granted to the region in preparation the CWC 2007, the implementation of this action plan might start only after the Cup.

3. **Feature Presentation**

The group had a short presentation by John Bothwell, Canadian Border Service Agency, and Don Dupasquier, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, on the recently launched Border Integrity training initiative. Training is being provided in the areas of customs, immigration, police, defence and coast guard in Border Security Measures. The training is founded on the principles of the current North American model of Integrated Border Enforcement Teams, which engage all agencies in joint task forces towards more intelligence-led Policing. The training is expected to be completed by mid December, and will provide intense training for 153 candidates in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.
Phase One of the training was successfully completed in Barbados in mid September. Experts in the fields of law enforcement and border security from the 9 countries met with Canadian facilitators over a 2 week period to further develop, design and tailor the course content to the special needs of the Caribbean region. Phase Two, which is based on the Train the Trainer methodology, will be held in Barbados during the month of November, 2006. During the first of this four week course, 18 hand picked candidates from the region will be given enhanced training. These newly trained trainers will then assist RCMP and CBSA experts from Canada by co-facilitating 3 courses which will focus on multi-agency front line/first responding officers mandated with border security responsibilities. Each of the 9 host countries will send 5 officers from immigration, customs, police and defence for each leg of the training. At the end of Phase 3, each island will have 17 trained officers with newly acquired skills in intelligence-led policing and a common goal towards improved border security.

The multi-phased training approach will ensure that the 9 participating countries and the CARICOM region are able to further build on the support received through this project, and assure its sustainability beyond the ICC 2007 Cricket World Cup. At the completion of this project, each country will have 2 fully trained officers who will have the capacity to offer this training locally to a wider stream of officers, in addition to 15 officers who are on the front line with border security responsibilities.

**Other business**

UK has agreed to host the next meeting, which will be planned for May 2007, following the CWC. The next country visit will be to Dominica, in October 2007. Gilly Metzgen will organise a tour of the Barbados Forensic Laboratory.
Bridgetown mini-Dublin Group visit to St Lucia 29 June 2006
Auberge Seraphine, Pointe Seraphine

Participants:

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1. Senator the Hon Calixte George, Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security and Commissioner of Police (Ag) Hermangild Francis

- Drugs an international problem requiring international responses. St Lucia a significant trans-shipment point.
- SLU Govt grateful for French, UK and US support. Special protocols with the French. St Lucia fully committed to playing part in the RSS: good co-ordination with the Air Wing.
- Resources are limited, particularly the marine unit, despite assets from France, US and UK
- Currently weak on intelligence. New Joint Intelligence HQ to be created in a new building next to Immigration under the leadership of Deterville (Drugs Squad)
- UK police officers to bring experience and, inter alia, strengthen CID. The National Crime Commission will work with an R&D specialist. No negative concerns that UK officers would not be accepted by local police.
- RSLPF suffering from high attrition at lower levels. Increased numbers (150) being recruited especially in the light of the CWC. Additional training required. Considering bonds/increased salaries/fringe benefits to retain officers. Also raising retirement age.
• Crime was increasing as the country developed, linked to the drugs trade and an increase in weapons. Deportees from US and Canada brought sophisticated crime techniques and had no ties to the country. Forming gangs, there was a lot of in-fighting and gun related crime. Importance of gang leaders: new intelligence unit to concentrate on taking these out.

• Funding being sought for a Customs and Border control agency to be linked to ISPS.

• RSS MoU with CARICOM was not a problem with Trinidad, but more so with Jamaica. This should be in place for CWC07.

• Long way to go on intercept implementation. Details to be finalised on judges’ emoluments, regulations. Any assistance would be gratefully received. (See also Paul Thompson’s comments for further clarification.)

• The introduction of the CSME will bring cross border crime. Exchange of police between OECS countries and Barbados would be valuable. Regional police force under consideration. Good areas for interchange and co-operation.

• Levels of public support for police in tackling drugs traffickers were low for fear of retaliation, though a change in attitude has been seen recently.

2. Paul Thompson, Financial Intelligence Authority

• FIA established in October 2003. Receives Suspicious Activity Reports from financial institutions and analyses them and distributes to the police and DPP.

• Responsible for training financial institutions in anti money laundering systems, working with police, Customs and Inland Revenue. Small staff include police and Customs officers. Part of Attorney General’s Chambers. 400 financial institutions. Approx 80 reports per year. More staff are needed and more analytical software and training. Unit undertakes its own surveillance but needs training. Also needs a vehicle.

• Efforts under way to make money laundering a predicate offence so that it is an indictable offence.

• Information is shared with OECS counterparts.

