

International Criminal Police Organization

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MUN



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1. Welcome Letters

1.1. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

My name is Erol Erbil, and I am the Secretary General of SSBLMUN'25. It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to our conference. On behalf of the entire SSBLMUN'25 team, the whole team is honoured to host such talented and committed youthful leaders like yourselves, who are ready to leave an impact on the world by arguing for peace and diplomacy.

Over the past few months, we have worked willingly and wonderfully hard putting together a conference that you'll never forget. Model United Nations conferences are platforms for young leaders such as yourselves to come to try out ideas, to argue on the world stage and to train. I have every confidence that your energy, creativity, and commitment will make SSBLMUN'25 effective and unforgettable.

As you go through this year's sessions, I would advise you to engage each and every conversation with open-mindedness, respect and curiosity. Remember that MUN is not only a simulation of global relations but also a learning zone, a growth zone, and a platform for making lifelong friends. Do not get discouraged by little setbacks, but aim at growing as an individual and making your voice heard and appreciated through this meaningful experience that only happens once.

Our team has really gone the extra mile to make sure things have been going well. Should you have any questions or need my assistance prior to, during or after the conference, please feel free to contact me at erol55erbil@gmail.com.

Once again, welcome to SSBLMUN'25. I am truly looking forward to meeting all of you and witnessing the stimulating discussions and innovative ideas that are generated throughout the conference.

Best regards,
Erol Erbil
Secretary General

1.2. Letter from the Under Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

I am Emin Berkay Polattaş, the Under Secretary General and Head of Academy of the INTERPOL committee at SSBLMUN'25. I am also an 11th-grade student at Samsun Social Sciences High School, and it is an honor to welcome you all to the INTERPOL committee of our Model United Nations conference, which we are proudly organizing for the fourth time this year.

MUN conferences have been an indispensable experience throughout my high school life. They have allowed me to meet many new people and expand my knowledge base. As the Head of Academy, I carry the excitement of reflecting this accumulated knowledge not only within my own committee but also across all our committees.

The main objective of our committee is to prevent international drug trafficking and the crimes that arise from it. Unfortunately, this issue remains relevant in today's world, and as you may know, understanding the present requires understanding the past. Therefore, our committee aims to broaden your knowledge base by presenting an extended historical timeline.

Kind regards,

Emin Berkay Polattaş
mail: eminpolattas@hotmail.com

2. History of INTERPOL

2.1. What is INTERPOL

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization. Through its reach it helps facilitate worldwide police cooperation and crime control. With 196 member states, Interpol's worldwide reach allows it to provide investigative support, expertise and training. Its main areas of focus of transnational crime are terrorism, cybercrime and organized crime. However, Interpol maintains a very large mandate which covers almost every kind of crime, including crimes against humanity, drug trafficking and production, and political corruption.

The International Criminal Police Organization - INTERPOL (abbreviated as ICPO - INTERPOL), commonly known as Interpol, is an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. It is the world's largest international police organization. It is headquartered in Lyon, France, with seven regional bureaus worldwide, and a National Central Bureau in all 196 member states.

The organization today known as Interpol was founded on 7 September 1923 at the close of a five-day International Police Congress in Vienna as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC); it adopted many of its current duties throughout the 1930s. After coming under Nazi control in 1938, the agency had its headquarters in the same building as the Gestapo. It was effectively stagnant until the end of World War II. In 1956, the ICPC adopted a new constitution and the name Interpol, derived from its telegraphic address used since 1946.

Interpol provides investigative support, expertise and training to law enforcement worldwide, focusing on three major areas of transnational crime: terrorism, cybercrime and organized crime. Its broad mandate covers virtually every kind of crime, including crimes against humanity, child pornography, drug trafficking and production, political corruption, intellectual property infringement, as well as white-collar crime. The agency also facilitates cooperation among national law enforcement institutions through criminal databases and communications networks. Contrary to popular belief, Interpol is itself not a law enforcement agency.

Interpol has an annual budget of €142 million (\$155 million), most of which comes from annual contributions by member police forces in 181 countries. It is governed by a General Assembly composed of all member countries, which elects the executive committee and the president (currently Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi of the United Arab Emirates) to supervise and implement Interpol's policies and administration. Day-to-day operations are carried out by the General Secretariat, comprising around 1,000 personnel from over 100 countries, including both police and civilians. The Secretariat is led by the secretary-general Valdecy Urquiza, the former vice president of Interpol for the Americas.

Pursuant to its charter, Interpol seeks to remain politically neutral in fulfilling its mandate, and is thus barred from interventions or activities that are political, military, religious, or racial in nature

and from involving itself in disputes over such matters. The agency operates in four languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

As historic players on the international stage, it is only natural for INTERPOL and the United Nations to join forces.

INTERPOL has enjoyed a special role - that of Permanent Observer at the United Nations - since 1996. First established by General Assembly Resolution 51/1, this status was formalized in a Cooperation Agreement in 1997.

INTERPOL-UN cooperation has since been enshrined in both UN General Assembly and Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, especially as concerns terrorism and human trafficking. We also combine our capabilities in the form of Special Notices issued to alert law enforcement to individuals and entities subject to UNSC sanctions.

2.2. Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations

In November 2004, we opened the Office of the Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations in New York. A subsidiary Permanent Observer Office opened at the UN Office in Vienna in 2018.

This physical proximity to two UN Headquarters allows us to more easily draw attention to areas where the UN can leverage INTERPOL's tools and services, and explore cooperation opportunities in a more dynamic manner.

Our staff are in regular contact with United Nations agencies and the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations. This networking ensures that the concerns of global law enforcement are adequately represented in international policies and initiatives, and in identifying potential partners

3. Rules of Procedure

3.1. Committee Structure

The INTERPOL Committee serves as a multilateral cooperation platform between intelligence agencies in response to global crimes. Delegates do not represent countries but rather specific intelligence agencies.

The primary objective of the committee is to facilitate coordinated operations and intelligence sharing against threats such as drug cartels, terrorist financing, and transnational organized crime.

The most significant distinction of this structure is that delegates debate based not on foreign policy, but on operational capacity.

3.2. Directives

In the INTERPOL Committee, directives are the operational outputs of the committee. Each directive is a trigger for an action, investigation or expenditure. There are three main types of directives:

Operational Directives: Written for actions to be performed physically.

Research Directives: Written to obtain information about an event or topic.

Budgetary Directives: Written for budget and resource allocation for operations.

Directives are a means of generating direct action, not a decision-making mechanism of the committee. Each allows the crisis desk to intervene in the scenario. Also directives are not going to rite in individual, all of them will be written as a committee directive by the chairboard.

3.3. Evidence Drop

The presentation of evidence is entirely triggered by the Board. During the committee's work, the chairman suddenly bangs his gavel, announces "Evidence Drop" and conveys the new information obtained on the subject to the committee. Examples of these include camera recordings, news leaked to the press and written documents.

Additionally, this evidence directly affects the scenario. Delegates may write new directives, revise their positions, or make suggestions such as calling witnesses according to these developments.

