

The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “Drug Abuse (4)” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon
FROM: Dick Parsons
SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Congressman Wolff

This memorandum provides background for your meeting with Congressman Lester Wolff.

Early last month, Congressman Wolff and Congressman Ben Gilman embarked on a two-week drug abuse fact-finding tour of four Latin American countries (Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rico). While in Mexico, to the great astonishment of all present, President Luis Echeverria suggested to Wolff and Gilman the creation of parallel national commissions on drug abuse in both Mexico and the United States "to insure that this issue is receiving appropriate attention" in our two nations. Thereupon, Wolff and Gilman proceeded to (in their view) negotiate an agreement of sorts to this effect. They have also "negotiated" similar agreements with the other three countries they visited.

Subsequent to Wolff's departure from Mexico, President Echeverria communicated his idea to President Ford in a letter (attached at Tab A). You can see from President Ford's response to the Echeverria letter (attached at Tab B) that, while we are heartened by this expression of interest on the part of the Mexicans, we have neither accepted nor rejected President Echeverria's proposal. Rather, we are studying ways to collaborate more closely with the Mexicans.

Upon Wolff's return to the United States, he requested an audience with the President to inform him (the President) of his (Wolff's) findings and recommendations. Wolff has been informed that, due to the press of business, President Ford is unable to see him at this time, but that you have been asked to be in touch with him on these matters.

I believe that Wolff will want to tell you of the tremendous importance of the concessions he "negotiated" with the Mexicans and of the importance he places on our prompt and appropriate response thereto. By "appropriate," he will mean the creation



RECEIVED
JUL 23 1976

of some new commission, committee or other entity on drug abuse, some of the members of which would represent the Congress. Frankly, this is not the world's nifftiest idea, and I have some alternative suggestions in the works.

You should also know that President Echeverria has done nothing to date to implement his side of the deal and was probably using Wolff and Gilman as ploys to get us into a posture of chasing our own tails rather than focusing on what the Mexicans are actually doing.

I recommend that you listen to Wolff and commend him for his interest and initiative in this area but that you make no commitment to him other than to keep him apprised of our progress.

P.S. I am also advised that Wolff may request a copy of President Ford's response to President Echeverria's letter. This is a "No-No," but I believe we can discuss in general terms the contents of President Ford's letter.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Drugs
INFORMATION

February 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Jim Cannon
SUBJECT: Southwest Border Drug Trip

Dick Parsons and I just completed a fact-finding trip to El Paso, Texas; Luke Air Force Base, Arizona; and San Diego, California, in connection with the Domestic Council Drug Abuse Task Force's evaluation of the problem of stemming the flow of drugs from Mexico. The trip was extremely useful, both in terms of gaining important first-hand knowledge about drug trafficking, and our response to it, and in demonstrating to those in the field the importance you place on this task.

Naturally, two days do not make an "expert" of anyone, but several impressions were so strong that I want to share them with you.

First, we were struck by the sheer volume of traffic at the border -- over 150 million persons, nearly 50 million vehicles, and approximately 32,000 private aircraft cross the Southwest Border each year. Added to this legal traffic are an estimated 2,000,000 illegal aliens and 3,500 illegal aircraft crossings annually. This volume places a real constraint on our ability to deal with the problem of drug trafficking at the border and underscores the importance of complementary antinarcotics programs within Mexico and the interior of the United States.

Second, I came back with the impression that the "solution" to the problem lies in doing better what we now do, rather than in dramatic -- and expensive -- new initiatives. There is considerable room for improvement in the way we manage existing resources, particularly in more fully utilizing the resources of all Federal departments and agencies available along the border.

Third, I was impressed by the degree of public awareness of, and concern about, the drug trafficking problem all along the border. It was a major topic for discussion at the Conference of Southern Border Mayors in El Paso and there were major drug-related stories in all of the local newspapers each day. Accordingly, public officials, media representatives and border residents alike are encouraged by your new initiative to reduce drug trafficking and drug abuse.



In addition to the area we visited on this trip, a substantial amount of narcotics smuggling also occurs in and around the Miami, Florida, area. To acquaint ourselves with the particular problems of, and demonstrate your specific concern for, this area, Dick and I are planning to visit Miami at the end of this month.

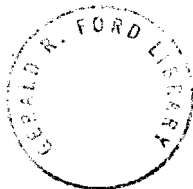


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Charlie Rangel talked to
Bensinger and wants
President's message on
drugs to be concerned
with domestic enforcement
as well as international
aspects.

Wants JMC to meet with
Ray Madero; talk with
Bob Morgenthau.



Rupert

348-1600

[1976]

meeting w/ VT

Chodura chom

3'



Burgess

Cub
room

meeting w/ +

Briefed

fly 9A
in the house

Domestic

Program

taken more w/ speed -
cooperation

Col
top
shw

Ray, Makers

2,

3) Bob Kensington

What more can be done — [1976]
Suggestions

[1976]