• Intercept Act should help to target the key drugs players. This is in its final stages, with the code of conduct, regulations and forms ready next week and functional within two weeks. This will require close co-operation between the FIA and police.
3. Cuthbert Sookwa, Assistance Comptroller Enforcement and Albert Sandy, Supervisor Intelligence Unit, St Lucia Customs

- The Enforcement division (40 officers) works on the interdiction of organisations and investigates and prosecutes drugs and fiscal offences, both in the island and regionally. Units in the north, south and at the airports. Needs more equipment, vehicles, a canine unit and 2-3 vessels.
- Receives training from UKSAT, the French and CCLEC.
- Overlap with police on enforcement and a close and productive relationship. Intelligence shared. MoU between police and Customs in process of being written.
- Slow progress on NJCC. Not sited in an appropriate location, in rented offices in a commercial building. Could the donors help? Urgent need for it as not enough formalised transfer of information. Help required to improve investigative skills.
- New Immigration/Border agency not moving ahead.
- Ionscan machines not working at ports/airports.
- Big yacht trafficking problem with 10-20 yachts staging through St Lucia to Europe.
- Plea for better feedback from UK and other countries on controlled movements.
- Regional Clearance System (RCS) needs improvement and should include cargo and aircraft movements. Info sharing should be improved.
- Big problem with prosecutions. Unsatisfactory judgements have been handed down, eg a fine for 30kg of cocaine. This is not a deterrent. The Customs Act could be used for prosecution purposes but is not. Customs should have a legal unit. Guidance should be given to magistrates. Legislation should be amended to include minimum sentences. Should be sentencing guidelines.
- The connections between normal trade in goods and drugs is widely overlooked, and international linkages (possibly to terrorists) ignored. Need to link fiscal and drugs work more closely.
4. Superintendent Winston Mitille, Commander Marine Unit

- Marine Police Unit acts as Coast Guard and undertakes maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, counter drugs, fisheries, customs and excise and port authority duties.
- Trains coxswains for tourism purposes.
- Unit comprises 48 persons in Castries and Vieux Fort. Seven vessels: ranging from an 82’ patrol boat to RHIBs and a pirogue. Not all are serviceable.
- 415 patrols undertaken in 2005 with 164 boardings and 6 seizures. Close work with RSS Air Wing. This is very important. Cordial relations under Captain Harris’ command. Intell based.
- Joint operations with Drugs Squad.
- Relations with Customs not close. They have limited resources and should pool together with police and not try to duplicate.
- Counter-narcotics staff not supported by judiciary and magistracy. Work is dangerous. Vessels should be confiscated and persons charged. Laws are in place but not used by the magistrates. Should be special magistrates’ court for drugs. Better forensics skills and training and scene of crime training required.
- Need an MoU with St Lucia Airports and Seaports Authority (SLASPA). Should be a single resource point.
- NJCC is urgently required.

5. Marcus Day, Director CDARI

- Member of the Caribbean Harm Reduction Coalition which is a group of service providers and drop in centres which was the outcome of a European Commission project in the Eastern Caribbean.
- Stated that evidence based drugs work should inform drugs policy. There are links between non injecting drugs users and sex workers with HIV/AIDs in both the heterosexual and homosexual communities.
- 70% of prisoners are affected by drugs. They are users and they commit crimes to support their habit. There are also criminals who take drugs. Take away the drugs and the crime diminishes. Importance therefore of drug treatment in prison.
• In the current alternatives to custodial sentencing project seeing a more sympathetic approach to non violent drug offenders and a move away from the criminalisation of drugs users.
• Users of soft drugs increasingly exposed to hard drugs as usage of the two converges.
• The SLU Drugs Council is no longer functioning so there is now no broad based drugs overbody.
• Neither drugs education nor HFLE is mandatory in schools. Quantitative and qualitative drugs data is lacking. Some school surveys have been undertaken by CAREC, but the most vulnerable in society are missed by these. OAS undertaking school and work place surveys.
• No knowledge in SLU of the diversion of pharmaceutical drugs.

6. Burton Deterville, Commander Drugs Squad (North)

• Two units in north and south, 27 officers in total. Limited resources for under cover work. Work with Customs on targets. Starting to work with FIA on targets.
• Links with Venezuela a big problem as well as marijuana from St Vincent. But no relation at all with Venezuelan authorities.
• Problem almost too great to handle.
• Good support from the UK and French OCRTIS. Not great from DEA
• Would like to reinstate a canine unit.
• Vetting programme works well as it builds confidence.

7. Elizabeth Serieux-Wilson, Substance Abuse Advisory Council

• The Substance Abuse Advisory Council is a government office which co-ordinates and monitors activities on drugs demand and supply reduction. It works mostly in drugs education. Considering the establishment of a functioning Drugs Council, comprising CoP, and PSs in Education and Health and NGOs. Drugs council needed to bring all sides together, particularly Customs who are not currently working with others. Because of MEM exchanges there is a close knit group working on drugs issues. Also links with other countries in region.
• Developing programmes for schools with PTAs and students, peer educators and counsellors. Assessment training given for counsellors.
• Looking at substance abuse in the work place, including alcohol misuse. Prevention and employee assistance programmes.

• Secondary school survey sponsored by CICAD research and analysis due soon. Initial impressions are that alcohol and marijuana are the drugs most used.

• Study done two years ago in prison and boys training centre. No single approach to solving problems which are familial, school related etc Working on Team Helen group to bring together all those involved with boys – courts, police, probation, health – to work as a group.

• Convention signed by SLU on tobacco control.

• Working on drugs education programme at Bordelais prison. Supported by CICAD.

• SAAC has very small secretariat and needs equipment.