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FACT SHEET

PRESIDENT LEADS FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

The signing on March 21, 1972, by President Nixon of the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 and the announcement of the "Heroin Hot Line" on April 7, 1972, open one more chapter in the three and one-half year fight against drug abuse by the present Administration. The President, in declaring the drug problem to be Public Enemy Number One, has totally committed his Administration to the war against drugs. The steps undertaken reflect a balanced and comprehensive approach aimed

at ending the crisis in drug abuse at the earliest possible time.

HOW BAD IS THE PROBLEM?

While the government napped over the last decade, drug abuse became a nationwide problem. In the U. S. today there are estimated to be over 500,000 heroin users. Abusers of other drugs, such as amphetamines and barbituates, number far more.

-- In New York City, drug abuse is the single largest cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 35. Last year, there were 1,259 confirmed drug related deaths in New York City.

Addicts spend an estimated \$17 million daily on heroin (\$6 billion annually). The average addict must spend \$30 daily for heroin -- some spend over \$100. Most support their habits through crime.

- In Southeast Asia, the low cost, high quality and ready supply of heroin was found to have caused a severe addiction problem for our armed forces.

THE SOLUTION IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL

Cut Off Supply

-- The Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control was established in September, 1971, to supervise the Federal

BNOD Speech

Government's war on international drug trafficking, especially heroin.

- -- Building on earlier U. S.-Turkey agreements and in response to U. S. initiatives, Turkey has announced a total ban on the growing of opium poppy as of July, 1972.
- -- Narcotics Control Coordinators have been appointed in over 60 American Embassies to work intensively at drug control with foreign governments, and action plans have been formulated for all significant producing and transit countries.
- -- Budget for international narcotics control increased from \$30 million in FY '72 to \$50 million in FY '73.
- -- U. S. overseas narcotics agent force increased sixfold from 1968 to 140 by July, 1972.
- The Franco-American Inter-governmental Committee on Drug Control Agreement was signed on February 26, 1971, to regularize cooperative arrangements in narcotics suppression efforts of France and the U. S. In the first three months of this year, the French seized two heroin laboratories and the world's largest heroin seizure (935 pounds, worth \$200 million in the U. S. on a shrimp boat in Marseilles harbor).
- U. S. proposals to amend the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (designed to tighten international control over production of heroin and other narcotic drugs) were approved by 71 nations at a United Nations sponsored conference in Geneva in March, 1972.

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-- Federal expenditures for narcotics law enforcement were increased from \$20.2 million in FY (fiscal year) '69 to \$164.4 million in FY '72, and a requested \$229 million for FY '73.

- -- Major narcotics distribution and wholesale networks are being disrupted by the combined efforts of BNDD, Customs, and a special unit of IRS agents.
- -- Heroin seizures made by or with the assistance of U. S. Customs and Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs increased 160 percent in 1971 to 2,700 pounds worth over \$1 billion in the U. S. at street-level prices. Federal narcotics arrests increased 70 percent in two years to 15,252 in 1971.
- -- The Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement was established by President Nixon on January 28, 1972. Through the Justice Department it is directing an intensive effort in 33 target cities through nine regional offices against street and mid-level heroin pushers.
- -- A nationwide toll free phone number -- (800) 368-5363 called the "Heroin Hot Line," was announced on April 7, 1972, to provide American citizens with a single number to report information on heroin pushers.
- -- Since 1969, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs has trained 170,000 state and local personnel in narcotics and law enforcement schools, seminars, and training sessions.

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Educate the Public and Rehabilitate the Addicted .

- -- Federal expenditures for drug abuse prevention and treatment were increased from \$46 million in FY '69 to \$310.1 million in FY '72, and a requested \$365.2 million in FY '73.
- -- The <u>Drug Education and Training Program</u>, announced by President Nixon on March 11, 1970, with budget of \$3.5 million, provided training for 440,000 teachers, students, and community leaders by the end of October, 1971.
- The National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information (P. O. Box 1080, Washington, D. C. 20013) was announced by President Nixon on March 11, 1970, and has directed the distribution by the Federal Government of over 35 million pieces of drug education information to date.

- The Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention was established on an interim basis by President Nixon in June, 1971, and signed into law on March 21, 1972. SAO will work to coordinate and give policy direction to programs now spread through Federal agencies and develop a national strategy for drug abuse education, treatment, rehabilitation, research, and prevention. Already SAO has encouraged new research, gathered valuable information, planned a new drug training and education center, helped set up a major program to identify and treat drug abuse in Vietnam and throughout the Armed Forces.
- Drug identification and detoxification programs, originally begun in Vietnam last summer, have been expanded by the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration to include all military personnel in the U. S. who are being discharged or sent overseas, or are returning from duty overseas. In the next year, or so, VA will offer treatment and rehabilitation to over 20,000 addicts. VA will expand its drug dependence units by as many as 12, raising total to 44 units.

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CONCLUSION

The task of eradicating the scourge of dangerous drugs from American society is a tremendous undertaking. It will require a concerted effort on the part of government at all levels, and the American people. President Nixon is determined to lead this important fight.