~~Brickman~~

~~Box~~

~~Comm~~

~~How~~

~~State~~

~~P~~

~~AG~~

~~Income~~

~~Price~~

~~Wholesale~~

~~Market~~

~~Technology~~

~~Sound~~

~~Legend~~

~~Price~~

~~Price:~~
~~Return~~

~~VP~~

~~Project~~

~~Value~~

~~Position~~

~~Complex~~

~~Scan~~

~~Scan~~



~~~~~

Ed & Co



Mr -

[1976]

To put this into perspective -  
There is a lot being done

now -

~~Import~~ Coordinating some

the four main areas all this -

~~DEA~~

~~DEA~~

~~NIDA~~

~~HOW~~

~~State Dept~~ State Dept Int Narcotics and Gang  
Customs

are working together

now - and effectively.



[1976]

DRUG ABUSE BRIEFING

|            |              |                   |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 5 MINUTES  | PRESIDENT    | (with Press in)   |
| 3 "        | CANNON --    | Billboard         |
| 25 "       | PARSONS --   | Slide Show        |
| 3 "        | CANNON --    | Suggested Actions |
| 20 "       | DISCUSSION   |                   |
| <u>5</u> " | PRESIDENT -- | Summation         |
| 61 "       |              |                   |

---

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

PRESS BRIEFING -- Bensinger, Acree, DuPont and Vance



[1976]

Doug House

~~Call Lewis~~



Anders  
oakes

Dalshin  
oaks

B  
Byp

Byg

commit come in until  
Treasury

afraid that present  
over & beyond at  
times in team to  
to an effective  
can come  
but

Re: Trust Detection



# Drug Abuse Legislation

~~change~~  
new

Re that act - ?  
by July, May 7.

~~old~~

mandatory minimums -

Custom - Boats

" "

- Cork must be out

"

- Right to seize cork

"

- Admin forfeiture

14



1) Cheney - <sup>numbers bill to</sup> go up this week

2) P did ~~found~~ on fact  
you wanted

3) work <sup>you're</sup> down  
in the whole  
piece - trial <sup>detention</sup>  
over can proceed

4) P instructions are to  
go this week.

1) ~~If you don't~~ Any  
change in going up  
w/ numbers but got to  
be done at P -  
has already said ~~no~~ there  
to our former letter.





[Feb. 1976]

*Dr. M. Drugs*  
*Good*

*Thanks*

*Jim*

Q. A recent news story indicated that your recent proposal to impose mandatory sentences on drug dealers is different than that you recommended last year. Specifically, the story indicated that the sentences you have just called for are shorter than those you recommended in your Crime Message. Is this true?

A. No, this is not true, and the report to which you refer was absolutely incorrect. The bill that I have sent to Congress this week is identical to the measure I submitted to the Congress last July in regard to mandatory sentences for drug traffickers. That is, it would require the imposition of a sentence of at least three years for first offenders and at least six years for second offenders or persons selling drugs to minors.

I do note that the report to which you refer indicated that the sentences I have recommended are less severe than those which are contained in S. 1, the Criminal Justice Reform Act. There is one important difference, however: the mandatory minimums contained in S. 1 are "fake." That is, while the judge would have to impose a sentence of five or ten years, the defendant could immediately be released on parole. Under my bill, persons convicted of selling hard drugs would not be eligible for parole upon conviction but would go to jail for at least three years for a first conviction or six years for a second conviction or a conviction for selling to a minor.

I understand that person who wrote the inaccurate story has indicated that he intends to correct the error in a follow-up story.



RECEIVED  
JUL 2 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : JIM CANNON

Senator Mansfield was very helpful when Dick Parsons, Bill Kendall and I saw him last week on the proposal to restrict unduly foreign aid in relation to drug enforcement.

We think the problem can be worked out now, and I recommend that you send Senator Mansfield this letter.

It has been cleared by General Scowcroft, Max Friedersdorf, OMB, and Robert T. Hartmann.

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that you sign the attached letter. (Tab A)

Attachment



RECEIVED  
JUL 29 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 6, 1976

Dear Mike:

I want to thank you for taking the time to discuss the international narcotics control program with Jim Cannon, Dick Parsons, and Bill Kendall last week. As you know, I consider the problem of drug abuse one of the most serious domestic problems we face, and I have pledged to do all I possibly can to limit its effect on our citizens.

Experience has shown that narcotics trafficking into the United States cannot be dealt with in isolation. Rather, it must be attacked all along the chain of distribution. This is only possible as a cooperative effort by law enforcement agencies of the many nations along the route. Accordingly, we have made improving cooperation between U.S. drug enforcement agencies and their counterparts in other nations a central element of our overall drug strategy.

However, I realize the real problems that overzealousness in this area could cause in our relations with other nations. I also recognize the critical need to balance carefully our desire to motivate and assist other governments in combatting drug production and smuggling with the equally important need to avoid excessive involvement in the internal affairs of other nations. Striking this delicate balance is not easy, but I believe that the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and our Ambassadors, under whose supervision these programs are carried out, have done a good job. And I assure you that they are under instructions to exercise continual vigilance to ensure that the balance is maintained.

Thus, Mike, while I share your concern about the possibility of improper activities of U.S. drug enforcement agents overseas, I know you share my conviction that we should continue our cooperative work with enforcement agencies of other nations as a vital part of a program designed to solve a tragic worldwide problem.

I believe that careful and continuous scrutiny by program administrators, together with the promulgation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, in cooperation with the Department of State, of appropriate operating guidelines, can avoid the kind of excesses we both wish to avoid.

Thanks again for receiving members of my staff last week and for your consideration of this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Michael J. Mansfield  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*[Handwritten initials]*

DATE: February 6, 1976  
TO: ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH *JHC*  
SUBJ: Mansfield Letter  
FYI \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTION ✓



For your clearance.  
We hope to have this  
letter hand-carried to  
this Hill this afternoon.

This has been cleared by  
OMB, Friedersdorf, and NSC.



## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES CAVANAUGH

FROM: *fn* Jeanne W. Davis *nm*

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to Mike Mansfield  
on International Narcotics Control

The NSC Staff concurs in the attached revised version of the Presidential letter to Mike Mansfield on International Narcotics Control.



JAN 15 1976

Dear Mike:

I want to thank you for taking the time to discuss the international narcotics control program with Jim Cannon, Dick Parsons, and Bill Kendall, last week. As you know, I consider the problem of drug abuse one of the most serious domestic problems we face, and I have pledged to do all I possibly can to limit its effect on our citizens.

Experience has shown that narcotics trafficking into the United States cannot be dealt with in isolation. Rather, it must be attacked all along the chain of distribution. This is only possible as a cooperative effort by law enforcement agencies of the many nations along the route. Accordingly, we have made improving cooperation between U.S. drug enforcement agencies and their counterparts in other nations a central element of our overall drug strategy.

However, I realize the real problems that overzealousness in this area could cause in our relations with other nations. I also recognize the critical need to carefully balance our desire to motivate and assist other governments in combatting drug production and smuggling with the equally important need to avoid excessive involvement in the internal ~~need to avoid excessive involvement in the internal~~ affairs of other nations.

