Editor's Note

The Editor regrets that a software translation problem caused several errors to appear in the Summer 1998 issue of *Trends in Organized Crime*. Characters were changed and parts of lines were dropped in several articles. One of the most severely affected was the article by Amy O'Neill on the international trafficking in women. The corrected text is reprinted below with our apologies.

CORRECTION

Amy O'Neill, *International Trafficking in Women from Central Europe and the NIS*, Viewpoint [INR Analyst's Working Paper], Office of Analysis for Terrorism, Narcotics, and Crime, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., December 16, 1997:1-7.

Amy O'Neill is an INR Analyst for the Office of Analysis for Terrorism, Narcotics, and Crime, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

[...] Trafficking Definitions and Statistics Elusive

The definition of trafficking in women varies widely given differing interpretations by individual countries, and because the industry may take different forms, such as sexual exploitation, indentured servitude and mail order brides.¹ Moreover, definitional difficulties persist as cases may involve legal or illegal immigration, with women witting or unwitting about their employment as prostitutes. For the purposes of this paper, trafficking will focus primarily on trafficking for sexual exploitation and will cover the following practices as defined by the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights:

- keeping women in a state of illegal dependence;
- the use of force and deception;
- employment in prostitution or other unregulated and unprotected work;
- debt slavery, i.e. by means of improper agents' fees and exorbitant rates of interest;
- (emotional) blackmail and exploitation of the illegal immigrant status;
- physical and sexual abuse;
- physical violence and the threat of violence;
- transport of one or more persons within a country or between countries for profit.

It is also difficult to estimate the true level of trafficking in women as it is an underground industry. No one agency compiles accurate statistics on how many women and children are trafficked worldwide; most estimates are anecdotal or difficult to extrapolate from limited case studies. Not enough research has been done to give precise ratios for women trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation versus other forms of exploitative labor. Nevertheless, according to some non-governmental organizations (NGOs), each year between one and two million women and girls are being trafficked around the world² with some 10,000 to 100,000 women trafficked for sexual exploitation from East to West. EU Commissioner for Justice