

COLLEGE AVENUE SECONDARY SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Model United Nations Resolution CASS101

Topic: The Trade of Fake Pharmaceuticals

Submitted by: Denmark

Seconded by: Nigeria

The General Assembly,

Understanding that: The trade of illicit pharmaceuticals claims upwards of one million lives, mostly children, each year. Victims, among the world's poorest, unwittingly buy fake medicines that contain toxic substances or little or no active ingredients, yet propose to combat some of the most common preventable illnesses such as malaria, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever. This trade threatens to undermine global attempts to fight infectious diseases that kill 14 million people, 90% of whom live in developing countries.

Alarmed that: Half of all medicine sold in areas such as southeast Asia is thought to be fake. In other areas, up to 75% of medicines proven to be the most valuable tool in combating certain illnesses are counterfeited.

Upset that: For twenty years, the problem of fake pharmaceuticals has been recognized but law enforcement agencies, governments, non-governmental organizations, and academics have paid little attention.

Worried that: In one specific case of pharmaceutical counterfeiting, 90% of victims of malaria promptly take drugs, often at a cost far beyond the ability of a family to provide, but only 15% receive the genuine medicine. The fraudulent practice of fake-drug manufacturers, inappropriate use of the available drugs, and the mutation of the malaria parasite are responsible for the resistance of the malaria parasite to drugs. It is the link between the growth of the fake drugs to the resurgence of malaria that is causing the terrible cycle of neglect that many countries are facing.

Recognizing that: Drugs are being produced on an industrial scale in factories throughout China, Southeast Asia, India, Russia, and the Middle East and that the authorities in these areas are attempting to combat this deadly trade. In one incident,

Chinese investigators seized 43 tonnes of fake pharmaceuticals from 17 brands made by 7 major drug companies which only represented a fraction of known output. Chinese authorities say that in 2001, they closed 1300 fake-drug factories while investigation 480 000 cases worth \$57 million USD.

Dismayed that:

A company can be paid billions for a new drug while its patients have no guarantee of obtaining the real thing thus limiting the incentive to publicize the danger. Officials and health workers meant to protect patients are bribed and intimidated to put fake pharmaceuticals into a legitimate global drug distribution system where it is very difficult to find but results are catastrophic.

Hopeful that:

The initiatives taken by the World Health Organization, the International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce, Global Fund, the Food and Drug Administration, and various national and international organizations will continue to provide legislative measures, advanced anti-counterfeiting devices, and medical programs.

Calling for:

1. The United Nations General Assembly to create a committee entitled to, in part with government authorities, investigate reports of fake pharmaceuticals and issue immediate public warnings.
2. The United Nations General Assembly to subsidise real versions of pharmaceuticals so that they price counterfeiters out of the market.
3. The United Nations General Assembly to enforce mandatory reporting by pharmaceutical companies of all fake-drug finds.
4. The United Nations General Assembly to change the current definition of the sale of fake pharmaceuticals as copyright infringement to mass murder.
5. The United Nations Security Council to act to address threats to international peace and security by holding those responsible for fake-drug victims where they had knowledge of the situation and, through whatever means, withheld information from the public as criminals and prosecute them through the proceedings of the International Criminal Court under Crimes Against Humanity.