Striking this delicate balance is not easy, but I believe ~~the Secretary of State, the Attorney General and~~ that our Ambassadors, under whose supervision these programs are carried out, ~~the Secretary of State and the Attorney~~



~~General~~ have done a good job. And I assure you that they are under instructions to exercise continual vigilance to ensure that the balance is maintained.

Thus, Mike, while I share your concern about the possibility of improper activities of U.S. drug enforcement agents overseas, I know you share my conviction that we should continue our cooperative work with enforcement agencies of other nations as a vital part of a program designed to solve a tragic world-wide problem.

I believe that careful and continuous scrutiny by program administrators, together with the promulgation by the Drug Enforcement Administration <sup>in cooperation with the Department of State,</sup> of appropriate operating guidelines, <sup>wish to avoid.</sup> ~~set and kept~~ can avoid the kind of excesses we both deplore.

Thanks, again, for receiving members of my staff last week and for your consideration of this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Michael J. Mansfield  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: February 5, 1976

Time:

## FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

General Scowcroft 2236 reminded  
Jim Lynn 4840 reminded  
Max Friedersdorf 2230 reminded

Dr. Cavanaugh (for follow up)

## FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, February 6, 1976 Time: 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: International Narcotics Control  
Presidential letter to Mike Mansfield

## ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ For Necessary Action☒ For Your Recommendations☐ Prepare Agenda and Brief☐ Draft Reply☒ For Your Comments☐ Draft Remarks

## REMARKS:



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James H. Cavanaugh

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : JIM CANNON

Senator Mansfield was very helpful when Dick Parsons, Bill Kendall and I saw him last week on the proposal to restrict unduly foreign aid in relation to drug enforcement.

We think the problem can be worked out now, and I recommend that you send Senator Mansfield this letter.  
(Tab A)

Attachment





Dear Mike:

I want to thank you for taking the time to discuss the international narcotics control program with Jim Cannon, Dick Parsons, and Bill Kendall, last week. As you know, I consider the problem of drug abuse one of the most serious domestic problems we face and I have pledged to do all I possibly can to limit its effect on our citizens.

Experience has shown that narcotics trafficking into the United States cannot be dealt with in isolation. Rather, it must be attacked all along the chain of distribution. This is only possible as a cooperative effort by law enforcement agencies of the many nations along the route. Accordingly, we have made improving cooperation between U.S. drug enforcement agencies and their counterparts in other nations a central element of our overall drug strategy.

However, I realize the real problems that overzealousness in this area could cause in our relations with other nations. I also recognize the critical need to carefully balance our desire to motivate and assist other governments in combatting drug production and smuggling with the equally important need to avoid excessive involvement in the internal ~~need to avoid excessive involvement in the internal~~ affairs of other nations. Striking this delicate balance is not easy, but I believe that our Ambassadors, under whose supervision these programs are carried out, the Secretary of State and the Attorney



General have done a good job. And I assure you that they are under instructions to exercise continual vigilance to ensure that the balance is maintained.

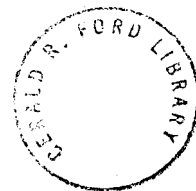
Thus, Mike, while I share your concern about the possibility of improper activities of U.S. drug enforcement agents overseas, I know you share my conviction that we should continue our cooperative work with enforcement agencies of other nations as a vital part of a program designed to solve a tragic worldwide problem.

I believe that careful and continuous scrutiny by program administrators, together with the promulgation by the Drug Enforcement Administration of appropriate operating guidelines set and kept can avoid the kind of excesses we both deplore.

Thanks, again, for receiving members of my staff last week and for your consideration of this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Michael J. Mansfield  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

---

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

11:40 a.m.

February 6, 1976

JHC:

Mr. Cannon would like to have the Mansfield letter hand-carried to the Hill today. He said there was discussion on that subject yesterday and it would be most timely for it to get there today.

p

---

10:14 a.m.

Mr. Linnemann called from Federal Drug Management, OMB (Lynn). He said there was some discussion on the floor yesterday between Mansfield and Percy to further clarify this matter. Linnemann talked to Ed Johnson, who is traveling with Parsons and Cannon, and they are going to discuss it this morning and decide what to do. So Linnemann said we should wait a while.

CV

11:45 — Got OK from Johnson, Cannon, Parsons to go ahead. Memo coming thru O'Neill.  
Linnemann rec. no change.

Friedersdorf — OK.



Attached is due

ASAP.

Jane - I called Cavanaugh's office  
J



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

2/5

TO: ~~BILL KENDALL~~/~~VERN LOEN~~

FROM: JANE GREENLEAF

Comments Please

defer to Kendall

12

Approved  
W.K.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CAVANAUGH  
FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *Mr. b.*  
SUBJECT: International Narcotics Control  
Presidential letter to Mike Mansfield

T  
The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs with the agencies  
that the proposed letter be sent.

Attachments



*Suby*  
SIGNATURE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : JIM CANNON *(initials)*

Senator Mansfield was very helpful when Dick Parsons, Bill Kendall and I saw him last week on the proposal to restrict unduly foreign aid in relation to drug enforcement.

We think the problem can be worked out now, and I recommend that you send Senator Mansfield this letter.

It has been cleared by General Scowcroft, Max Friedersdorf, OMB, and Robert T. Hartmann.

RECOMMENDATION: ~

I recommend that you sign the attached letter. (Tab A)

Attachment



RECEIVED  
JUL 29 1976  
CENTRAL FILES

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

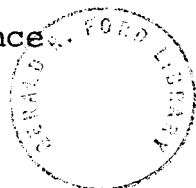
February 6, 1976

Dear Mike:

I want to thank you for taking the time to discuss the international narcotics control program with Jim Cannon, Dick Parsons, and Bill Kendall last week. As you know, I consider the problem of drug abuse one of the most serious domestic problems we face, and I have pledged to do all I possibly can to limit its effect on our citizens.

Experience has shown that narcotics trafficking into the United States cannot be dealt with in isolation. Rather, it must be attacked all along the chain of distribution. This is only possible as a cooperative effort by law enforcement agencies of the many nations along the route. Accordingly, we have made improving cooperation between U.S. drug enforcement agencies and their counterparts in other nations a central element of our overall drug strategy.

However, I realize the real problems that overzealousness in this area could cause in our relations with other nations. I also recognize the critical need to balance carefully our desire to motivate and assist other governments in combatting drug production and smuggling with the equally important need to avoid excessive involvement in the internal affairs of other nations. Striking this delicate balance is not easy, but I believe that the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and our Ambassadors, under whose supervision these programs are carried out, have done a good job. And I assure you that they are under instructions to exercise continual vigilance to ensure that the balance is maintained.