3.4. Motion to Summon a Witness

One of the special motions that can be used in the INTERPOL committee is "Motion to Summon a Witness".

This proposal provides for a witness (agent, civilian, journalist, witness, suspect, etc.) to be brought before the committee and questioned.

When the motion is presented, if the president deems it appropriate, the crisis team (board) prepares a witness character and includes it in the committee. Delegates have the right to ask questions of this witness.

The purpose here is to verify evidence, eliminate doubt, or uncover new information through mutual questioning.

4. Topic explanation

4.1. History of Drugs

4.1.2. Ancient Usage

OPIUM

Opium is the first drug ever used by humanity. First usage of opium is accrued around BC 3400s in ancient Mesopotamia. Mesopotamian civilizations used opium firstly in medical ways like for pain relief and sedation. Also these civilizations used this plant for drugs and they named "joy plant" the opium. This advance is the starting of the drugs because this is the first named plant which is used in a drug way. That causes them to sell opium to other countries. Ancient Egypt was the first civilization which used opium after Mesopotamian civilizations. Ancient Egypt also used opium in medical ways. But some Egyptian people learned the opium's drug usage. After that the whole of Egypt learned this usage. Egypt was one of the most important nations in Mediterranean Sea trading. That caused the selling of opium to nations like Rome and Greece. After that advance Europe officially met with opium. Greeks developed opium's medical usage. Especially Hippocrates recommended for internal diseases and surgical procedures. Moreover Greeks evolved the consumption of opium. They were making pastes and eating.

CANNABIS

Ancient China used it for the first time in the 2000s BC. The ancient Chinese primarily employed cannabis for medicinal purposes, particularly to treat pain and sleep issues. They also utilized it to make paper, ropes, and clothing. Early Chinese medical texts described cannabis as a beneficial medicinal plant. One of the first civilizations to use cannabis was India, followed by China. It was utilized by Indians for amusement as well as sacred rites. Cannabis, known in Indian culture as "bhang," was consumed at sacred holidays. Cannabis was traded between India and the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East. Following its arrival, cannabis was utilized for both recreational and medicinal purposes in Ancient Greece and Rome. Greek doctors like Dioscorides wrote about its effects. In later centuries, cannabis spread to Europe and Africa. That made cannabis one of the most known and used plants in ancient and modern medicine history.

COCA

It was first used by indigenous inhabitants in the Andes Mountains in the 3000s BC. To lessen their hunger, discomfort, and exhaustion, these individuals consumed coca leaves. Coca gave them more energy and improved their breathing, especially in high mountain regions. The Inca Empire was the most well-known society to use coca. Coca was considered a gift from the gods by the Incas. Priests, kings, and soldiers were among the prominent individuals who received it, and it was utilized in religious rites. Europeans began to study coca after Spanish colonization because they recognized its significance. European scientists used coca to create cocaine, a novel chemical, in the 19th century. In Western medicine, cocaine gained popularity, particularly as an anesthetic. Cocaine then turned into a harmful and prohibited substance. However, indigenous

people in Bolivia and Peru continue to consume natural coca leaves in customary and lawful ways. Overall in ancient civilizations drug isn't criminalized moreover they find it a very valuable tool. While early uses focused on medicinal and ritual benefits, over centuries, drug's economic value and role in global trade became prominent.

4.1.2. Usage in Medicine and Psychological Effects

Usage in Medicine

In modern medicine, psychoactive substances such as benzodiazepines, barbiturates, opioids and marijuana are generally used in advanced conditions such as anxiety, severe pain, severe insomnia and sleep attacks. These substances act by interacting directly with the central nervous system, changing the mood and physiological activities by changing the mechanisms of neurotransmitter action in different ways. The general function of the substances used in these treatments is to increase the activity of GABA, the brain's main inhibitory neurotransmitter, which reduces neural activity, causing calmness and relaxation of the muscles. Opioids, on the other hand, prevent pain signals from reaching the brain by binding to receptors in the nerves, thus creating a feeling of happiness in the brain. Marijuana, when used, affects mood, appetite and sleep at a very high level. Although these substances have different physiological and biological effects, they work for common purposes and on the same principle.

Psychological Effects

These substances, which are medically beneficial when used under control, cause strong psychological side effects when used in the wrong or high doses. It causes paranoia or hallucinations as a result of the constant decrease in the activity of neurons in the brain, frequent mood changes, and the anxiety level suddenly increasing or decreasing. For example, long-term use of marijuana can lead to memory loss and focus problems, while opioids prevent emotions from being experienced. The substance user may feel disconnected from life, extremely irritable, anxious or depressed. These substances provide mental and physiological comfort to the person, and over time, they trust these substances and bring their psychology and body to an irreversible point.

Addiction and Its Exploitation by Criminal Networks

With the use of such addictive substances, the body becomes immune to these substances, in which case the individual begins to consume higher doses or more effective substances from this substance, which leads to the formation of addiction in the person. In these cases, individuals also try to illegally obtain more potent and dangerous derivatives of substances that they obtain legally. In these cases, criminal organizations and cartels come into play. By taking advantage of people's weaknesses, they start selling substances that should never be consumed physiologically or mentally at exorbitant prices in illegal places such as the black market. In a world where the number of addicted people is increasing day by day, cartels have become stronger over the years and continue to do so. In this case, addiction has become a global problem rather than an increasing personal problem.

4.1.3. The Colonial and Trade Era

The colonial period was a turning point in global drug consumption and trade. During this period, plants that grew only in certain regions (opium, coca, cannabis) became commercial goods of large empires. The emergence of imperialism, the discovery of trade routes, and the weak commercial control led to the emergence of one of the oldest parts of the global drug trafficking. This situation would later lead to social conflicts and crises.

One of the most important drug activities during the colonial period was Great Britain's use of opium as a political and economic weapon against people. The British landed in the Indian Ocean and began to grow opium in India. China, which opposed this situation, exported opium as a share of sus. This situation was a huge turning point for China. Because a large majority of the population became addicted to this substance, China was forced to close its ports. However, it also led to civil wars in China known as the Opium Wars (1839-1842 and 1856-1860). China, which has reopened its ports in the face of this situation, has caused humiliation by losing power internationally. As a result, colonial activities were the beginning of state-supported drug trafficking.

In these years, the coca leaves grown in the Andes Mountains in the South American region of the American continent, also known as the "new world" discovered, and used by the indigenous people for various purposes, attracted the attention of Europeans. In the 19th century, European scientists began to extract cocaine from coca leaves and use it in the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmaceutical companies used it in places such as depression, anxiety and extremely painful surgeries. However, it was discovered that this substance was actually addictive and the states took control of its production. But coca cultivation had already become widespread, so it could not be completely prevented.

On the one hand, there are people who consume cocaine without knowing that it is actually an addictive drug, and on the other hand, there are Western states that force slaves in the regions they exploit to consume cocaine in order to make money. This has become the beginning of the drug use and trade that we struggle with today.

