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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
FROM: JIM CONNOR *JEC*
SUBJECT: Drug Abuse Message

The President reviewed your memorandum on the above subject (undated) and made the following decisions:

I. CONTENTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

A. Permission to Deny Bail in Certain Circumstances

Option 1 -- Include proposal in omnibus bill.

B. Expand Customs Search Authority to Include the Export of Monetary Instruments

Include proposal in omnibus bill.

C. Increase the Monetary Limit for Administrative Forfeitures

Include the proposal in omnibus bill.

D. Require Vessels to Report Immediately to Customs on Arrival

Include the proposal in omnibus bill.

II. PROGRAM COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT

The following notation was made concerning this subject:

"I support separate Cabinet Committees

1) Attorney General as Chairman

2) If necessary, the second chaired by Secretary, HEW"

III. MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR "TWIN" COMMISSIONS

Option 3 -- Assign the responsibility of interfacing
with the Mexican Commission to the Cabinet
Committee on International Narcotics Control.

IV. REVITALIZED IRS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AIMED AT
NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS

Direct re-establishment by IRS of tax enforcement program
directed at high-level drug traffickers.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECISION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Jim Cannon 

SUBJECT: Drug Abuse Message

This memorandum seeks your guidance on several items which have been suggested for inclusion in your special message to the Congress on drug abuse. In general, the message will build upon the analyses and recommendations contained in the White Paper on Drug Abuse, highlight some of the steps you have already taken to improve the Federal drug program, and announce several new initiatives to further improve the Federal response. The items for your attention are:

- I. Contents of Proposed Legislation.
- II. Program Coordination and Oversight.
- III. Mexican Proposal for "Twin" Commissions.
- IV. Revitalized IRS Enforcement Program Aimed at Narcotic Traffickers.

I. CONTENTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

In your Crime Message of June 19, 1975, you recommended the establishment of mandatory minimum sentences of incarceration for persons committing Federal offenses involving the use of a weapon and for persons committing such extraordinarily serious crimes as kidnapping, hijacking or trafficking in hard drugs. The Administration's legislation implementing this recommendation was submitted to the Congress in the form of an amendment to S. 1, the Criminal Justice Reform Act of 1975. It now appears that S. 1 will not be acted upon by this Congress and, thus, the Administration's amendments will not receive Congressional attention this year.

In your recent speech in Irving, Texas, on drug abuse, you indicated your intention to separate the mandatory minimum sentence provisions dealing with narcotic trafficking from S. 1 and to submit them separately to the Congress. A number of other statutory improvements and modifications relating to controlling drug abuse have been

suggested for inclusion in this legislation. They are set forth below for your consideration.

A. Permission to Deny Bail in Certain Circumstances

A 1974 survey by the Drug Enforcement Administration of some 499 defendants charged with trafficking in hard drugs revealed that 47.5 per cent were implicated in subsequent drug trafficking activities while out on bail. Further, other studies show that a substantial portion (approximately one-fourth) of all bail-jumpers in drug cases are aliens, most of whom flee to their native countries upon posting bail. The unfortunate fact is that the profits from drugs are substantial enough to underwrite bail forfeiture for the fraction of alien couriers who are apprehended.

To cope with these problems, it has been suggested that you propose legislation which would authorize judges to deny bail in certain circumstances. This authority would apply to a defendant arrested for trafficking in heroin or other dangerous drugs if it is found that he or she: (1) has previously been convicted of a Federal drug felony; (2) is presently free on parole, probation or bail in connection with any other felony; (3) is a nonresident alien; (4) has been arrested in possession of a false or unlawfully altered passport; or (5) is a fugitive or has previously been convicted of being a fugitive.

This limited authority, which would be discretionary with the judge, would serve both to keep confirmed criminals off the streets and out of the drug trade and to keep alien couriers from jumping bail, returning to their homelands and showing their countrymen that our laws regarding drug smuggling are ineffective. On the other hand, civil libertarians have opposed pre-trial detention in the past and could be expected to register stiff opposition to this proposal, even though it is more limited than that proposed by any previous Administration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jack Marsh, Bob Hartmann, Max Friedersdorf, OMB and I recommend you include such a proposal in your omnibus bill.

The Attorney General and the Counsel to the President oppose advancing this proposal at the current time. Instead, they

recommend that you express your concern about the adequacy of our pretrial release system as it operates with regard to drug violators and direct the Department of Justice to develop recommendations in this area.