Thus, Mike, while I share your concern about the possibility of improper activities of U.S. drug enforcement agents overseas, I know you share my conviction that we should continue our cooperative work with enforcement agencies of other nations as a vital part of a program designed to solve a tragic worldwide problem.

I believe that careful and continuous scrutiny by program administrators, together with the promulgation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, in cooperation with the Department of State, of appropriate operating guidelines, can avoid the kind of excesses we both wish to avoid.

Thanks again for receiving members of my staff last week and for your consideration of this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Michael J. Mansfield  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Feb. 6, 1976

JMC:

The attached was delivered  
to Mansfield's office on  
Friday.

It was cleared by Brent  
Scowcroft, Max Friedersdorf,  
OMB, and Robert T. Hartmann.

P





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 6, 1976

Dear Mike:

I want to thank you for taking the time to discuss the international narcotics control program with Jim Cannon, Dick Parsons, and Bill Kendall last week. As you know, I consider the problem of drug abuse one of the most serious domestic problems we face, and I have pledged to do all I possibly can to limit its effect on our citizens.

Experience has shown that narcotics trafficking into the United States cannot be dealt with in isolation. Rather, it must be attacked all along the chain of distribution. This is only possible as a cooperative effort by law enforcement agencies of the many nations along the route. Accordingly, we have made improving cooperation between U.S. drug enforcement agencies and their counterparts in other nations a central element of our overall drug strategy.

However, I realize the real problems that overzealousness in this area could cause in our relations with other nations. I also recognize the critical need to balance carefully our desire to motivate and assist other governments in combatting drug production and smuggling with the equally important need to avoid excessive involvement in the internal affairs of other nations. Striking this delicate balance is not easy, but I believe that the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and our Ambassadors, under whose supervision these programs are carried out, have done a good job. And I assure you that they are under instructions to exercise continual vigilance to ensure that the balance is maintained.



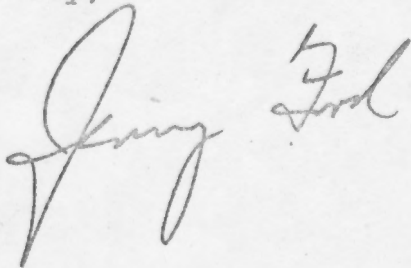
Thus, Mike, while I share your concern about the possibility of improper activities of U.S. drug enforcement agents overseas, I know you share my conviction that we should continue our cooperative work with enforcement agencies of other nations as a vital part of a program designed to solve a tragic worldwide problem.

I believe that careful and continuous scrutiny by program administrators, together with the promulgation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, in cooperation with the Department of State, of appropriate operating guidelines, can avoid the kind of excesses we both wish to avoid.

Thanks again for receiving members of my staff last week and for your consideration of this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mansfield", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honorable Michael J. Mansfield  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Inc. FYI  
Drugs

February 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Carlson  
FROM: Dick Parsons  
SUBJECT: Marihuana

You requested some additional guidance in terms of responding to press inquiries concerning the President's position on marihuana. Specifically, questions have been raised about the President's stand on decriminalization of marihuana in light of the recently released HEW report on Marihuana and Health.

As you know, the President has indicated that, until there is greater unanimity concerning the effects of marihuana on health, he will continue to oppose decriminalization of marihuana. In support of this position, I would cite the following facts:

Only since 1968 have we been able to synthesize the various chemical components of marihuana and make them available for study. In addition, finding appropriate human subjects on whom to study the effects of marihuana has been difficult. Lastly, the active ingredients in the marihuana plant per se are chemically complex and the reaction of the body's system is equally complex.

There are some things that we can definitively say about the acute effects of marihuana:

- Marihuana intoxication results in impaired memory, altered time sense and diminished ability to perform certain motor skills while intoxicated.
- This leads to the conclusion that both driving performance and learning are impaired by marihuana intoxication.
- The preponderance of use occurs with teenagers and young adults.



- Given these facts, it is appropriate to protect young people from marihuana intoxication. I doubt that anyone would argue that it is desirable for teenagers to be chronically intoxicated.

In terms of more long-term effects of marihuana use, we do not have good evidence on the impact of use on adolescents either physiologically or psychologically. We do not have definitive knowledge regarding the effect of marihuana use on the immune response or on other functions related to cellular reproduction and metabolism. Thus, there is much to be learned about long-term effects of marihuana use.

Marihuana is often compared to alcohol and tobacco. In releasing the Fifth Annual Report to the Congress on Marihuana and Health on February 12, 1976, Dr. Robert L. DuPont, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, responded to a press question regarding the relative health menace of the three drugs by saying that both alcohol and tobacco presented a greater health problem. However, this is not the same as saying that there are no problems associated with marihuana use. On the contrary, in summarizing the findings of the report, Dr. DuPont stated: "The evidence of marihuana intoxication shows it to present a clear and present danger; even with small dosage levels of marihuana, psycho motor performance is impaired." Dr. DuPont warned that such intoxication "can have dangerous consequences in such areas as traffic safety and industrial performance." He also added that "intellectual performance, and in particular immediate memory, are also impaired while under the influence of marihuana." He concluded his press statement by saying: "This should cause us all to rethink the consequences of increased marihuana use."

In summary, the safety of marihuana has in no way been established. In fact, we are clear on the detrimental effects of marihuana intoxication but unclear as to the long-term effects of its use, especially with young people, who seem to be the most likely users. We would be irresponsible, therefore, if we were to promote any policy at the Federal level which tends to make the drug more readily available or condones or encourages its use. The President believes that decriminalization would do just that.

cc: Jim Cannon ✓



A

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. -53852  
DT/BP  
Spanish

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Mexico 00629  
January 16, 1976  
Fm Amembassy Mexico  
To Secstate Wash DC

Subject: Letter to President Ford from President Echeverría on narcotics cooperation

1. Following is text of letter from President Echeverría for President Ford on Narcotics Cooperation.

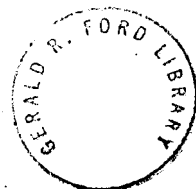
2. Quote. Mr. President: Messrs. Lester L. Wolff and Benjamin A. Gilman, distinguished members of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, accompanied by His Excellency Joseph John Jova, your country's Ambassador to Mexico, paid me a visit last Wednesday, January 7, at which time we took up, among other subjects, the matter of the increase in drug abuse in the United States and in the illegal traffic in narcotics and psychotropic substances between our two countries.