4.1.4. The Criminalization & Control Era (20th Century)

In the 20th century, all states around the world experienced significant socio-cultural developments, and one of the most important of these was the production, trade, and use of substances considered drugs. Initially, in order to protect human health, international control and punishment of drugs were increased. These developments were initiated by the International Opium Commission signed in Shanghai in 1909. With the Geneva Opium Convention signed in 1925, it gained more power by making it mandatory to report the production of substances in the drug category and restricting their use in non-medical fields.

The United Nations, which was established after World War II, assumed the responsibility of this commission and global drug control. In 1961, the "Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs"

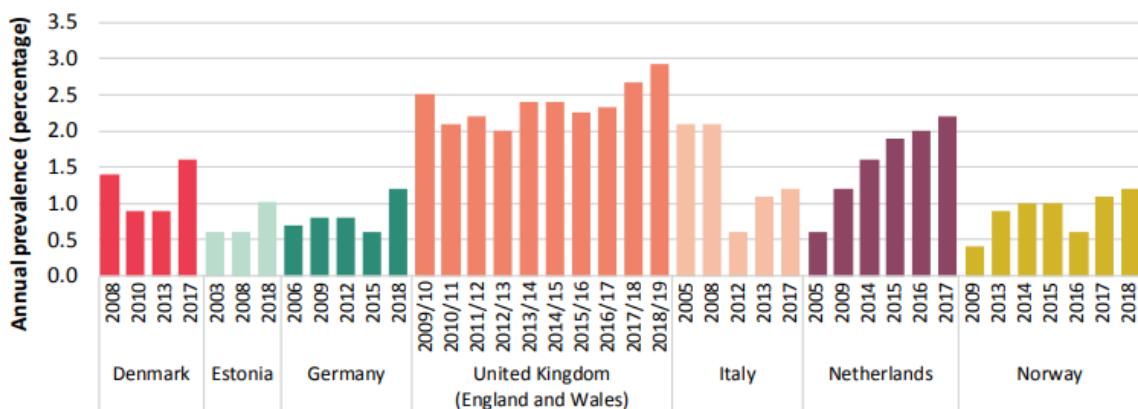
introduced the concept of “regulation and classification,” classifying substances with narcotic effects according to their medical value and potential for abuse. The main goal of this agreement was to end the illegal drug trade completely within 25 years. After this, the “1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances,” which included drugs such as amphetamines, LSD, and barbiturates, was signed.

Crimes such as smuggling and illegal trade were also attempted to be prevented with the “United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances” in 1988. This convention focused on human trafficking and drug smuggling and encouraged the application of punitive sanctions, confiscation of property, and aggravated penalties to countries that did not take precautions. With this agreement, the national laws of the states were somewhat globalized.

However, as a result of such harsh approaches, the criminalization of drug sales led to overcrowding in prisons and disruption of healthcare services. Although the main goal of these controls was to support human health and welfare, people were subjected to severe punishments even in situations that could be resolved through treatment or social services. This issue is still unresolved and is being discussed in sub-branches of the United Nations, such as the UNODC.

In short, in the 20th century, drug control and criminal sanctions increased. Based mainly on agreements and conventions, this period globalized the war on drugs and aimed to protect public health.

FIG. 26 Trend in cocaine use, countries in Western and Central Europe that reported recent data



4.1.5. The Rise of the Cartels

Drug cartels, which rose to prominence towards the end of the 20th century, were an important turning point globally. In the periods before this, these smuggling activities were only happening at the national level. However, the lack of adequate control of the borders and the further increase in demand led to the emergence of this criminal network. These criminal organizations, called cartels, controlled every stage of drug production and distribution. Economic instability, inflation,

corruption and the increasing drug demand in North America and Europe have directly contributed to the rise of these organizations over time.

In the 1970s, Colombia, one of the countries where coca plants were most grown, became the center of cocaine trade. For this reason, many cartels were formed in Colombia. One of these cartels was the "Medellin Cartel" founded by Pablo Escobar. Because of this cartel, cocaine has gained global fame. At the time when this cartel was operating most efficiently, it was illegally smuggling about 70 to 80 tons of cocaine into the United States per month. The cartel has followed methods such as threats, blackmail and even assassination in order to monopolize the market. At one point, Escobar became so powerful that he controlled Colombian politics and economy. While he was building schools, hospitals and parks in poor areas, he was also killing judges, journalists and police officers. That's why he was often referred to as a hypocrite by the public.

The Medellin Cartel was growing coca leaves, the raw material for cocaine, in the Andes Mountains in Peru and Bolivia. These plants were processed into drugs and sent to the US and Europe via the Caribbean Sea. The cartel secured its trade by bribing customs officials, ship captains and even politicians. As a result of these events, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Colombian government declared the Medellin Cartel a national security threat. After years of pressure, intelligence and operations, Escobar was killed in 1993. However, this death did not bring an end to the cartel.

After the collapse of the Medellin Cartel, the Cali Cartel rose to power. Cali was different from Medellin in that it took a more institutional approach, focusing on money laundering, less violence and friendly political relations. In the mid-1990s, Cali became a new power. But Cali focused on a position that no one was directly focusing on: Mexico. Here they quickly became the biggest power. As the cartels weakened in Colombia, cartels such as Sinaloa, Zetas and Jalisco were established in Mexico. The greatest power of these cartels was their weapons. They quickly gained power by using more and more advanced weapons than the police.

Due to the increasing power of the cartels, the United States launched the "Colombia Plan" in 2000, which included military and economic assistance to Colombia, the region where coca agriculture is the most widespread. This plan is to ensure that coca fields are damaged by aerial spraying and to ensure that military intervention is effective in counter-insurgencies. Although coca production decreased as a result of such efforts, there was no radical solution. Because the society was still creating a demand for cocaine, and the spraying caused environmental damage.

In the following years, cartels have transformed into multi-criminal organizations by doing different jobs in addition to drug trafficking. Examples of these are human trafficking, arms trafficking, extortion and cyber crimes. Cartels have gained power and taken over local governments, especially in countries with weak socio-economic conditions and weak law.

As a result of all this effort, the fact that the cartels are still rising has revealed how ineffective control mechanisms such as borders, agriculture and trade actually are. In addition, although various ring leaders and cartel leaders have been killed, there has been no change in global drug

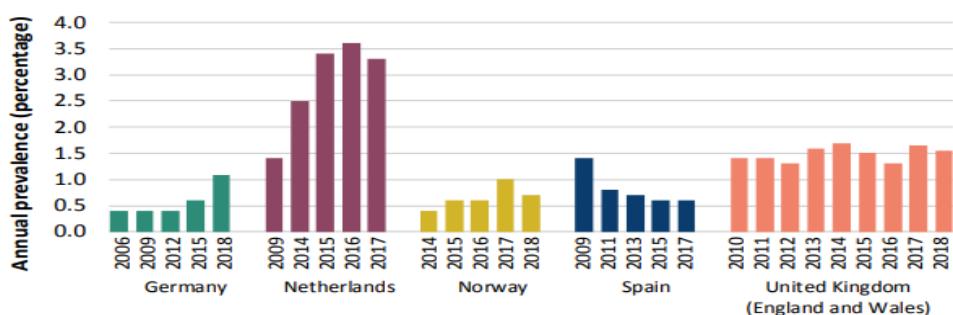
demand. This war on drugs eventually led to the weakening of the public, health services and democratic institutions. Today, many cartels still operate on a global level. These cartels gain power by using developing technology and black markets instead of traditional smuggling.