DECISION

Option 1 -- Include proposal in omnibus bill.

net Approve _____ Disapprove

Option 2 -- Express concern and direct Justice to follow up.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove

B. Expand Customs Search Authority to Include the Export of Monetary Instruments

Currently, the U. S. Customs Service has authority to search all persons and all goods entering the United States without a warrant. Customs also has the authority to search, without a warrant, persons and packages leaving the United States if it has reasonable cause to believe that munitions are being smuggled out of the country. With respect to all items other than munitions, however, Customs is required to obtain a search warrant before it may conduct a search for contraband being smuggled out of the country.

Customs has suggested that the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act be amended to authorize Customs to search for monetary instruments on the same legal basis as munitions.

Under the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act, persons transporting or causing to be transported monetary instruments (including cash) in excess of \$5,000 into or out of the United States must report such transactions to the Customs Service. Failure to report under the Act can result in seizure of the monetary instruments. We know that a substantial amount of cash derived from the sale of illicit drugs moves across our border every day (usually going into Mexico). Even where we have reason to believe that money is being unlawfully smuggled out of the country, however, we often do not have the time to obtain a warrant. By authorizing Customs to conduct warrantless searches for money being smuggled out of the country where it has "reasonable cause" to believe this is going on, we may improve our law enforcement efforts aimed at drug traffickers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jack Marsh, Bob Hartmann, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's office, OMB and I recommend you include this proposal in your omnibus bill.

The Attorney General opposes this proposal.

DECISION

Include proposal in omnibus bill.

MR 7 Approve _____ Disapprove

C. Increase the Monetary Limit for Administrative Forfeitures

Presently, where certain kinds of property, such as an automobile, is seized in connection with a drug-related criminal offense, the property is subject to forfeiture. The forfeiture may be concluded by administrative action if the value of the property is under \$2,500 or by judicial action if the property is worth over \$2,500. The Department of Justice has suggested raising the monetary limit for administrative forfeiture in drug-related cases to \$10,000. *

In support of its suggestions, Justice points out that the current level of \$2,500 was established in 1954. Since that time, inflation has rendered the administrative procedure almost totally useless. The result is that virtually all forfeitures must be concluded by court action. This induces lengthy delays and adds to already-crowded court calendars. Raising the ceiling to \$10,000 would reduce the volume of cases associated with judicial forfeiture and would facilitate more effective and expeditious law enforcement action against narcotic traffickers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Attorney General, Jack Marsh, Bob Hartmann, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's office, OMB and I recommend you include this proposal in your omnibus bill.

DECISION

Include the proposal in omnibus bill.

MR 7 Approve _____ Disapprove

* Justice has already sent to the Congress a bill covering this point, but no action has been taken on it.

D. Authorize the Seizure of Money Used in Illegal Narcotic Transactions

As noted above, certain kinds of property used in connection with illegal drug transactions are subject to forfeiture. These forfeiture provisions do not apply, however, to cash found in the possession of the narcotics violator. Consequently, it has proven difficult to remove from circulation some of the money used to finance drug traffic.

Until recently, when a drug trafficker was arrested with cash in his possession, IRS would be notified, would terminate the trafficker's taxable year and then make a jeopardy assessment based on the amount of cash involved. In addition to being cumbersome and inefficient, however, this procedure is not appropriate for all cases.

To remedy this situation, the IRS has suggested legislation specifically providing for the forfeiture of cash and other personal property found in the possession of a narcotics violator and determined to have been used or intended for use in connection with an illegal drug transaction. The procedural safeguards applicable to all other seizures (i.e., administrative or judicial hearings, etc.) would, of course, apply to these seizures as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jack Marsh, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's office, OMB and I recommend you include this proposal in your omnibus bill. The Attorney General concurs in this principle. Bob Hartmann questions whether this meets the standard of due process.

DECISION

Include the proposal in omnibus bill.

MP

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

E. Require Vessels to Report Immediately to Customs on Arrival

Private yachts and pleasure vessels are frequently used to smuggle hard drugs. The existing law contributes to the difficulty of interdicting drugs smuggled in this fashion because it allows the masters of these vessels 24 hours in which to report their arrival to Customs. Thus, by the time Customs is notified of the arrival of the ship, any contraband will already have been removed. This has become a particularly

acute problem in Florida, where private yachts and pleasure vessels have easy access to nearby foreign islands which serve as transshipment points for drugs.