3. In view of the importance and seriousness of the problem, I asked Messrs. Wolff and Gilman to meet with me again, which we did last Saturday, January 10, with the Attorney General of the Republic, the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Public Education, and Health and Welfare, as well as the Director of the Mexican Center of Drug Addiction Studies, who has charge of coordinating preventive, curative, and rehabilitation activities in that field.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4.

MR 95-4, #64 NSC 24. 8/17/95  
By 1434 NARA, Date 8/23/95

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE





4. As a result of those talks, it was possible to confirm the evident interaction that exists between supply and demand and the complexity of the problem and of its solution which takes in widely varying sociological aspects, involving educational factors--including those relating to mass communications media--health factors, and of course action directed toward the prosecution of crimes against health.

5. It was recognized also that in recent years, with strict respect for the sovereignty of each State, there has been effective cooperation between the two Governments which has made it possible to obtain excellent results in the struggle against the drug traffic and the use and abuse of illicit drugs. Nonetheless, it is necessary to increase our joint action in order to obtain still better results.

6. I put forward to the U.S. legislators the idea of creating twin national commissions, one in each of our countries, which would undertake a study of all aspects of this question and propose solutions that would enable our two Governments to embark on new lines of action and expand the coordination of their efforts.

7. In my opinion each national commission might be composed of officials of the Executive Branch responsible for the prosecution of crimes against health, the elimination of the illicit use of narcotics and other dangerous drugs, and the cure and rehabilitation of the victims of drug addiction. Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the respective Congresses, as well as representatives of family heads and of the mass communications media would also be invited to participate in the commissions.

8. Each national commission would study the problem and recommend actions, which would be discussed at meetings of the two commissions. The commissions should establish machinery that would ensure the efficacy and celerity of their work, possibly through executive committees. The frequency of their meetings would be agreed upon according to their work requirements.

9. For my part, I am proceeding to establish the Mexican Commission pursuant to the terms stated above, in the understanding that my Government will continue to act intensively in the fight against the traffic in narcotics and other aspects of this problem, maintaining, as it has done hitherto, the close coordination existing between the competent agencies and organs of our two Governments.

10. In view of the foregoing, I take pleasure in proposing that you consider the desirability of establishing a United States Commission for the purposes stated above, which would be in contact with the Mexican Commission on a standing basis.

11. Feeling certain, as I do, that this proposal on a matter of such extreme importance to mankind will merit your sympathetic response, I take this occasion to renew to you the assurance of my highest consideration and personal esteem. End quote.

Jova



B

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your letter concerning our mutual efforts to deal with the tragic problem of drug abuse which affects so many citizens of both our nations. I welcome your initiative and view it as a most important proposal.

I have directed the White House staff, in cooperation with other departments of government, to begin considering ways to collaborate closely with the commission and executive committee you are establishing in Mexico. Your idea of parallel organizations, in general similar to each other, seems appropriate to our mutual desire to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation.

As you suggest, the initiative should be understood as a development that can enhance the measures our governments are presently taking, both separately and together. Our short-term success in reducing the critical narcotics problem now confronting us depends in large part on the vigor with which we pursue efforts already underway. The effect of this new initiative will be felt over the longer term. Thus, I am heartened by reports of the intensive activities currently being carried out by your government and look forward to continuing progress.

For our part, I have formed a task force under the direction of the White House to improve our own effectiveness in dealing with the narcotics traffic coming into the United States from Mexico and the contraband moving from the United States into Mexico. These matters, it seems to me, might be subjects of mutual interest appropriate for our governments to take under continuing review in the context of your initiative.



DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4.

NR 95-4, #65 NSC Ltr. 8/17/95

By 1634 NARA, Date 8/23/95

I am pleased that your initiative includes the prevention and rehabilitation, as well as law enforcement, aspects of the narcotics problem. As you know, the concept of a federal program that balances the effort to control the demand for drugs with an effort to control the supply of drugs is the cornerstone of our program to reduce drug abuse. You may be assured that our side, also, will include full representation of all aspects of the drug program.

In the near future I expect to have concrete proposals for action on our part to match the new effort you have begun. At that point it might be useful for my representatives to meet with yours to ensure we are both moving ahead in the coordinated manner contemplated in your letter.

Let me also use this opportunity to express gratitude for the cordiality and good will you and members of your government have consistently extended my representatives, Ambassador Jova and Ambassador Vance, and to Attorney General Levi in his recent meeting with Attorney General Ojeda Paullada. I hope, too, that we can keep in touch to maintain a close collaboration between our two countries on this problem.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Luis Echeverria Alvarez  
President of Mexico  
Palacio Nacional  
Mexico D. F.



MEETING WITH CONG. LESTER WOLFF  
Thursday, February 19, 1976  
4:00 p.m.

Mr. Cannon's Office





[March 1976]

Dear Herb:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 10 and your interest in what I feel is a most compelling and increasing national problem--drug smuggling.

At this point I do not have a story that might make a feature motion picture; however, we are now putting together for internal use a documentary or presentation that will describe the dimension and complexity of the problem. I hope this will be ready in ten days or so.

As it happens, we have a couple of members of the White House staff who have written for movies. Today I talked with one of them, Bob Orben, to get guidelines about how we might propose to develop a story for you.

Perhaps the best suggestion is for me to go through the preparation of this presentation, talk with Bob, and then get back to you with--I hope--a more precise idea.

I know there is a good story here, I just haven't found it yet.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

James M. Cannon  
Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Affairs

Mr. Herb Jaffe, President  
Rastar Pictures, Inc.  
Columbia Pictures  
Burbank, California 91505



RECEIVED  
JUL 29 1976

Drugs

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1976

Dear Mr. Geyelin:

Thank you for your interest in the current Congressional debate concerning the funding level for this year's (FY 1976) international narcotic assistance program. As you know, the President requested \$42.5 million for this program and the House Appropriations Committee cut that to \$25 million. We intend to wage a vigorous floor fight to have the full amount restored on Thursday. This letter contains some background which I believe will put the issue in perspective.