4.1.6. Contemporary Trends

In recent years, with developing technology, drug production and trade have significantly changed. Plant-based drugs such as opium, cannabis, and cocaine have been replaced by synthetic drugs.

Among the most consumed synthetic drugs in the modern era are fentanyl, methamphetamine, ecstasy (MDMA), and synthetic cannabinoids. These drugs are mostly produced in clandestine laboratories using chemicals that are easier to obtain and harder to detect. Therefore, they can even be produced in city centers. Compared to other natural drugs, these substances are much more lethal. For example, fentanyl is 50 times more powerful than heroin, and every year tens of thousands of people lose their lives due to this substance in North America.

FIG. 17 Trends in the use of “ecstasy” in countries in Western and Central Europe that reported recent data



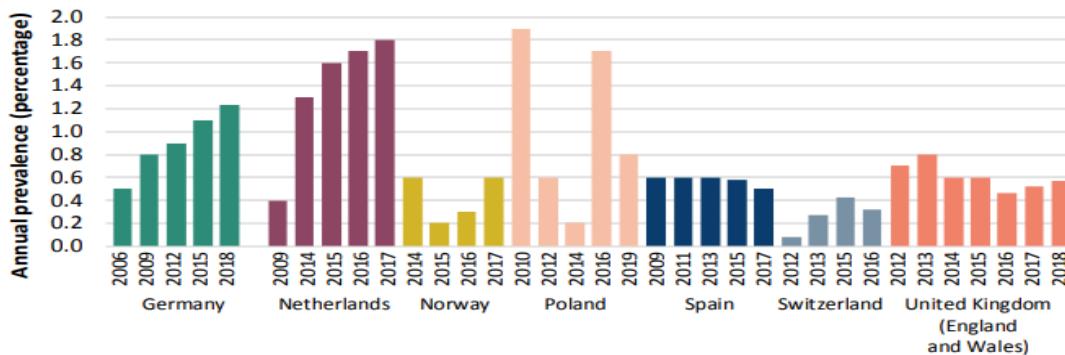
At the same time, these drugs are also being traded through online applications and various websites. Trade has also changed thanks to developing technology. Now, transactions are made through cryptocurrencies and fake identities. This situation has made it more difficult to control drug trafficking. Although well-known websites like Silk Road and Hydra have been shut down, new websites are rapidly increasing.

Another development is the globalization of production areas. While South America is becoming the center of cocaine production and Afghanistan of opium production, West Africa has started to play an important role in the shipment of drugs to Europe. Similarly, Southeast Asia, especially the region known as the Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand), still plays a significant role in methamphetamine production.

In response, international institutions such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Europol have developed new strategies. Their latest reports have focused more on

harm reduction, treatment-focused approaches, and international cooperation rather than punishment. For example, the 2023 World Drug Report draws attention to the rise of non-state actors, transnational criminal organizations, and the urgent need for public health-centered policy reforms.

FIG. 14 Trends in the use of amphetamines, selected countries in Western and Central Europe



During this period, some countries have adopted different policies. For example, Portugal has not considered the possession of small amounts of drugs a crime and has directed individuals to rehabilitation instead of punishment. Similarly, Canada and some states in the United States have legalized cannabis use and initiated public debates on the regulation of such substances.

In conclusion, the global drug problem has now gone beyond traditional cartels and has started to take place over the internet. Today, it involves cybercrime, synthetic chemistry, health crises, and policy reforms, making it a much more complex issue. Modern drug trends are fast, decentralized, and becoming more dangerous day by day. To solve this problem, international cooperation and tighter controls must be increased.

4.2. History of Pablo Escobar

4.2.1. History of Pablo Escobar

Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria (1 December 1949 – 2 December 1993) was a Colombian drug lord, narco terrorist, and politician who was the founder and leader of the Medellín Cartel. Dubbed the "King of Cocaine", Escobar was one of the wealthiest criminals in history, having amassed an estimated net worth of US\$30 billion by his death - equivalent to ~\$80 billion as of 2025 - while his drug cartel monopolized the cocaine trade into the US in the 1980s and early 1990s.

In the 1982 Colombian parliamentary election, Escobar was elected as an alternate member of the Chamber of Representatives as part of the Liberal Party. Through this, he was responsible for community projects such as the construction of houses and football pitches, which gained him popularity among the locals of towns he frequented; however, Escobar's political ambitions were thwarted by the Colombian and US governments, who routinely pushed for his arrest, with Escobar believed to have orchestrated the Avianca Flight 203 and DAS Building bombings in

retaliation. In 1991, Escobar surrendered to authorities, and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on a host of charges, but struck a deal of no extradition with Colombian President César Gaviria, with the ability of being housed in his own, self-built prison, La Catedral. In 1992, Escobar escaped and went into hiding when authorities attempted to move him to a more standard holding in the 1970s, it expanded after Escobar met several drug lords on a farm in April 1978, and by the end of 1978 they had transported some 19,000 kilograms of cocaine to the United States.

Escobar started his criminal career with his gang by stealing tombstones, sandblasting their inscriptions, and reselling them. After dropping out of school, Escobar began to join gangs to steal cars. Escobar soon became involved in violent crime, employing criminals to kidnap people who owed him money and demand ransoms, sometimes tearing up ransom notes even when Escobar had received the ransom. His most famous kidnapping victim was businessman Diego Echavarria, who was kidnapped and eventually killed in the summer of 1971, Escobar received a \$50,000 ransom from the Echavarria family; his gang became well known for this kidnapping.

4.2.2. History of Medellín Cartel

Escobar had been involved in organized crime for a decade when the cocaine trade began to spread in Colombia in the mid-1970s. Escobar's meteoric rise caught the attention of the Colombian Security Service (DAS), who arrested him in May 1976 on his return from drug trafficking in Ecuador. DAS agents found 39 kg of cocaine in the spare tire of Escobar's car. Escobar managed to change the first judge in the lawsuit and bribed the second judge, so he was released along with other prisoners. The following year, the agent who arrested Escobar was assassinated. Escobar continued to bribe and intimidate Colombian law enforcement agencies in the same fashion. His carrot-and-stick strategy of bribing public officials and political candidates in Colombia, in addition to sending hitmen to murder the ones who rejected his bribes, came to be known as "silver or lead", meaning "money or death". The Medellín Cartel and the Cali Cartel both managed to bribe Colombian politicians, and campaigned for both the Conservative and Liberal parties. Hence, Escobar and many other Colombian drug lords were pulling strings in every level of the Colombian government because many of the political candidates whom they backed financially were eventually elected. Although the Medellín Cartel was only established in the early.

