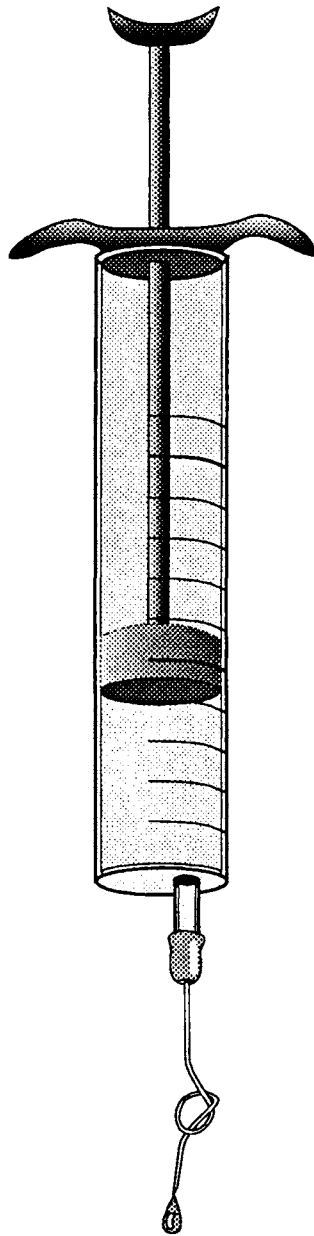


Section 9

Controlling the supply



of drugs

Section 9: Controlling the supply of drugs

The Problem:

The availability and supply of drugs directly affects how much drugs are used and abused.

But what methods can be used for controlling the supply of drugs? How can a balance be achieved between effective control measures and protecting the rights of the individual?

Number	Title	Purpose	What To Do	Use with Young People
34	Controlling the supply of drugs	To introduce key points and types of intervention to control the supply of drugs and to raise awareness of the moral/ethical dilemmas associated with some forms of intervention.	Analyse flowchart of supply route of drugs and identify points and types of intervention. Structured debate on moral/human rights issues arising.	

Activity 34: Controlling the supply of drugs

Purpose

To introduce the key points and types of intervention to control the supply of drugs and to raise awareness of the moral/ethical dilemmas associated with some forms of intervention.