Most serious drugs of abuse originate in foreign countries. Thus, our capability to deal with supplies of drugs available in the United States depends strongly on the interest and capability of foreign governments to control the production and shipment of illicit drugs. Our international narcotic control program is designed to (1) complement our domestic efforts to control drug abuse; (2) gain the support of other nations for narcotic control; and (3) strengthen the narcotic control effort and capabilities of foreign governments.

These objectives are addressed in several ways. First, through diplomatic contacts at all levels. For example, the President has discussed mutual drug control problems with the leaders of Turkey, Colombia and Mexico. Further, senior officials of the State Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration have discussed narcotic control efforts with the leaders of over a dozen countries on overseas trips within the past two months. Second, we participate in international treaties and international drug control organizations, such as the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Third, we provide direct assistance to other governments in the form of technical and equipment assistance, formal training of foreign enforcement officials, and assistance through cooperative enforcement efforts with U. S. agents stationed overseas. Often this assistance is absolutely essential to a foreign organization's ability to do its job; for, without training and the proper equipment, it would simply be impossible.



Many members of Congress recognize the critical importance of the international program in dealing with the drug problem here at home. For example, in November eighty-seven of them signed a letter which urged the President to place international narcotic control high on his personal agenda. In a December meeting with a delegation of Congressmen, the President assured them that this was a high personal priority. He subsequently issued numerous directives to make that priority exceedingly clear to leaders of the drug program.

Now, only a few months after calling on the President to act quickly and forcefully in this area, the attention of Congress appears to be drifting and there is a very real threat that the foreign assistance available for international cooperation will be slashed almost in half by the House (from \$42.5 million to \$25 million). This is exactly the kind of on-again, off-again attention and priority which have plagued our efforts to deal effectively with this problem over the years. As was stated in the recently published White Paper on Drug Abuse:

"Regrettably, we probably always will have a drug problem of some proportion. Therefore, we must be prepared to continue our efforts and our commitment indefinitely in order to contain the problem at a minimum level, and in order to minimize the social cost of drug abuse."

This program, unlike some other foreign assistance programs, is one which is undertaken because it has a direct bearing on our ability to deal with a major domestic problem. Put simply, no matter how hard we fight the problem of drug abuse at home, we cannot make really significant progress unless we are able to cut into the volume of drugs flowing toward our borders from foreign sources. This requires the cooperation of other governments and it requires that they have the material and technical ability to deal with drug production and trafficking. So we provide training and equipment. But it should be clear that we are the prime beneficiaries of that training and equipment. Thus, a cut in the program -- particularly of the magnitude being considered -- would have an effect which would be felt most strongly by the people of our country, rather than by citizens of other nations.

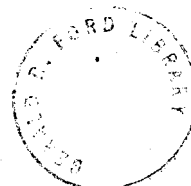


Consider the following:

- Mexico. As you know, Mexico is the primary source of heroin reaching the United States. It is also the principal recipient of international narcotic control aid. Using transportation equipment (mostly helicopters) supplied by us, the Mexican government has been able to mount an increasingly effective campaign to eradicate opium poppies growing in the mountains of western Mexico and to interdict opium and heroin trafficking within Mexico.

Since the current campaign began in December, about 6,000 acres of poppies have been destroyed, double the result of the entire campaign last year; over six times as much opium has been seized; and last year's arrests have already been surpassed by more than 70 per cent. Without our assistance, this dramatic progress would simply not have been possible.

- Burma. Burma is currently the world's largest producer of illicit opium, increasing quantities of which are finding their way to the United States and to Western Europe, where it affects our troops. Over the past two years, the Burmese have stepped up sharply the interdiction of opium caravans in the remote mountains and have begun a major opium crop destruction campaign. Without the mobility provided by U.S.-supplied helicopters, this, too, would have been impossible.
- Thailand. Thailand, another major source of illicit opium and a transit route for most of the Burmese opium, announced at a recent United Nations drug conference a major initiative aimed at replacing poppies as an income source for impoverished tribes in the mountainous north. The seed money to do the pilot work necessary to convince the Thais of the feasibility of such an approach came from our international narcotic control assistance funds.



In short, the program is working. Progress has been slow in some places, but it is working. If we cut back on it now, it would seriously impede our ability to deal with the drug problem in the United States and would most probably be misread by foreign governments as a signal of declining American interest in drug abuse. This, in turn, would almost certainly result in a reduction of their efforts.

I do not pretend to know all of the reasons the House Appropriations Committee chose to cut this program. Enclosed for your review, however, is a memorandum which responds to some of the objections to the program which I have heard.

I hope this information is useful to you. If there is anything more you need, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Parsons  
Associate Director and Counsel  
Domestic Council

Mr. Philip Geyelin  
THE WASHINGTON POST  
1150 15th Street, NW.  
Washington, D. C. 20017

Enclosure

bcc: Jim Cannon



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1976

Dear Mr. Geyelin:

I commend you for your March 4 editorial, "International Drug Traffic." It presented a clear and perceptive discussion of the Federal International Narcotic Control Assistance program.

As the Drug Abuse Task Force which I chair proceeds with its evaluation of the problem of drugs of Mexican origin flowing into the illicit market, I am continually struck by the interrelationship between supply reduction efforts on the Mexican and U. S. sides of the border. This interrelationship is easy to understand when one recognizes that drug traffickers view the border as merely an imaginary line which can be crossed with relative impunity. Quite simply, it would be impossible to deal with drug trafficking at and inside the border only. A complementary effort by Mexican authorities on the other side is vital. Thus, as you state) any aid we provide to strengthen the Mexican program (or that of any other country) has a direct and immediate impact on the availability of drugs in the United States.

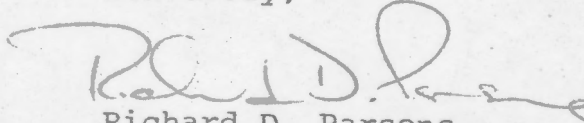
You obviously recognize and appreciate the value of our International Narcotic Control Assistance program. I believe that your editorial served to help others understand it as well. You will be interested to know that the full House appropriated \$37.5 million for this program for the current fiscal year -- \$12.5 million more than was recommended by the Appropriations Committee.





Again, I commend you for your concern and insight.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Parsons  
Associate Director and Counsel  
Domestic Council

Mr. Philip Geyelin  
