Mr Kirk

DRUG SENTENCING AND PREVENTION OF MISUSE

ANALYSIS

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A BILL INTITULED

An Act to combat the rapid increase in trafficking, entry to New Zealand and misuse of controlled drugs

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand 5 in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. Short Title-This Act may be cited as the Drug Sentencing and Prevention of Misuse Act 1977.

No. 53-1

Price 10c

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PART I

PENALTIES

2. This Part to be read with Misuse of Drugs Act 1975— This Part of this Act shall be read together with and deemed part of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 (in this Part referred 5 to as the principal Act).

3. Importing or exporting controlled drugs—The principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following provisos to section 6(2)(a)—

"Provided that in the case of an offence against 10 section 6 (1) (a) the penalty shall be not less than 10 years' imprisonment and in the case of a second or further offence, not less than 15 years' but not more than 25 years' imprisonment:

"Provided further that the Court may sentence 15 an offender to a lesser term of imprisonment than is provided for in the foregoing proviso if the Court finds there are special mitigating circumstances warranting a shorter sentence, such circumstances to be expressed by the presiding judge, both orally 20 at the time of sentencing and in writing which shall become part of the Court record."

PART II

Customs

4. This Part to be read with Customs Act 1966—This part 25 of this Act shall be read together with and deemed part of the Customs Act 1966 (in this Part referred to as the principal Act).

5. Interpretation—Section 268 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after the definition of the 30 term "unlawfully imported", the following definition:

"Street value" means the value set by the Crown as being the value of the drugs involved in any prosecution under the principal Act".

6. Drug Information on Departure and Arrival—The 35 principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting after section 30, the following section:

"30A. The Minister may order-

- (i) That people leaving New Zealand be provided with a document containing information to travellers of the methods which could be used to involve them in misuse of drugs and trafficking generally and the penalties that are provided by countries
 - other than New Zealand for such or similar offences:
- (ii) That penalties for misuse of drugs in New Zealand be notified in the Customs arrival document given to passengers prior to their arrival in New Zealand.'

7. Ships and non-scheduled aircraft entering New Zealand—The principal Act is hereby amended by inserting 15 after section 36A, the following section:

"36B. The master of any ship or aircraft involved in a non-schedule voyage or flight to New Zealand may be required to send to the New Zealand Customs Department a notice calling for an acknowledgement containing the 20 following information:

- (i) Place, date and expected time of departure from the last port of call before commencing journey to New Zealand, including particulars of the last three ports of call:
- (ii) Place, date and expected time of arrival in New Zealand:
 - (iii) Details of identification, call signs or registration markings, and number of passengers."

8. Payment of Rewards-The principal Act is hereby 30 further amended by inserting after section 268, the following section:

"268A. The Minister may order to be paid or distributed out of the revenue of the Customs Department a percentage (to be fixed by Order in Council) of the 'street value' to a

35 person or persons who provide information that leads to a prosecution under section 6 (1) (a) and section 6 (2) (a) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975."

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PART III

Police

9. This Part to be read with Police Act 1958—This Part of this Act shall be read together with and deemed part of the Police Act 1958 (in this Part referred to as the principal 5 Act).

10. Interpretation—"Narcotics Liaison Officer" as it applies to section 12_{Λ} of the principal Act (as inserted by section 11 of this Act) shall be a person who is selected from the Police for his knowledge of narcotics law enforcement 10 and high level of police experience.

11. International Police Appointment—The principal Act is hereby amended by inserting after section 12, the following section:

"12A.--The Commissioner, with approval from the Minister, may appoint such narcotics liaison officers as he thinks fit for a period up to but not exceeding 3 years to an area which appears to him to be a source of controlled drugs likely to enter New Zealand, and his duties will be:

- (i) To obtain and pass on information to New Zealand 20 police and customs authorities concerning drug trafficking into New Zealand:
- (ii) To co-operate with and assist police, customs and narcotic law enforcement agencies of other countries in and around South-east Asia: 25
- (iii) To be attached to and supported by a Foreign Affairs post at the most suitable location to his area of operation.

PART IV

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

12. Establishment of a Parliamentary Committee on drug abuse—The Minister in charge of the Legislative Department shall request Parliament to set up a standing committee on drug abuse to consider and report on from time to time—

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- (i) Strategy for containing drug abuse;
- (ii) Assessment of the current situation and to decide the principal drugs of abuse and their ranking; taking into account consequences to the individual and then to society;
- (iii) Examination of enforcement procedures necessary to immobilise drug traffickers and enhance the capabilities of the Police and Customs Departments to provide for a better opportunity of interception;
- (iv) Review of the intelligence operations necessary to facilitate better interception of trafficking;
- (v) International responsibilities that may be required to play a more active role in the prevention of
 - trafficking;
- (vi) Review of education and prevention measures;
- (vii) Review of treatment priority, treatment types and quality of care for drug addicts or persons at risk.

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