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TO
Dr. Carlton Turner (circled signature)

7 JAN 1983

- ACTION
- APPROVAL
- AS REQUESTED
- FOR COMMENT
- FOR INFORMATION
- INITIALS
- NOTE AND FILE
- NOTE AND RETURN
- PER PHONE CALL
- RECOMMENDATION
- REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF
- RETURNED
- SEE ME
- YOUR SIGNATURE

REMARKS
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FROM
Dr. W. A. Gertner (wmg)
Beltsville, Md.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 23, 1982

Dr. Walter Gentner
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dear ^{Walt} Dr. Gentner:

The Department's decision to support paraquat/marijuana eradication programs will be announced in the Federal Register on or about December 29. We will be referring to the attached materials when answering any media inquiries that might result from the paraquat decision announcement.

These press guidance materials are being provided to you for background information purposes. Should your agency receive press inquiries regarding the Department of State's decision, it is requested that you refer such inquiries to the Department's Office of Press Relations (632-9606). Please direct any questions you may have concerning this issue to Mr. Jon R. Thomas, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics Matters, telephone, 632-4880. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John A. McLaughlin
Senior Aviation Advisor
Bureau of International Narcotics Matters

Press Guidance

Questions and Answers regarding the Decision by the Department of State concerning eradication of marihuana through spraying of paraquat

1. Q. According to the Federal Register, the State Department has approved paraquat spraying from airplanes on cannabis [marihuana] crops in foreign countries. Can you confirm this decision?

A. The Department's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters has recently completed an Environmental Impact Statement on the use of paraquat to eradicate cannabis [marihuana] plants. Based on the findings of the EIS, a decision has been made that the U.S. Government will support Western Hemisphere countries in programs that involve the aerial application of paraquat on marihuana plants.

2. Q. Why has the Department conducted an EIS at this time on the use of paraquat?

A. In December, 1981, congress authorized Department support of herbicide eradication programs, including assistance to foreign governments involving aerial spraying. Since that time, we have been preparing an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]. The EIS was conducted to determine the health impacts in the United States from paraquat spraying of marijuana in foreign countries. This environmental review began with a public scoping session. Subsequently, public and other agency

comments were solicited on a draft Environmental Impact Statement. The recently completed statement enabled the Department to weigh the pros and cons of a prospective paraquat program. On December 21, the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics Matters, Mr. Dominick DiCarlo, determined that, based on a thorough review of the evidence, the Department could proceed in assisting foreign governments in the Western Hemisphere in spraying paraquat on marijuana.

3. Q. Didn't the Congress, out of concern over the paraquat health issue, prevent the Department from using paraquat?

A. At one point Congress passed legislation which prohibited the Department from assisting governments in programs involving paraquat use, but after reviewing the issues, Congress repealed the prohibition. By removing the prohibition, in December 1981, Congress permitted the Department to support programs which would involve the aerial application of paraquat on marijuana.

4. Q. What has changed -- why is it now possible to use paraquat?

A. Paraquat was considered along with several other chemicals and selected on the basis of environmental considerations and effectiveness. It should be remembered that paraquat is one of the most widely used weed control agents in the world -- about four million pounds are sprayed over nearly 11 million acres in

the United States each year. Paraquat, which has been on the market for more than twenty years, is used routinely in spraying crops such as potatoes, cotton, soybeans, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, and the like.

The previous legislation resulted from an early paper on paraquat that was issued by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The HEW report was based on preliminary testing data which theoretically indicated a possibility for lung damage. It was hypothesized that a heavy drug user who repeatedly smoked paraquat-treated marijuana cigarettes could experience some lung problems. Subsequently, more thorough and comprehensive tests were conducted and, as a result, concern over the paraquat issue has diminished.

5. Q. What about reported cases of injury and even death from paraquat use? For example, recently, a Florida man was spraying his garden with paraquat when the hose broke and sprayed him full in the face. In spite of lung transplants, he died. How can the Department apply a hazardous chemical to something which may be available to the general public.