Customs has proposed legislation which would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to require these vessels to report to Customs immediately upon arrival in the country. This requirement currently applies to commercial vessels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jack Marsh, Bob Hartmann, Max Friedersdrof, Counsel's office, OMB and I recommend you include this proposal in your omnibus bill. The Attorney General has no objection to the proposal.

DECISION

Include the proposal in omnibus bill.

MR Approve _____ Disapprove

II. PROGRAM COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT

The Federal program to control drug abuse is as diverse as any in government, involving seven Cabinet departments and seventeen agencies. In order to provide overall policy guidance to, and coordination and oversight of, the total Federal drug program, while at the same time respecting the principle of strong Cabinet management, the White Paper on Drug Abuse recommended the revitalization of the Strategy Council on Drug Abuse. *

Specifically, the White Paper recommended that the Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs be added to the Council and designated Chairman; that the Secretary of the Treasury be added to the Council,

* The Strategy Council on Drug Abuse was established by statute in 1972 to annually provide an assessment of the drug abuse problem in the United States, a plan for a comprehensive Federal response and an analysis of the effectiveness of major Federal drug programs. The membership of the Strategy Council included the Director of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP) as Chairman, the Secretaries of State, Defense and Health, Education, and Welfare, the Attorney General and the Administrator of the Veterans Administration. When the legislative authority for SAODAP expired in June of 1975, the Council was left without a chairman or supporting staff and it simply ceased functioning. However, the Council is still responsible for preparing an annual report on or before June 30 of each year.

in view of the important roles played by the U. S. Customs Service and the Internal Revenue Service in the overall drug program; and that the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget be added to the Council. The White Paper also recommended that the responsibilities of the Council be expanded to include:

- offering a forum for policymakers which spans both drug abuse supply and demand activities in order to resolve major policy issues;
- providing coordination between supply and demand reduction programs and ensuring that resources are allocated in a manner which strikes the optimal balance between these complimentary aspects of the program;
- advising the President, the Vice President and other key personnel within the Executive Office of the President of the status of drug abuse in the United States; and
- monitoring progress in implementing the White Paper's recommendations and reporting progress to the President periodically.

The language of the law which created the Strategy Council would allow you to appoint new members and assign new responsibilities to the Council by administrative action.

The White Paper also recommended the establishment of a Cabinet Committee on Drug Abuse Prevention, to be chaired by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, to coordinate Federal efforts in the drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation area. Coordination among these agencies had been the responsibility of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention (which expired in June 1975) and the recommendation to create a new Cabinet Committee to replace SAODAP was made (a) because of the real need to assure continued coordination, and (b) in an attempt to head off Congressional action to re-establish a special drug abuse office in the Executive Office of the President. * Although the White

* The matter of overall policy guidance and program coordination in this area is of major concern to the Congress as well as to us. As you know, last month Congress passed a measure re-establishing in the Executive Office of the President a special drug abuse office. While you signed the bill, you indicated that you would not seek funds for the new office because the office is unnecessary. Revitalization of the Strategy Council as suggested above would help us to resist the efforts by some members of Congress to secure funds for that office.

Paper did not recommend the creation of a specific coordinating mechanism for law enforcement activities, it did recognize the need for better coordination of these activities as well.

Rather than creating two new Cabinet Committees, a simpler, less cumbersome way of providing the required coordination would be to create two working-level subcommittees of the Strategy Council -- one for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation; the other for law enforcement. These subcommittees would be chaired by representatives of HEW and Justice, respectively, and would consist of sub-Cabinet representatives of the other departments and agencies.

This would provide you and your key advisers with a forum for developing and resolving major policy issues and providing coordination which spans the entire range of Federal activities in the drug abuse area -- treatment, law enforcement and international controls. By establishing working-level subcommittees, program coordination may be had without establishing cumbersome and duplicative Cabinet Committees. Finally, this will enable the Strategy Council to fulfill its continuing obligations under the law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jack Marsh. Bob Hartmann, Max Friedersdorf, NSC, OMB and I recommend you revitalize the Strategy Council on Drug Abuse, as suggested above.

The Attorney General has expressed strong objection to the revitalization of the Strategy Council. If more formal coordination of the drug program is desirable, he prefers the creation of separate Cabinet committees. He believes that it would be inappropriate for the White House to be directly involved.

The full text of the Attorney General's position is at Tab A. He has indicated that he would like to discuss this with you personally before a decision is made.

