

THE PRESIDENT'S READING COPY

International Narcotics Control Conference

Washington, D. C.

September 18, 1972

*I welcome you to this Int'l Narcotics  
Conference - one of most important you have  
ever participated in.*

Winning the battle against drug abuse is one of the most  
urgent national priorities confronting the United States ~~of~~  
~~America~~ today.

1. As President, I bear no more solemn trust than this.
2. As public officials, you could not be engaged in a  
finer humanitarian cause than this.

As we all know, the global drug problem is enormously  
difficult and does not lend itself to immediate or simplistic  
solutions.

1. Nevertheless, looking back over the ~~three~~ <sup>3 years ago since</sup> I  
declared total war on drug abuse and labeled it  
America's public enemy number one, I think the  
depth of our commitment is clear.



(1) Our total Federal funding for this effort has increased eleven times over since fiscal year 1969, up to almost three quarters of a billion dollars in the budget currently pending in the Congress.

(2) Organizationally, we have mobilized ~~very rapidly~~ to meet this problem on all fronts:

*we have set up*  
(1) ~~with the~~ Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention set up to direct the treatment and rehabilitation work;

*I have set up in*  
(2) ~~the~~ Justice Department's new Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement attacking domestic distribution and pushers;

*we have*  
*I have named*  
(3) ~~and~~ the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control coordinating our worldwide campaign to cut off the sources of supply.



I have deliberately been cracking the whip in my personal supervision of this program.

1. I will admit we have knocked some bureaucratic heads together because of my directive that government agencies should quit fighting each other and start fighting the problem.
2. I wanted to see some solid results coming through in terms of saving the lives of thousands of young people who otherwise would have become hopeless drug addicts.

*Now we can look with pride at*  
~~Here are~~ some of the results:

1. Dr. Jaffe reports that we have created more federally funded drug treatment capacity in the past year than in the fifty years before that.
  - (1) We now have the capability to treat over 100,000 heroin addicts per year in these programs.
  - (2) Provided the Congress approves my pending drug funding requests, we should have the capacity, if needed, to treat a quarter of a million heroin addicts in America by this time next year.

*to talk in such  
numbers  
of size of  
problem*

*This gives us idea*



2. In the area of law enforcement, the number of arrests of drug traffickers in this last fiscal year was double the number in 1969, and the seizures of heroin and other illicit drugs are at an all-time high.
3. Very sharp recent increases in the prices of heroin throughout the Eastern United States indicate that the supply is drying up and that the pressure is on the criminal drug trade.
4. We are going to keep the heat on until these despicable profiteers in human misery are driven out of their hiding places and are put in prison where they belong.

Nor will this effort stop at our own borders.

1. The men and women who operate the global heroin trade are a menace not to Americans alone, but to all mankind.
  - (1) These people are literally the slave traders of our time -- they are traffickers in living death.
  - (2) They must be hunted to the end of the earth.



(3) They must be left no base in any nation for their operations.

(4) They must be permitted not a single hiding place or refuge from justice anywhere in the world.

2. That is why we have established an aggressive international narcotics control program in cooperation with the governments of more than 50 countries around the world.

3. This why I ordered the Central Intelligence Agency early in this Administration to mobilize its full resources to fight the international drug trade -- a task in which it has performed superbly.

*Its failures are publicized its success must be secret*  
The key priority here is to target on the traffickers wherever they are -- to immobilize and destroy them through our law enforcement and intelligence efforts.

1. I commend all of you on the fine initial progress which has been made in this direction.



(1) France, Paraguay, Laos, Thailand, and Turkey are just a few examples of the many countries where the work of American officials from the Ambassadors down, in partnership with local officials, has produced important breakthroughs -- huge heroin seizures, key arrests, or -- in Turkey's case -- the courageous decision to eradicate the opium poppy itself.

The people of the United States, especially the young people, are profoundly indebted to you and to all who have worked with you.

1. Yet we must do far more to win this war, and we must do it even more quickly.

In working on narcotics control around the world, I ask you to convey this personal message from me: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Any government whose leaders participate in or protect the activities of those who contribute to our drug problem should know that the President of the United States is required by statute to suspend all American economic and military assistance to such a regime.

(1) I shall not hesitate to comply fully and promptly with that statute.

*I consider keeping Saigon huge out of U.S. just as important as keeping Annam going free out of the U.S.*



Drug war which ~~is~~ the U.S. -  
can ~~destroy America~~ endanger the  
line of young America just as much  
as would an invalid army far abroad

2. ~~On the other hand~~, every government which wants to move against narcotics should know that it can count on this country for wholehearted support and assistance in doing so.

*Three years ago,*

~~Only a short time ago~~, the global heroin plague was raging almost completely out of control.

1. Time was running out for an entire generation <sup>our</sup> of children -- the potential drug victims of the next few years.
2. But then we launched our crusade to save those children, and now we can see that crusade moving off the defensive, onto the offensive, and beginning to roll up some victories across this country and around the world.

What is our goal now?

1. We are living in an age when there are times a great nation must engage in a limited war.
  - (1) I have rejected that principle in declaring total war against dangerous drugs.



2. Our goal is the unconditional surrender of the merchants of death who traffic in heroin.
3. Our goal is the total banishment of drug abuse from American life.

We are going to fight this evil with every weapon at our command, and with your help and the support of millions of concerned Americans, we are going to win.

1. Our children's lives are what we are fighting for, and our children's future is the reason we must succeed.

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