



# World Chronicle

UNITED NATIONS

**PROGRAMME:** No. 890 recorded 3 February 2003

**GUEST:** Antonio Maria Costa  
Executive Director  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**JOURNALIST:** Erol Avdovic, Deutsche Welle  
Ian Williams, The Nation

**MODERATOR:** Michael Littlejohns

## "THE GLOBAL DRUG TRADE"

For the past quarter century Afghanistan was one of the world's major producers of illegal narcotic drugs. With a new democratic government in Afghanistan, some steps have been taken to combat the cultivation, trade and abuse of opium. Yet, Afghanistan's poppy harvest in 2002 was one of the most plentiful in history. What approaches are being developed by the international community to help with this problem? Is crop substitution a realistic alternative for poor farmers in drug-growing areas given the high prices that opium, coca or marijuana command on the market? Does the problem start with demand for illicit drugs in Western countries? In this edition of **World Chronicle**, these issues are addressed with the help of Antonio Maria Costa, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

**WORLD CHRONICLE** is produced by the Media Division, Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.

Duration: 28:00  
Producer: Michele Zaccheo  
Director: Livingston Hinckley  
Production Assistant: Saliha Bouima