What To Do

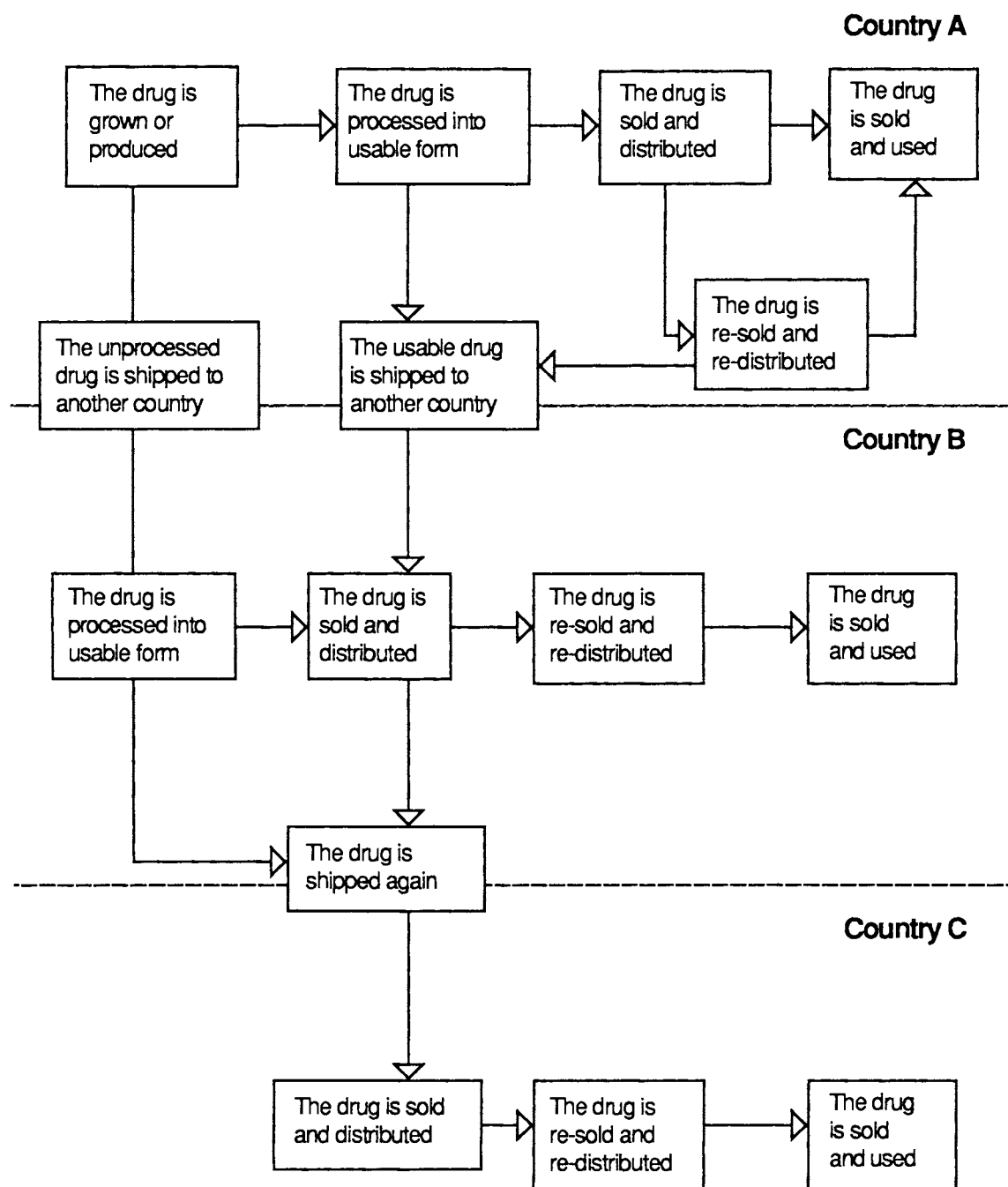
1. Present the flow-chart of the supply route of legal and illegal drugs to the group (an O.H.P. may be best so as to uncover each step along the way). Give examples of controls at each point—(see Handouts 48 & 49 but you may not need to give this out). A more graphic version is given on Handout 50, showing the Cocaine Trail in America.
2. Give out a copy of the flow-chart on Handouts 48 and 50 and ask people in groups to list at what points in the supply route interventions could be made to control the supply of drugs. Have two groups do this
 - (A) for illegal drugs;
 - (B) for legal drugs.
3. Each group report back their list of proposals for controlling the supply of drugs. Large group discussion of the proposals identifying those that are particularly contentious: eg.
 - Executing drug traffickers;
 - Detention without trial of drug users etc.
 - All countries should have the same punishment to prevent drug traffickers having a 'safer' place to seek refuge;
 - Some countries' economies rely on drugs, so how realistic is it to expect them to stop supplying drugs?
4. For those measures that have 'moral' or 'ethical' values at the centre of the dispute, set up a debate within the group around an appropriately worded motion:

"This group believes the death penalty is morally unacceptable as a form of punishment for drug traffickers."

Have two or three speakers to speak 'for' and 'against' the motion and conclude with a vote.

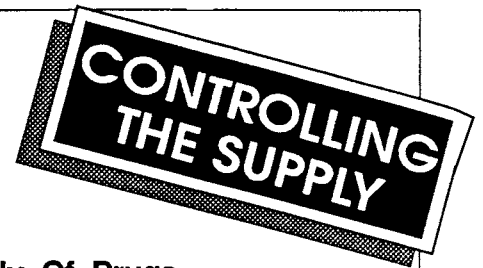
Handout 48

The supply routes of legal and illegal drugs



Handout 49

Controlling drug supply



Examples Of Ways Of Controlling The Supply Of Drugs

1. Controls of the source of the growth or production of drugs

eg. burning crops
crop substitution incentives

2. Controls during the processing of drugs into usable form

eg. demolishing sites of manufacture;
quality control regulations on legal drugs.

