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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 30, 1988

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL DRUG POLICY BOARD
FOR 1988 ANTI-DRUG ABUSE LEGISLATION

FACT SHEET

President Reagan today received a series of wide-ranging recommendations from the National Drug Policy Board to reinforce the nation's crusade for a drug-free America.

The President stated his intention to approve next week an Administration package that will be presented to the Bipartisan Executive-Legislative Task Force. He proposed the Task Force in his May 18 address to the graduating class at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

The Task Force's mission, the President said, is "to develop a comprehensive legislative package to address every aspect of the drug problem. I urge the Task Force to begin its deliberations with an initial meeting soon after the Fourth of July weekend so that we can enact the necessary legislation quickly."

The President has designated four members of that Task Force: Treasury Secretary James Baker; Attorney General Edwin Meese III; new White House Chief of Staff Kenneth Duberstein; and National Security Advisor Colin Powell. Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole appointed Senators Alfonse D'Amato of New York and Pete Wilson of California. House Republican Leader Bob Michel appointed Congressmen Jerry Lewis of California, Mickey Edwards of Oklahoma, and Bill McCollum of Florida. Congressional Democrats have yet to appoint their members to the Task Force.

The Recommendations

- o The recommendations respond to the President's request of April 28 to the National Drug Policy Board for new ideas and initiatives. The major themes of the National Drug Policy Board's recommendations are user accountability and zero tolerance; tough law enforcement; and sanctions against drug users and traffickers. The Board's recommendations fit into the President's six goals for a drug-free America outlined in 1986:
 1. Drug-free workplaces for all Americans
 2. Drug-free schools, from elementary to university
 3. Expanded treatment for drug users
 4. Improved international cooperation to cut off the production and transportation of illegal drugs
 5. Strengthened drug law enforcement, using all of our available resources to stop drug traffickers
 6. Increased public awareness and prevention
- o The recommendations of the National Drug Policy Board would require companies receiving Federal funds to have drug-free workforce plans consistent with the goals and objectives of Executive Order 12564.
- o The recommendations call for greater accountability by drug users. Specific recommendations would make Federal student aid conditional upon a college's adopting an effective anti-drug program; withdraw Federal student aid from those convicted of drug offenses; and improve the accountability of treatment programs through drug testing and by requiring users who are able to do so to share the cost of treatment. One of the Board's recommendations focuses on treatment for pregnant women who use illegal drugs. Another recommendation deals with Federal probationers and parolees.

--MORE--

- o The National Drug Policy Board also recommended increased efforts in international eradication of illicit drug crops and economic development assistance for cooperating countries; increased appropriate use of U.S. military resources; identification on U.S. passports of convicted drug traffickers; and increased assistance to state and local law enforcement.
- o Other recommendations include expanding international public awareness of the threat of drug abuse and U.S. efforts to combat it; increasing resources targeted at high-risk youth; and providing better survey data on drug use.

The Unfinished Agenda: Strengthening Federal Law Enforcement

- o Among the National Drug Policy Board's recommendations are specific calls for Congress to enact tougher measures previously proposed by the President.
- o These include legislation to allow the use of the death penalty in certain Federal cases, including those in which defendants were convicted of murder while engaged in a continuing drug enterprise; and allowing "good faith" exceptions to the exclusionary rule so evidence seized during an arrest could be used in criminal cases. The President previously proposed controls on the manufacture and sale of chemicals used to produce illegal drugs.

The Drug Abuse Budget

- o The President's FY 1989 budget request calls for total drug-related spending of almost \$4 billion, a 13 percent increase over the FY 1988 Continuing Resolution passed by Congress. Federal spending for anti-drug programs is more than three times higher in FY 1988 than it was in FY 1981.
- o However, despite Congressional calls for increased Federal drug spending, the House has cut funding for key law enforcement components of the Department of Justice budget for FY 1989 by over \$900 million.
- o The Senate Appropriations Committee has cut the President's request for important Department of Justice drug enforcement activities by over \$500 million.
- o The National Drug Policy Board recommended that the President's budget request be fully funded before new programs or initiatives are funded.
- o In his May 18 speech at the Coast Guard Academy, the President reminded Congress to enact his request to restore the cuts to the Coast Guard's budget for this year. Congress cut \$72 million out of funding for the Coast Guard, which has curtailed the service's drug interdiction efforts.

Federal Funding for Drug Enforcement,
Prevention and Treatment
budget authority in millions of dollars,
with estimates for FY 1988 and FY 1989

| 1981 | 1988 | 1989 |
|---------|---------|---------|
| \$1,138 | \$3,464 | \$3,903 |

Proposed Drug Abuse Budget, FY 1989
budget authority in millions of dollars

| Enforcement | Prevention | Treatment | Total |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| \$2,858.5 | \$612.6 | \$431.5 | \$3,902.6 |

The FY 1989 Enforcement Budget
budget authority in millions of dollars

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Interdiction | \$1,094.6 |
| Investigations | 646.6 |
| International Efforts | 219.6 |
| Prosecution | 183.5 |
| Corrections | 601.6 |
| Intelligence | 47.0 |
| State and Local Assistance | 21.2 |
| Research and Development | 21.0 |
| Regulatory and Compliance | 23.5 |
| Subtotal, Enforcement | <u>2,858.5</u> |

Progress Toward a Drug-Free Society

- o Current use of cocaine among the nation's high school seniors dropped by one-third in 1987 -- from 6.2 percent in 1986 to 4.3 percent in 1987 -- the lowest level since 1978. Daily use of marijuana fell from one in nine high school seniors in 1979 to one in 30 in 1987.
- o In 1980, 27 percent of U.S. military personnel said they used illegal drugs. In 1988, illegal drug use fell to 6 percent, a dramatic 78 percent decline.
- o The Justice Department announced June 26 that 12,285 defendants were convicted on Federal drug charges in 1986. That is a 134 percent increase over 1980.
- o Seventy-seven percent of those convicted were sentenced to prison in 1986. That compares with a 71 percent incarceration rate in 1980.
- o Sentences are getting longer. The average sentence increased from 46 months in 1980 to 61 months in 1986, a 33 percent increase. The new Federal sentencing guidelines put in force by the U.S. Sentencing Commission will further increase the average time served for drug offenses.
- o Reagan Administration efforts are aimed at reducing the supply of illicit drugs while working to eliminate the demand for the deadly drugs that kill our children, wreck our communities and weaken our nation.

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