THE WASHINGTON POST  
1150 15th Street, NW.  
Washington, D. C. 20017

cc: Mr. Robert Maynard

bcc: *Sim Cannon*





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Subj  
Drugs*

March 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : JIM CANNON *Jh*  
SUBJECT : Appropriation for International Narcotics Control

The purpose of these letters is to reinstate the \$42.5 million appropriation for international narcotics control that you called Otto Passman about on Monday.

Attached for your signature are letters to the Speaker, John Rhodes, and Charles Rangel, who is assisting with a group of urban Congressmen, for use in our attempt to restore this appropriation on the House floor tomorrow. (Tab A)

NSC (Scowcroft), Max Friedersdorf, and OMB (Paul O'Neill), concur. Robert Hartmann (Doug Smith) has approved the text.

Max Friedersdorf also suggests we send copies to Congressmen Mahon, Otto Passman, Al Cederberg, Garner Shriver, John Anderson, and Barber Conable.

Attachments

RECEIVED  
JUL 29 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1976

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I was deeply disturbed to learn of the House Appropriations Committee's action on Monday to reduce the FY 1976 appropriation for international narcotic control from \$42.5 million to \$25 million. I am writing to ask you to do everything you possibly can to assure approval of the full amount I requested for this important program when the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act comes before the full House.

As you know, drug abuse is one of the most serious problems this country faces. Its cost to the nation in terms of ruined lives, broken homes and divided communities is staggering. It is, moreover, a major cause of crime. Tragically, this problem is not only increasing, but it is spreading from urban centers to our smaller communities.

Combating drug abuse is a major priority of my Administration, and I believe it is imperative that there be no slackening at this time of our efforts to stem the flow of illicit drugs into the United States.

Most of the serious drugs of abuse originate in foreign countries and are smuggled into this country. Our capability to deal with supplies of drugs available in the United States therefore depends heavily on the interest and capability of foreign governments to control the illicit production and shipment of drugs. For this reason, a certain element of our overall program to control drug abuse in America has been to assist foreign governments in strengthening their own narcotic control efforts. A vital part of this cooperative effort is providing equipment and technical assistance to our allies in the fight against drugs.



For example, Mexico, which has become the primary source of heroin reaching the United States, has been the principal recipient of our international narcotic control aid over the past several years. Using transportation equipment (mostly helicopters) supplied by us, the Mexican government has been able to mount an increasingly effective campaign to eradicate opium poppies in the western mountains and to interdict trafficking within Mexico. Without our assistance, a program of this magnitude simply would not have been possible.

Thus, while the international narcotic control assistance program is contained in the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act, it is unique in that it has a direct and immediate bearing on a serious domestic problem. If we cut back on this program now, I believe it would seriously impede our ability to deal with the drug problem in the United States and might very well be misread by foreign governments as a signal of declining American interest in combating drug abuse. This would almost certainly result in a reduction of their efforts as well.

In my view, the requested \$42.5 million is extremely modest when compared to the estimated \$17 billion-a-year cost of drug abuse to our society. I would appreciate your help in restoring the full appropriation.

Sincerely,

The Honorable  
The Speaker  
The U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1976

Dear John:

I was deeply disturbed to learn of the House Appropriations Committee's action on Monday to reduce the FY 1976 appropriation for international narcotic control from \$42.5 million to \$25 million. I am writing to ask you to do everything you possibly can to assure approval of the full amount I requested for this important program when the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act comes before the full House.

As you know, drug abuse is one of the most serious problems this country faces. Its cost to the nation in terms of ruined lives, broken homes and divided communities is staggering. It is, moreover, a major cause of crime. Tragically, this problem is not only increasing, but it is spreading from urban centers to our smaller communities.

Combating drug abuse is a major priority of my Administration, and I believe it is imperative that there be no slackening at this time of our efforts to stem the flow of illicit drugs into the United States.

Most of the serious drugs of abuse originate in foreign countries and are smuggled into this country. Thus, our capability to deal with supplies of drugs available in the United States depends heavily on the interest and capability of foreign governments to control the illicit production and shipment of drugs. A certain element of our overall program to control drug abuse in America, therefore, has been to assist foreign governments in strengthening their own narcotic control efforts. A vital part of this cooperative effort is providing equipment and technical assistance to our allies in the fight against drugs.



For example, Mexico, which has become the primary source of heroin reaching the United States, has been the principal recipient of our international narcotic control aid over the past several years. Using transportation equipment (mostly helicopters) supplied by us, the Mexican government has been able to mount an increasingly effective campaign to eradicate opium poppies in the western mountains and to interdict trafficking within Mexico. Without our assistance, a program of this magnitude simply would not have been possible.

Thus, while the international narcotic control assistance program is contained in the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act, it is unique in that it has a direct and immediate bearing on a serious domestic problem. If we cut back on this program now, I believe it would seriously impede our ability to deal with the drug problem in the United States and might very well be misread by foreign governments as a signal of declining American interest in combating drug abuse. This would almost certainly result in a reduction of their efforts as well.

In my view, the requested \$42.5 million is extremely modest when compared to the estimated \$17 billion-a-year cost of drug abuse to our society. I would appreciate your help in restoring the full appropriation.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John Rhodes  
Minority Leader  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1976

Dear Charlie:

When we spoke last December about the serious drug problem this nation faces, you emphasized the critical importance of international cooperation in our efforts to cut off the flow of drugs into the United States. I agree with that emphasis and I have discussed mutual drug control efforts with the leaders of several countries, including President Echeverria of Mexico, President Lopez of Colombia and Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey. Thus, I was deeply disturbed to learn that the House Appropriations Committee has cut from \$42.5 million to \$25 million the Fiscal 1976 appropriation for international narcotic control aid.

You know, of course, that most of the serious drugs of abuse originate in foreign countries and are smuggled into this country. Our capability to deal with supplies of drugs available in the United States, therefore, depends heavily on our ability to strengthen the narcotic control capability of foreign governments. This is precisely what we are trying to do with our international narcotic control assistance program.