3. Controls during the shipment of drugs

eg. coastal surveillance;
import controls on legal drugs.

4. Controls at the point of sale and distribution

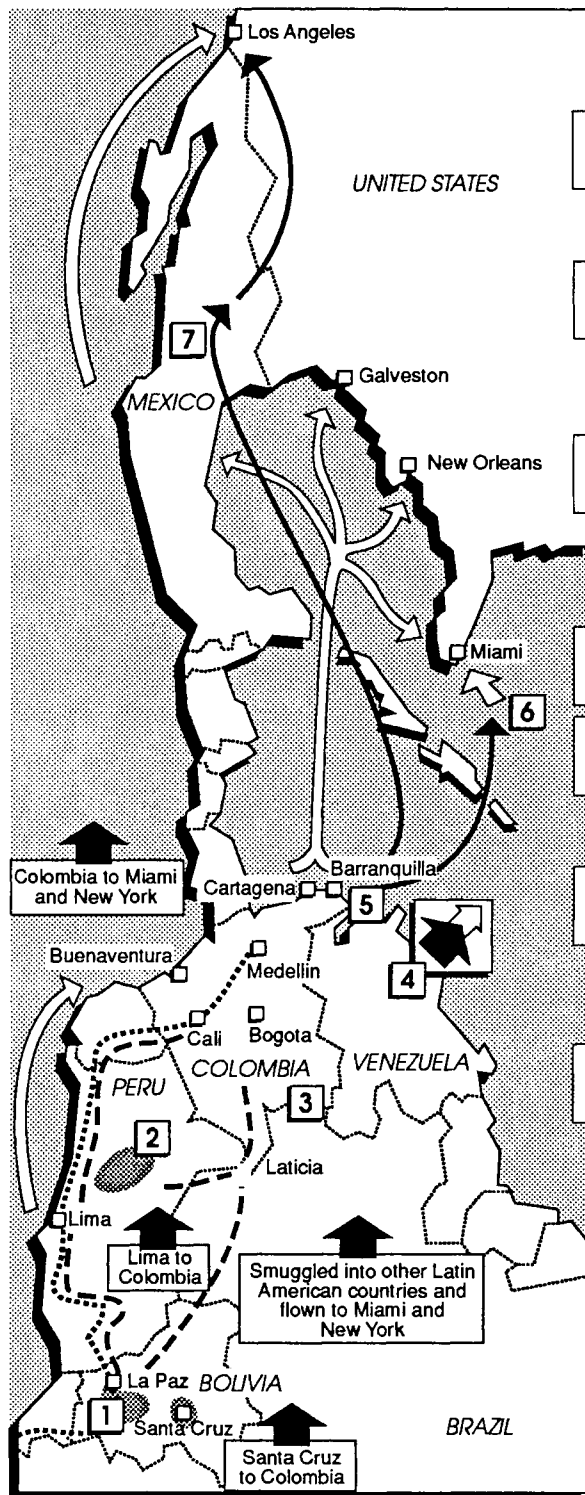
eg. punishments for traffickers;
high taxation on legal drugs or controls on advertising.



Handout 50

The Cocaine Trail

CONTROLLING THE SUPPLY



STAGE 1

1

GROWING AREA: BOLIVIA

Chapare Valley, Yungas area of La Paz and Santa Cruz

2

GROWING AREA: PERU

Upper Huallaga Valley is where most of the coca leaves are grown

3

PROCESSING AREA: COLOMBIA

Processing chemicals including ethyl ether are smuggled into Colombia mainly from West Germany and US via Brazil

STAGE 2

4

By air and sea to Europe, mainly Madrid

5

Guajira Peninsula: hundreds of landing strips for light aircraft

6

The Bahamas is the biggest trans-shipment site in Central America. Drugs transferred from light aircraft to small boats then taken to the mainland

7

Mexico: cocaine transferred from planes to cars, 'mules' or other aircraft and taken across US border

Key

- growing areas
- Pan-American Highway
- Land routes
- Sea routes
- Light aircraft
- Commercial aircraft



Source: Guardian Newspaper, United Kingdom, 1989