5. Block Information

Dirección Nacional de Inteligencia - DNI (Colombia)



In the final quarter of the 20th century, Colombia experienced one of the most violent and complex periods in Latin American history. At the center of this era stood the Medellín Cartel, led by Pablo Escobar. With its vast wealth generated from the cocaine trade, the cartel evolved beyond a criminal enterprise into a paramilitary power with significant influence over state institutions. This severely undermined Colombia's democratic structure and public security.

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, Colombia was under intense international pressure - especially from the United States - to combat drug trafficking. As one of the primary suppliers of cocaine to the U.S., the Medellín Cartel was seen as a major global security threat. At the national level, the primary institution tasked with internal security and intelligence was the Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS) - the Administrative Department of Security.

However, DAS soon became ineffective in fulfilling its mandate. The bribery, intimidation, and violence used by the cartels led to widespread corruption within the organization. Some DAS officials began cooperating with the Medellín Cartel, providing intelligence, warning about upcoming operations, and actively undermining law enforcement efforts. Escobar utilized these internal connections not only to evade capture but also to eliminate rivals and gain political leverage.

By the mid-1980s, Colombia was gripped by a wave of escalating violence. In 1989, the DAS headquarters was bombed in an assassination attempt on its director, Miguel Maza Márquez - an attack orchestrated by Escobar himself. The incident symbolized the contradictory nature of the organization: it housed both collaborators of the cartel and those fighting against it.

Compounding the issue, DAS was also implicated in illegal surveillance, human rights violations, and secret operations against political dissidents, journalists, and civil society actors. The organization's reputation continued to deteriorate into the 2000s, long after Escobar's death in 1993. Revelations between 2005 and 2009 that DAS had conducted unauthorized surveillance on opposition politicians, members of the judiciary, and investigative journalists sparked widespread outrage, both domestically and internationally.

As a result of these ongoing scandals and a loss of public trust, the Colombian government officially dissolved DAS in 2011. In its place, the Dirección Nacional de Inteligencia (DNI) - the National Intelligence Directorate - was established. Although not directly linked to the Escobar era, DNI was a product of the lessons learned during that time. Its structure emphasized transparency, oversight, professionalism, and alignment with international intelligence standards.

DNI was designed to break from the past and operate under civilian control, free from political manipulation and criminal infiltration. Its creation marked a significant institutional reform aimed at restoring public confidence and rebuilding Colombia's national security architecture.

The transition from DAS to DNI in Colombia's intelligence history is more than a bureaucratic change - it reflects a deep societal reckoning and an institutional response to the traumatic legacy of cartel influence. Pablo Escobar and the Medellín Cartel were not merely criminal entities but alternative centers of power that infiltrated and eroded the state from within. DAS's failure to resist this pressure laid bare the fragility of Colombian institutions. The creation of DNI stands as a belated yet necessary attempt to heal that breach and reassert the rule of law.

Central Intelligence Agency - CIA (United States of America)



The CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) was established on September 18, 1947, by then-American President Harry S. Truman with the aim of ensuring national security. Its main purpose was to collect and analyze international information and provide intelligence services to the government, especially in the aftermath of World War II. Since the Cold War, it has been actively conducting operations worldwide. Its headquarters is located in the Langley area of Virginia. With these characteristics, it has become one of the most important international organs of the United States.

Pablo Escobar and the Medellin Cartel monopolized the global cocaine trade between 1980 and 1990. During this period, many countries, especially the United States, were negatively affected. In response, the CIA continuously gathered intelligence and carried out numerous operations to completely block the cartel's drug trade. The CIA and the U.S. government operated not only domestically but also actively in Latin America.

The CIA maintained a close relationship with the Colombian government and the DNI (Dirección Nacional de Inteligencia). The purpose of this collaboration was to capture Pablo Escobar and dismantle the cartel. During this process, the CIA allocated substantial resources and personnel to track money laundering networks, prevent cocaine shipments, and identify the cartel's financial sources. In addition, the CIA closely cooperated with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), another U.S. government agency, which further enhanced the success of its anti-drug operations.

As a result of this extensive cooperation and effort, the Colombian government was able to capture Pablo Escobar with the help of the CIA. Escobar's neutralization was also a key objective in the U.S.'s "War on Drugs" strategy during the 1980s and 1990s. However, the CIA's efforts did not end with capturing Escobar; it also provided the Colombian government with weapons, military training, and equipment to prevent the formation of new cartels in the region.

Additionally, the CIA played a crucial role in the process of arresting and extraditing Escobar to Colombia. Escobar had significant influence in Colombia, controlling various politicians, judges,

and police officers, which made his arrest extremely difficult. For this reason, the CIA conducted covert operations that ultimately led to Escobar being neutralized in 1993, marking the beginning of the downfall of the Medellin Cartel.

In summary, the CIA was the most significant global factor in the capture of Escobar. Through intelligence gathering, operational support, and international coordination, the agency successfully completed this process. As a result, the global power and importance of the CIA were once again clearly demonstrated.

Centro de Investigación y Seguridad Nacional - CISEN (México)



CISEN was created on February 13, 1989, replacing the *Dirección General de Investigación y Seguridad Nacional* (DGISN), which assumed its role following the dissolution of the Dirección Federal de Seguridad (DFS) and the *Dirección General de Investigaciones Políticas y Sociales* (DGIPS). CISEN was the principal intelligence agency of the Secretariat of the Interior (Spanish: Secretaría de Gobernación, SGOB). The agency was formally charged with generating strategic, tactical, and operative intelligence to ensure the integrity, stability, and permanence of the Mexican state. Article 19 of the National Security Act defined the scope and responsibilities of CISEN. Pablo Escobar was a Colombian drug lord and the leader of the Medellín Cartel. CISEN (Centro de Investigación y Seguridad Nacional - National Intelligence and Security Center), an intelligence agency affiliated with the Mexican government, operated in Mexico between 1989 and 2018. While there is no clear public evidence linking Escobar's Colombia-based Medellín Cartel directly to Mexican intelligence agencies - particularly CISEN - some indirectly related events and structures can be linked.

Pablo Escobar's primary source of income was cocaine smuggling from Colombia to the US. This route eventually transitioned to Mexico. As US pressure made direct shipments to the US via the Caribbean riskier, the Mexican route (via land and the Pacific coast) became more prevalent.

Escobar began collaborating with cartels in Mexico. Strong ties developed, particularly between the Guadalajara Cartel (led by Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo) and the Medellín Cartel. The Guadalajara Cartel became a key intermediary for smuggling cocaine from Colombia into the US.

At this point, it is believed that he collaborated with, or at least condoned, government officials and even intelligence agencies within Mexico.

CISEN is officially an organization combating drug cartels. However, during the 1980s and 1990s, some Mexican government officials (including police, military, and intelligence officers) had deep ties to drug cartels. Consequently, some researchers believe that some elements of CISEN leaked information to the cartels or turned a blind eye to certain operations.

Case Study: In the 1985 kidnapping and murder of DEA agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in Mexico, it was alleged that the Guadalajara Cartel collaborated with members of the CIA and

Mexican government agencies. In this case, some CISEN members allegedly leaked information or attempted to obstruct the investigation.

