

TALKING POINTS ON INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF DRUG PROBLEM

1. While U.S. does not grow opium or manufacture heroin, it has largest number of heroin addicts of any nation in the world. "This deadly poison in the American lifestream is..... a foreign import"*
2. Abuse of narcotics and other drugs is by no means solely a U.S. problem: it has become a world-wide problem requiring a high degree of international cooperation and an extensive network of international controls. Heroin addiction accounts for significant and increasing part of opium consumed in Iran, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. Heroin "epidemic" now spreading to Western Europe.
3. Recognizing international character of problem, President Nixon has raised the drug problem to the level of high priority foreign policy issue and in his June 17, 1971, message to Congress committee his Administration to the leadership of an intense international attack on the supply, demand and illicit traffic in narcotics and other dangerous drugs.

* Full quote from President's June 17, 1971, message to the Congress:
"American has the largest number of heroin addicts of any nation in the world. And yet, America does not grow opium -- of which heroin is a derivative -- nor does it manufacture heroin, which is a laboratory process carried out abroad. This deadly poison in the American lifestream is, in other words, a foreign import."

4. To facilitate the honoring of this commitment, the President moved promptly and vigorously to enhance the capacity of U.S. Government agencies to deal with the international narcotics problem;

- a) Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control established September 7, 1971, with responsibility for coordinating all U.S. Government efforts to deal with foreign supply and international trafficking in narcotics;
- b) Customs Bureau personnel increased from 9,200 in 1968 to 14,000 in 1971 and Bureau provided with world's most modern intelligence system and its own fleet of aircraft, boats, helicopters and specially equipped vehicles for interdiction activities;
- c) BNDD's overseas special agent force more than doubled and 21 new overseas offices opened for a total of 46.
- d) Nelson Gross appointed (August 1971) Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State and Coordinator for International Narcotics Matters (with rank of Assistant Secretary).
- e) Drug Control Coordinators named in regional and functional bureaus of State Department, and in U.S. embassies abroad.

5. International cooperation has been increased both on bilateral and multilateral levels. Foreign governments have taken a number of important initiatives.

Bilateral Agreements

- a) Franco-American Intergovernmental Committee on Drug Control, (Canadian participation since November 1970). February 1971 agreement permitting U.S. and French narcotics agents to operate in two countries.
- b) Turkish ban on opium poppy production effective June 1972. (Announced by Prime Minister Erim June 30, 1971). Hardin mission and follow-up.
- c) U.S.-Mexican cooperative effort - Operation Intercept and Operation Cooperation. Results: seizure by Mexican authorities of hundreds of pounds of crude opium, heroin and cocaine and destruction of over 12,000 fields of marihuana and opium poppy. Interception psychotropic substances destined U.S.
- d) U.S.-Thai Memorandum of Understanding (September 28, 1971) providing for mutual action against supply and trafficking of illicit narcotics and dangerous drugs.

Multilateral Cooperation

- a) United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control established March 1971 as result of U.S. initiative. Purposes: expansion info and research facilities UN drug agencies; technical assistance; treatment and rehabilitation facilities; development of education programs. Contributions: U.S.: \$2 million; Germany: \$301,000; France: \$100,000; Turkey: \$5,000

Canada (pledge): \$400,000; a few other smaller pledges/contributions.

- b) U.S. and other countries proposed amendments to 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, Sept. 1971, Geneva at 24th Session, UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Plenipotentiary conference scheduled March 1972.
- c) Convention Psychotropic Substances signed by U.S. and 19 other countries, February 21, 1971. Sent to Senate for advice and consent June 29.

Foreign Government Initiatives

- a) August 6, 1971 - French President George Pompidou proposed to other members of European Economic Community strengthening their national efforts to combat narcotics trafficking and deal with other major aspects of narcotics addiction problem.
- b) Implementation by Government of Laos, beginning November 15, 1971, of narcotics law which for first time in Laotian history prohibits growing processing, trading and use of opium and derivatives. Subsequent government decree placed strict controls on importation and distribution of acetic anhydride, a key ingredient in production of heroin.
- c) President Thieu has submitted a tough anti-narcotics law to Lower House of legislature of South Vietnam.