A cut of the magnitude suggested by the Committee's action on Monday could cripple this program and might very well be misread by foreign governments as a signal of declining American interest in drug abuse. We must avoid both of these results.

Accordingly, I hope you will do everything you can to assure approval of the full \$42.5 million



appropriation when the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act is taken up by the full House.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
The House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1976

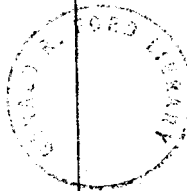
Dear Mr. Speaker:

I was deeply disturbed to learn of the House Appropriations Committee's action on Monday to reduce the FY 1976 appropriation for international narcotic control from \$42.5 million to \$25 million. I am writing to ask you to do everything you possibly can to assure approval of the full amount I requested for this important program when the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act comes before the full House.

As you know, drug abuse is one of the most serious problems this country faces. Its cost to the nation in terms of ruined lives, broken homes and divided communities is staggering. It is, moreover, a major cause of crime. Tragically, this problem is not only increasing, but it is spreading from urban centers to our smaller communities.

Combating drug abuse is a major priority of my Administration, and I believe it is imperative that there be no slackening at this time of our efforts to stem the flow of illicit drugs into the United States.

Most of the serious drugs of abuse originate in foreign countries and are smuggled into this country. Our capability to deal with supplies of drugs available in the United States therefore depends heavily on the interest and capability of foreign governments to control the illicit production and shipment of drugs. For this reason, a certain element of our overall program to control drug abuse in America has been to assist foreign governments in strengthening their own narcotic control efforts. A vital part of this cooperative effort is providing equipment and technical assistance to our allies in the fight against drugs.



For example, Mexico, which has become the primary source of heroin reaching the United States, has been the principal recipient of our international narcotic control aid over the past several years. Using transportation equipment (mostly helicopters) supplied by us, the Mexican government has been able to mount an increasingly effective campaign to eradicate opium poppies in the western mountains and to interdict trafficking within Mexico. Without our assistance, a program of this magnitude simply would not have been possible.

Thus, while the international narcotic control assistance program is contained in the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act, it is unique in that it has a direct and immediate bearing on a serious domestic problem. If we cut back on this program now, I believe it would seriously impede our ability to deal with the drug problem in the United States and might very well be misread by foreign governments as a signal of declining American interest in combating drug abuse. This would almost certainly result in a reduction of their efforts as well.

In my view, the requested \$42.5 million is extremely modest when compared to the estimated \$17 billion-a-year cost of drug abuse to our society. I would appreciate your help in restoring the full appropriation.

Sincerely,

The Honorable  
The Speaker  
The U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1976

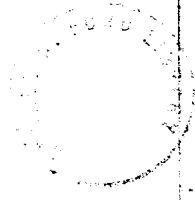
Dear John:

I was deeply disturbed to learn of the House Appropriations Committee's action on Monday to reduce the FY 1976 appropriation for international narcotic control from \$42.5 million to \$25 million. I am writing to ask you to do everything you possibly can to assure approval of the full amount I requested for this important program when the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act comes before the full House.

As you know, drug abuse is one of the most serious problems this country faces. Its cost to the nation in terms of ruined lives, broken homes and divided communities is staggering. It is, moreover, a major cause of crime. Tragically, this problem is not only increasing, but it is spreading from urban centers to our smaller communities.

Combating drug abuse is a major priority of my Administration, and I believe it is imperative that there be no slackening at this time of our efforts to stem the flow of illicit drugs into the United States.

Most of the serious drugs of abuse originate in foreign countries and are smuggled into this country. Thus, our capability to deal with supplies of drugs available in the United States depends heavily on the interest and capability of foreign governments to control the illicit production and shipment of drugs. A certain element of our overall program to control drug abuse in America, therefore, has been to assist foreign governments in strengthening their own narcotic control efforts. A vital part of this cooperative effort is providing equipment and technical assistance to our allies in the fight against drugs.



For example, Mexico, which has become the primary source of heroin reaching the United States, has been the principal recipient of our international narcotic control aid over the past several years. Using transportation equipment (mostly helicopters) supplied by us, the Mexican government has been able to mount an increasingly effective campaign to eradicate opium poppies in the western mountains and to interdict trafficking within Mexico. Without our assistance, a program of this magnitude simply would not have been possible.

Thus, while the international narcotic control assistance program is contained in the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act, it is unique in that it has a direct and immediate bearing on a serious domestic problem. If we cut back on this program now, I believe it would seriously impede our ability to deal with the drug problem in the United States and might very well be misread by foreign governments as a signal of declining American interest in combating drug abuse. This would almost certainly result in a reduction of their efforts as well.

In my view, the requested \$42.5 million is extremely modest when compared to the estimated \$17 billion-a-year cost of drug abuse to our society. I would appreciate your help in restoring the full appropriation.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John Rhodes  
Minority Leader  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1976

Dear Charlie:

When we spoke last December about the serious drug problem this nation faces, you emphasized the critical importance of international cooperation in our efforts to cut off the flow of drugs into the United States. I agree with that emphasis and I have discussed mutual drug control efforts with the leaders of several countries, including President Echeverria of Mexico, President Lopez of Colombia and Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey. Thus, I was deeply disturbed to learn that the House Appropriations Committee has cut from \$42.5 million to \$25 million the Fiscal 1976 appropriation for international narcotic control aid.

You know, of course, that most of the serious drugs of abuse originate in foreign countries and are smuggled into this country. Our capability to deal with supplies of drugs available in the United States, therefore, depends heavily on our ability to strengthen the narcotic control capability of foreign governments. This is precisely what we are trying to do with our international narcotic control assistance program.

A cut of the magnitude suggested by the Committee's action on Monday could cripple this program and might very well be misread by foreign governments as a signal of declining American interest in drug abuse. We must avoid both of these results.

Accordingly, I hope you will do everything you can to assure approval of the full \$42.5 million



appropriation when the Foreign Assistance  
Appropriations Act is taken up by the full  
House.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
The House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515