DECISION

Option 1 -- Revitalize Strategy Council, with subcommittees.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove

Option 2 -- Meet with Attorney General.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove

*2 support separate cabinet committees
1) Att. Gen. as Ch.
2) If necessary, the 2 of them chaired by Sec H.E.W.*

III. MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR "TWIN" COMMISSIONS

On January 16, 1976, Mexican President Luis Echeverria wrote you to propose the creation of twin national commissions which would provide overall coordination of the respective drug programs of Mexico and the United States (Echeverria letter attached at Tab B). Periodically, these commissions would meet jointly to share ideas and exchange views, probably through executive committees. President Echeverria announced in his letter that he was proceeding to establish the Mexican Commission, which would be comprised of officials of the Executive Branch responsible for narcotic law enforcement and drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation; members of the Legislative Branch; representatives of the media; and public members.

On February 6, 1976, you replied to President Echeverria's letter, stating that his "idea of parallel and similar organizations seemed appropriate to our mutual desire to increase the effectiveness of our cooperation." You also informed him that members of the White House staff would develop specific recommendations regarding this proposal for your consideration (your response is attached at Tab C).

Because of the importance President Echeverria places on this proposal, it is important for us to respond in a positive way which he can cite as substantial agreement with his idea. At the same time, however, we should be careful to avoid creating a new and unnecessary organization. These options have been suggested:

Option 1 -- Create a new commission, consisting of members of the Executive Branch, Members of the Congress, media representatives, and members of the public, to advise the President and the Congress on drug abuse.

PRO: This most resembles the Echeverria proposal and would be a highly visible action on the part of the President to demonstrate his concern about the problem of drug abuse.

CON: Except as noted above, such an advisory commission would seem totally unnecessary. It would also be costly and could, if not properly managed, whipsaw the Administration in policy matters.

Option 2 -- Assign the responsibility of interfacing with the Mexican Commission to the Strategy Council on Drug Abuse.

PRO: Assuming that you approve the White Paper recommendation to expand the membership and responsibilities of the Strategy Council, it would have policy development, coordination and oversight responsibilities for the entire range of Federal activities aimed at preventing and treating drug abuse and would consist of top-level personnel responsible for managing the Federal drug program. This option would not involve the creation of a new entity, with its attendant costs.

CON: Unlike the Mexican Commission, the Strategy Council would not have Congressional, media or public membership.

Option 3 -- Assign the responsibility of interfacing with the Mexican Commission to the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control.

PRO: This option would not involve the creation of a new entity. Moreover, since this involves bilateral (international) discussions, arguably the State Department should have the lead.

CON: The CCINC has a narrow focus -- international narcotics control -- and therefore could not adequately represent the domestic law enforcement or treatment and prevention components of the Federal program. It would, moreover, be of a lesser stature than its Mexican counterpart, since it is run by the State Department, not the White House.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jack Marsh, Bob Hartmann, Max Friedersdorf, OMB, NSC, State (Ambassador Vance) and I recommend Option 2.

The Attorney General recommends Option 3.

DECISION

- _____ Option 1 (Create new Advisory Commission)
- _____ Option 2 (Assign to Strategy Council on Drug Abuse)
- ~~_____~~ **NEJ** Option 3 (Assign to CCINC)

IV. REVITALIZED IRS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AIMED AT NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS

Discussions concerning the advisability of starting a tax enforcement program aimed at drug traffickers were first undertaken in 1969, when surveys showed that among a group of suspected traffickers there was a high incidence of non-filing of income tax returns. As a result, in 1970, a decision was made to start a pilot antinarcotics tax program. It became national in scope in 1971.

During the course of the program, about 2,200 suspected mid- to upper-level drug traffickers were selected for audit. In these cases, \$231.4 million in added taxes and penalties were recommended, \$32 million in cash was seized by the IRS, and more than 250 persons were indicted on criminal tax charges.

Beginning in 1975, the IRS started to reduce its Narcotics Trafficking Program and to fold what remained into its overall tax enforcement efforts. * This was due, in part, to post-Watergate criticism of all IRS programs which had a focus broader than just revenue collection and, in part, to specific operational problems and abuses. Rather than targeting on a specific group of suspected criminals, the Service elected to maintain its narcotics tax enforcement program as merely an additional duty of its agent and auditing force. Essentially, this meant that IRS would pursue cases referred by other law enforcement agencies or developed by routine audit but would not focus specialized resources specifically on the narcotics area.