Escobar's network, operating from the Medellín Cartel to Guadalajara Cartel to the US, suggests that it's impossible for Mexican state structures (including some intelligence and security officials) to be unaware of this trade. CISEN itself didn't work directly with Escobar, but it may have tacitly supported or obstructed Mexican cartels' collaboration with the Medellín Cartel.

Servicio Bolivariano de Inteligencia Nacional - SEBIN (Venezuela)



Venezuela did not play a direct role in the capture of Pablo Escobar; however, it has long been one of the most strategic transit countries for drug shipments headed to the United States and Europe. During the 1980s, the Medellín Cartel actively used Venezuela's territory - especially oil pipelines near the Colombian border, as well as land and air routes - for smuggling operations. A notable example of this activity is the emergence of the "*Cartel de los Soles*" (Cartel of the Suns), a drug trafficking network allegedly formed by members of Venezuela's military and border security forces.

Between 1990 and 1991, Venezuelan anti-narcotics public institutions, allegedly supported by the CIA, conducted operations under the term "controlled deliveries," claiming that cocaine shipments were being moved from Colombia to the United States. During this period, cooperation between the CIA and SEBIN intensified, leading to regular inspections of Venezuelan airports.

Additionally, scandals such as the Narcosobrinos case revealed that several high-ranking members of the Venezuelan government were directly involved in narcotics trafficking. In response, the United States Department of Justice launched investigations into these individuals. Consequently, the CIA increased its support for SEBIN, contributing to a partial dismantling of certain trafficking networks within the country.

In conclusion, although SEBIN did not contribute to Escobar's direct apprehension, it played a significant role in disrupting major drug trafficking routes and networks connected to the broader operations of the Colombian cartels.

Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional - SIN (Perú)



The National Intelligence Service of Peru (Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional - SIN) was the country's main intelligence agency from 1960 until it was dissolved in 2001. Its headquarters were located in the Quiñones Building, which also housed Peru's Ministry of Defense.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Peru was the world's largest producer of coca leaves, surpassing Colombia. These coca leaves - the raw material for cocaine - were typically processed within Peru into a semi-finished product

known as *pasta básica* (cocaine base). This product was then exported to Colombia, where criminal organizations like the Medellín Cartel refined it into pure cocaine in sophisticated laboratories. In this production chain is: Peru to Colombia to Mexico to the United States. Peru, where the SIN operated, was at the very beginning of the process.

SIN was responsible for both foreign and domestic intelligence operations in Peru. However, during the presidency of Alberto Fujimori (1990-2000), the agency fell under the control of Vladimiro Montesinos, Fujimori's powerful and controversial intelligence chief. Under Montesinos, SIN evolved from a state intelligence body into a deeply corrupt institution involved in drug trafficking, bribery, and political manipulation.

Numerous reports - including those from the U.S. DEA - revealed that Montesinos had ties to drug traffickers. It was alleged that SIN ignored or allowed certain aircraft carrying cocaine to pass unimpeded, while Montesinos himself accepted bribes and offered protection to traffickers. Drug-producing regions like the Huallaga Valley became zones of lawlessness, where state authorities turned a blind eye. While there is no confirmed evidence that the Medellín Cartel had direct dealings with Montesinos or SIN, the cartel clearly benefited from the permissive environment in Peru at the time.

By the mid-1990s, the U.S. government began to formally document the extent of corruption within SIN and Montesinos's growing connections to the drug trade. In 2000, a series of secretly recorded videos (known as the "Vladivideos") surfaced, showing Montesinos accepting money and engaging in illicit arms deals. This triggered a major political scandal. As a result, the DEA, CIA, and FBI launched joint efforts to dismantle and purge the SIN, which was officially dissolved in 2001.

Dirección de Inteligencia - UMOPAR (Bolivia)



Bolivia plays a significant role in drug trafficking across South America due to its geographical position. As parts of the Andes Mountains fall within its borders, the country not only enables cocaine production but also provides a mountainous terrain that is favorable for smuggling. Because of these factors, Bolivia caught the attention of the Medellín Cartel. Additionally, during the 1980s and 1990s, Bolivia's Chapare and Yungas regions became central hubs for coca cultivation.

This situation forced Bolivia to cooperate with the United States. As a result of this cooperation, GICEI (intelligence agency) and UMOPAR (police force) were established. UMOPAR received extensive support from both the CIA and the DEA in every aspect.

Although Bolivia did not have a direct military or intelligence role in Escobar's capture, it played a crucial role in stopping coca production and cocaine trafficking. Within the framework of "Plan Dignidad", jointly carried out by the U.S. and Bolivia, UMOPAR played a key role in operations such as the destruction of coca fields and the dismantling of drug laboratories.

In conclusion, Bolivia was not directly involved in capturing Escobar, but it significantly harmed the Medellín Cartel economically and in terms of access to raw materials.

The Centro Superior de Información de la Defensa - CESID (Spain)



CESID, the predecessor to CNI, was established in 1977 and remained active until 2002. Its mission was to manage Spain's domestic and foreign intelligence activities - functioning in a similar way to a combined CIA and NSA structure in the United States. During the 1980s, CESID played a key role in combating terrorism (especially ETA), maintaining political stability, and fighting international criminal networks.

During this period, Pablo Escobar's Medellín Cartel began expanding into the European market, particularly in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Spain became the most strategic entry point for this expansion. The main reasons for this included the shared Spanish language, strong historical and cultural ties with Latin America, close commercial relations, and the accessibility of Spanish ports and air transport routes. As a result, Spain emerged as a key hub for the Medellín Cartel's cocaine shipments and money laundering operations.

In response, CESID undertook direct intelligence gathering, monitoring, and analysis activities. Their focus included monitoring courier networks transporting cocaine from Latin America, tracing money laundering operations through fake companies and Spanish banks, and tracking the increasing flow of cocaine through key ports - especially those in Galicia, Valencia, Barcelona, and the Canary Islands. CESID also monitored collaborations between Colombian drug lords and local Spanish criminal groups.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the United States increasingly used Spain as an operational base for its fight against cocaine trafficking in Europe. CESID worked in cooperation with the DEA (U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration) to: monitor the phone communications of drug lords, track financial transfers, place suspects under surveillance.

Although there are no public records of CESID conducting direct operations targeting Pablo Escobar himself, many individuals linked to the Medellín Cartel were arrested in Spain between 1991 and 1993. In 1992, coordinated raids in Madrid and Barcelona dismantled companies used to launder cartel funds. Smuggling groups based in Galicia were also investigated for aiding Escobar's couriers.

Even after Escobar's death, CESID continued to monitor Colombian criminal groups that had infiltrated Europe

Agenzia Informazioni e Sicurezza Esterna - AISE (Italy)



Italy did not directly contribute to field operations during the capture of Escobar but rather resorted to political and indirect methods. A significant portion of the Medellín Cartel's cocaine shipments to Europe were routed through Italian ports such as Naples and Gioia Tauro. One of the primary actions Italy took against the cartel was increasing port inspections and surveillance.