The problem with this approach is that a great many narcotic traffickers have so removed themselves from the actual narcotic transactions that they are virtually beyond the reach of most law enforcement agencies, so referrals are few. Moreover, since these people either do not file tax returns or do not report their drug-related income, they are not likely to be identified for audit by normal IRS procedures. Thus, these individuals violate the tax laws with virtual impunity.

* As a result of this shift in policy, \$20 million in resources dedicated to this effort were gradually blended into the overall IRS staff until only \$5 million remained. The remaining \$5 million was deleted from the IRS budget during the FY 1977 submission process because the program was nonfunctioning as a separate entity. OMB believes that it is probably unrealistic to expect IRS to resume activity in this area without receiving additional resources.

To remedy this situation, it has been suggested that IRS be directed to re-establish a separate and identifiable tax enforcement program directed at high-level drug traffickers. This program need not (indeed, should not) be identical to the previous program. The program should, however, recognize that there are a number of people who make a lot of money in drugs; these people do not pay taxes on this money; and only by giving special attention to their identification for investigation and audit will these tax law violators be apprehended. The details of the program could be worked out by Secretary Simon and IRS Commissioner Alexander, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Administrator of DEA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jack Marsh, Bob Hartmann, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's office, OMB and I recommend that IRS be directed to re-establish a separate and identifiable tax enforcement program directed at high-level drug traffickers.

The Attorney General supports this recommendation.

DECISION

Direct re-establishment by IRS of tax enforcement program directed at high-level drug traffickers.

ME

Approve

_____ Disapprove

POSITION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

"The Department of Justice strongly objects to the proposal that a Strategic Council on Drug Abuse to be chaired by the Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs be re-established and given expanded responsibility for coordinating drug abuse programs. Law enforcement is, of course, a major aspect of the Federal government's drug abuse program. In our view it is inappropriate to place -- or appear to place -- any of the responsibility for law enforcement decisions involving the Department of Justice in the White House or anywhere other than in the Department under the authority of the Attorney General. There is a rather long and dismal history of past violations of this principle in prior administrations -- and I feel very strongly about this.

"While the proposal to revitalize the Strategic Council on Drug Abuse is contained in the White Paper, we believe it is inconsistent with its stated philosophy. The White Paper (particularly Chapter 5) notes the steady decrease in Executive Office involvement in the drug field and endorses the principle that responsibility should be vested in the appropriate Cabinet officers, who should, in turn, be held directly accountable for discharging their duties in this area. The present proposal is not compatible with this principle.

"If more formal coordination of the law enforcement aspect of the drug abuse problem is deemed desirable, the Department of Justice suggests that a Cabinet-level committee chaired by the Attorney General be established along the lines of the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control, with the explicit understanding that this is to be a forum for communicating on matters of mutual concern rather than a reallocation of existing authority or responsibility for making law enforcement decisions. As suggested by the White Paper, a similar group chaired by the Secretary of HEW could be established for the organizations involved in drug abuse prevention."

* * *

NOTE: I believe the Attorney General has misinterpreted the thrust of our recommendation to revitalize the Strategy Council. The Council would serve to give overall policy guidance to, and provide a mechanism to coordinate the activities of, the seven Cabinet departments and seventeen agencies involved in the Federal drug program; not to run the Federal drug program or any component thereof. Surely, the Office of the President should be involved in this.

JMC

B

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 Echeverria on narcotics cooperation

1. Following is text of letter from President Echeverria 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.

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E.O. 13526 (as amended) SEC 3.3

NSC Memo, 3/30/06, State Dept. Guidelines

By HL NARA, Date 8/27/12



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



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. 13526 (as amended) SEC 3.3
NSC Memo, 3/30/06, State Dept. Guidelines
By HR NARA, Date 8/27/12

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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 23, 1976

NOTE TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH

Mr. President, the attached decision memorandum on drug abuse raises an issue on the revitalization of the Strategy Council on Drug Abuse, which the Attorney General strongly objects to. The Attorney General's position is described fully in the paper.

The Attorney General has indicated he would personally like to discuss this issue with you before a decision is made. We have tentatively blocked some time at 2:45 p.m. Monday afternoon if you desire to meet with the Attorney General.

After you have reviewed the paper and made your tentative decisions, you may just want to telephone the Attorney General in lieu of the Monday afternoon meeting.