Moreover, there were criminal organizations within Italy that cooperated with the Medellín Cartel. The most prominent example of such organizations was the 'Ndrangheta mafia, which played a key role in distributing the cocaine smuggled into Europe by the cartel. At this point, AISE became involved, aiming to disrupt the cartel's and mafia's financial gains by providing intelligence across Europe and ultimately contributing to their dismantling.

During the 1990s, intelligence-sharing between the U.S. and Italy increased, particularly between AISE and the CIA in the context of combating drug trafficking. Furthermore, Italian financial monitoring institutions worked to detect suspicious banking activities related to money laundering, thereby identifying the cartel's financial assets in Europe.

Secret Intelligence Service - MI6 (England)



The Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), commonly known as MI6 (Military Intelligence, Section 6), is the foreign intelligence service of the United Kingdom, tasked mainly with the covert overseas collection and analysis of human intelligence on foreign nationals in support of its Five Eyes partners. SIS is one of the British intelligence agencies and the Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service is directly accountable to the Foreign Secretary.

The Medellín Cartel, led by Pablo Escobar, primarily operated in Latin America and the US. However, from the late 1980s onward, the cocaine trade expanded into the European market, and the UK became a key target for this expansion. A significant portion of the cocaine entering Europe, particularly through countries like Spain, the Netherlands, and Belgium, reached the UK. While the UK became a significant consumer market in Europe due to rising cocaine consumption, it also became a hub for international criminal activity and money laundering. This led to the interest and indirect involvement of MI6 (Secret Intelligence Service), the UK's foreign intelligence agency.

MI6 did not directly contact Pablo Escobar or the Medellín Cartel. However, due to the cocaine trafficking to the UK, money laundering activities, and the presence of Colombian traffickers in Europe, MI6 conducted significant intelligence-level surveillance and analysis.

After Pablo Escobar's death in 1993, the cocaine trafficking network fell into the hands of Mexico-based cartels. In this new era, cocaine trafficking reaching the UK became more professional, while MI6's intervention role also increased. MI6, which had been a more passive observer during Escobar's era, began to take a more active role in preventing the flow of cocaine into Europe in later years.

Consequently, there is no direct relationship between MI6 and Pablo Escobar or the Medellín Cartel. However, because the UK became a target in the global cocaine trade, MI6 played an indirect role in this process, monitoring money laundering networks, tracking courier routes, and attempting to limit Escobar's activities in Europe through international intelligence sharing. In this context, MI6's contribution was focused on strategic intelligence gathering and dismantling external connections, rather than operational intervention.

Bundesnachrichtendienst - BND (Germany)



Germany was one of the most significant countries in weakening Escobar's power in Europe. The cartel was both trafficking cocaine through Germany and laundering money via its financial systems. After these activities came to light, the BND (Bundesnachrichtendienst) took immediate action.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the BND focused heavily on financial intelligence related to drug trafficking. Information was obtained about companies set up in major commercial cities like Frankfurt and Hamburg, which were allegedly used by the Medellín Cartel for laundering money. In order to tackle these entities, BND established close cooperation with AISE and the CIA.

Additionally, Germany played a crucial role in identifying drug trafficking routes across Europe. Through inspections conducted at ports and airports, German authorities successfully seized tons of cocaine that were about to be shipped across the continent.

Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure - DGSE (France)



During the 1980s and early 1990s, the Medellín Cartel, led by Pablo Escobar, began expanding its operations into Europe. Although Spain, the Netherlands, and Belgium were the cartel's main points of entry, France also became indirectly involved—both as a transit country and a consumer market. This expansion drew the attention of France's external intelligence service, the DGSE (Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure).

The DGSE, responsible for monitoring and countering foreign threats to French national interests, did not engage directly with Escobar or his inner circle. However, due to France's location and role in the European drug trade, the agency began monitoring the wider

cocaine trafficking networks that linked Latin America to Europe. In particular, southern French ports such as Marseille, with historic smuggling connections, were considered potential entry points for cocaine shipments arriving from the Caribbean or via Spain.

Moreover, Paris emerged as a discreet hub for money laundering, where cartel-linked operatives attempted to clean drug profits through shell companies, luxury purchases, and financial services. The DGSE's role primarily involved gathering intelligence on: money laundering operations involving Latin American networks in France, cocaine shipments moving through or destined for French territory, the broader structure of Colombian-European drug connections.

In conclusion, while the DGSE had no direct confrontation with Pablo Escobar himself, the agency played an important indirect role by observing and analyzing the cartel's influence in Europe.

Agência Brasileira de Inteligência - ABIN (Brazil)



Brazil conducted major operations against the Medellín Cartel's smuggling activities within South America. Due to the dense and vast Amazon Rainforest located in Brazil, the country became one of the key trafficking routes for the Cartel. Coca leaves coming from Colombia were transported through Brazil to Europe and Africa.

This situation forced the Brazilian government to cooperate with the United States and the CIA during the 1980s. Representing Brazil in this cooperation was ABIN (Agência Brasileira de Inteligência). ABIN continuously gathered intelligence to prevent money laundering, port shipments, and coca cultivation, and shared this information with the CIA.

As a result of this intelligence exchange, the Cartel's overseas drug trade suffered heavy damage. The ports of Santos and Rio de Janeiro were thoroughly inspected during this period, and tons of drugs destined for Africa were seized.

In conclusion, although Brazil did not contribute directly to the capture of Escobar, it played a significant role in dismantling the logistics and distribution networks of the Cartel. Thanks to ABIN, a large portion of the drug shipments to Africa were successfully blocked.

Secretaría de Inteligencia de Estado - SIDE (Argentina)



During the 1980s and early 1990s, while Pablo Escobar and the Medellín Cartel were primarily focused on Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and the United States, Argentina quietly became a secondary base for money laundering and logistical support. The country's weak financial controls and urban infrastructure - especially in Buenos Aires - attracted drug-related financial activity.

At the time, Argentina's main intelligence agency was SIDE (Secretaría de Inteligencia del Estado). Though its primary focus was domestic political surveillance, SIDE also monitored the growing presence of foreign criminal networks, including Colombian cartel operatives. While there is no evidence of direct action taken by SIDE against Escobar himself, the agency tracked suspicious financial movements and cartel-linked individuals.

SIDE also shared intelligence with international agencies like the DEA and Interpol. Argentina's role in drug trafficking increased after Escobar's death, but even during his lifetime, the Medellín Cartel benefited indirectly from Argentina's financial system and limited oversight.

Milli İstihbarat Teşkilatı - MİT (Türkiye)



Turkey did not conduct any military intervention to capture Escobar. However, due to its geopolitical location, Turkey was able to monitor the Medellín Cartel's trafficking routes through the Balkans, the Middle East, and Asia. This allowed Turkey to closely track drug shipments moving through both the Balkan and Middle Eastern routes.

For this reason, the National Intelligence Organization (MİT) began cooperating with both European intelligence centers and the CIA in the late 1980s. Through MİT, critical intelligence regarding Balkan-bound shipments was obtained, which led to the coordination of international operations.

Additionally, port and vessel inspections in cities like Istanbul, Mersin, and İzmir led to the seizure of cocaine and coca leaves that had been produced in Colombia. Following these discoveries, MİT conducted further investigations and uncovered the Medellín Cartel's shipment routes into Europe.

In summary, Turkey played a key role in disrupting the cartel's distribution networks to Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East through its intelligence operations.

Vezarat-e Ettela'at - MOIS (Iran)



The Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), also known as VEVAK, is Iran's primary intelligence agency responsible for both domestic and foreign intelligence operations.

There is no public evidence of any direct connection or cooperation between Pablo Escobar's Medellín Cartel and Iran's intelligence agency, MOIS. The cartel operated mainly in the Americas, while MOIS focused on Middle Eastern regional issues. Although Iran has been linked to various illicit networks, no credible information ties MOIS to Escobar or his cartel. Thus, any relationship between them remains speculative and unproven.

General Directorate of Intelligence - GDI (Afghanistan)



Afghanistan did not directly engage with the Medellín Cartel. However, between the 1970s and 1980s, it became a central hub in global drug trafficking. Especially due to the cultivation of poppy and heroin in the region, these substances were being trafficked to South America and Europe. The same trafficking routes were also utilized by the Medellín Cartel. Therefore, the growth of the Medellín network in Europe was adversely affected by Afghanistan's pre-existing drug traffic.

During the 1980s, when Afghanistan was under Soviet occupation, intelligence operations were conducted by KHAD (the former intelligence agency). However, after Afghanistan became an independent state, KHAD was replaced by the GDI (General Directorate of Intelligence).

In terms of drug enforcement, GDI has operated more on a national level. Instead of targeting international cartels, it has focused on combating domestic drug networks in an effort to reduce drug production and trafficking.

Canadian Security Intelligence Service - CSIS (Canada)



During the height of Pablo Escobar's Medellín Cartel in the 1980s and early 1990s, Canada was not a primary destination or transit country for cartel operations. However, as global cocaine trafficking expanded, Canadian authorities, including CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service), became involved in monitoring and countering the influence of international drug cartels, including the Medellín Cartel.

CSIS focused mainly on gathering intelligence related to organized crime, drug trafficking, and money laundering within Canada, particularly as cocaine began to appear more frequently in Canadian cities. The agency worked closely with other law enforcement and intelligence bodies like the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police), the DEA, and international partners to identify trafficking routes and disrupt cartel operations.

While there is no public record of direct operations by CSIS targeting Pablo Escobar himself, the agency played a supportive role in the broader North American and international efforts to combat the spread of Colombian cocaine and its related criminal networks within Canada.

Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti - KGB (SSCB)



KGB (Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti) was the main intelligence and internal security agency of the Soviet Union between 1954 and 1991. During the Cold War, it was the institution that collected the most intelligence on an international scale.

Fighting against drug trafficking was not a primary area of focus for the KGB. The main reason for this was its strategy of allowing or even facilitating drug routes through Soviet territory into Europe to weaken Western countries. This approach was largely successful. The Medellín Cartel used Soviet borders to transport drugs into Eastern Europe.

While the Soviet government observed and assessed developments in Colombia from a diplomatic perspective, the KGB closely monitored potential threats and opportunities that could harm the U.S. and Western Europe. The KGB regularly shared information on the Medellín Cartel and drug trafficking with Eastern Bloc and allied countries such as Poland, East Germany, and Bulgaria.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the KGB was disbanded. It was succeeded by today's Russian foreign intelligence service, the SVR (Sluzhba Vneshney Razvedki).

Ministry of State Security - MSS (China)



During the 1980s and 1990s, the Medellín Cartel focused its activities primarily in the Americas and Europe, with limited direct involvement in Asia. China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) mainly concentrated on domestic security, counterintelligence, and monitoring political dissent, with less emphasis on international drug trafficking at that time.

There is no public evidence or credible reports indicating any direct interaction or cooperation between the MSS and Pablo Escobar's cartel. However, as global narcotics trade expanded, MSS would have been attentive to any potential drug trafficking networks entering or affecting China, but this involvement was minimal during Escobar's era.

In summary, while China's MSS was an important intelligence agency, it had no known direct role in operations related to Escobar or the Medellín Cartel.

Mossad (Israel)



Mossad did not engage directly with the Medellin Cartel. However, since Mossad was one of the most advanced intelligence agencies of that era, it closely monitored the Medellin Cartel and the global drug trade.

Mossad's main objective was to ensure peace and stability in the Middle East. During this process, it regularly exchanged intelligence with the CIA and European intelligence agencies. These exchanges revealed that South American cartels were involved in complex crimes such as arms trafficking and money laundering.

Realizing that the Medellin Cartel did not pose a direct threat to the Middle East, Mossad shared the intelligence it had gathered with either the CIA or European intelligence centers. In summary, Mossad did not play a leading role in the Escobar case, but rather served in a supporting capacity.

6. Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

What is QARMA?

QARMA (Questions a Resolution Must Answer) includes the essential questions that must be answered in the official report (resolution) to be written at the end of the committee sessions. These questions represent the main issues that delegates should take into account while seeking solutions. Each QARMA question reflects a specific problem that the committee needs to solve.

Another key function of QARMA is to prevent delegates from straying off-topic during debate, helping them stay focused on the core subject. The resolution to be written must present policies that are consistent with, applicable to, and realistic for answering all of these questions.

QARMA's of INTERPOL Committee

1-To what extent should international intelligence sharing be deepened in the fight against drug cartels, and what framework should it be based on?

2-What types of partnerships can be established to cut off the financial resources of cartels (e.g., money laundering, arms trafficking)?

3-How should the mandates of intelligence agencies be shaped in cross-border operations, and how can national sovereignty be preserved in the process?

4-What intelligence-based border security measures can be taken to prevent drug trafficking routes?

5-How can a long-term model of intelligence cooperation be built to prevent the re-emergence of organizations similar to the Medellín Cartel?

7. Key Terms & Acronyms

Drug trafficking: Illegal production, distribution and sale of substances in the drug category.

Smuggling: Bringing objects, substances or prohibited elements and people banned by countries into or smuggling from countries illegally.

Bribery: To a person; Giving money or things of value given to engage in unethical, legal, or immoral behavior.

Corruption: It is when people in positions of authority do unethical or illegal things for their own interests.

Money laundering: Actions taken to make money earned illegally appear “clean”.

Controlled deliveries: Shipments made by the state for the purpose of gathering intelligence about criminals or criminal organizations.

Plan Dignidad: An operation to burn and destroy cocaine tars carried out jointly by the USA and Bolivia.

Surveillance: It is the monitoring of all movements and actions of target individuals or groups by the state.

International cooperation: It is the cooperation of countries to destroy international criminal organizations.

Planned Operations: planned actions for intelligence, security or military purposes.

Political manipulation: Making political decisions for personal gain.

Cartel influence: It is the political, economic and political power gained by drug cartels.

Border security: protecting country borders and preventing illegal entries.

Financial networks: Systems consisting of money flows.

Arms trafficking: the illegal production, transportation or sale of weapons.

Criminal networks: Groups that commit crimes collectively.

DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration): The US federal agency that fights against drugs.

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