A. Though we cannot address the specifics of individual cases, it should be noted that most chemicals can be hazardous if misused. However, there is a great distinction between the amounts of paraquat which might be found in a more industrial type usage and traces which might be found on marijuana. Any U.S. supported paraquat program would involve trained professionals such as pilots, mechanics, or herbicide handlers

whose safety would be assured through use of standardized procedures and by following EPA guidelines.

It should be noted that in 1978 the Center for Disease Control found that only 3.6 percent of confiscated marijuana had traces of paraquat. The most recent tests show that about 99.8 percent of that paraquat is burned up during the smoking process. Further, CDC followed reported cases and was unable to confirm a single case of lung damage due to paraquat. The Department of Health and Human Services, successor to HEW, has reviewed the matter from a public health standpoint and strongly supports the paraquat marijuana spraying program.

6. Q. What was the basis of the Department's decision to provide support for paraquat spraying programs?

A. The Department concluded that the overall benefits of using paraquat would significantly outweigh the potential problems of the herbicide. The possible risk of paraquat lung damage to a drug user is virtually non-existent. On the other hand, the overall public health benefit of a marijuana reduction program is very great. We estimate that marijuana supplies from foreign countries may be permanently reduced by as much as 60-70 percent if herbicide eradication is conducted. This represents an aggregate public health benefit in itself. Further, as with any commodity, reduced supplies results in higher prices. This would be particularly important

with regard to school age children who would be less likely to afford a drug price increase. Additionally, reductions in crime and law enforcement efforts to control marihuana trafficking should also result from a paraquat program.

7 Q. Which countries will be selected for spraying programs?

A. The EIS identifies all of the Western Hemisphere marihuana producing countries as prospective participants. The Department will pursue negotiations with each of the several countries which export marihuana to the United States.

8. Q. What about Colombia?

A. Colombia has been identified in the EIS as the single most important marihuana exporting country in the Western Hemisphere. Although the EIS identifies all of the Western Hemisphere marihuana producing countries, our deliberations with Colombia will occupy a high priority.

9. Q. What is the cost to the U.S. of this kind of spray operation?

A. Theoretically, a major program could cost up to \$19 million. Such a program of support would provide a Western Hemisphere country with all the material and training required to eradicate about 75,000 marihuana acres. It is emphasized, however, that the \$19 million figure is a maximum one based on

the U.S. providing all support. It is likely that the funding requirement would be considerably less if the host government would be able to contribute some of its existing resources to the eradication project.

10. Q. Isn't it a fact that even if the Department is successful in any one country, production will simply shift to another country? Isn't the U.S. fighting a losing battle?

A. Quite the contrary, the proposed program will significantly reduce the amount of marihuana entering the United States.

After the Government of Mexico initiated a paraquat program, marihuana imports from that country dropped from 40 percent of the U.S. supply to about 10 percent -- where it remains today. At the time production shifted from Mexico to other countries and the United States was unable to follow up because of the Congressional prohibition. Under the 1981 legislation, the Department can now address the problem on a Hemispheric basis and anticipates a permanent reduction of as much as 70 percent of imported marihuana. Imported marihuana accounts for about 90 percent of the U.S. marihuana supply.

11. Q. What about the environmental impact of a spraying program on foreign countries?

A. These environmental concerns will be addressed on country by country basis. Executive Order 12114 requires the preparation of a Concise Environmental Review for each country where the Department might support a paraquat spraying

program. When required, a CER would be prepared early on during the initial programming phases for a proposed spraying assistance project. We do not anticipate any environment problems. Paraquat is a weed control herbicide which has been used world-wide for more than twenty years.

12. Q. What about paraquat spraying in the U.S. -- how can the United State ask foreign governments to do something which we are not doing at home?

A. In fact, paraquat has been sprayed on marijuana in the United States. Georgia has used paraquat to eradicate marihuana, and late last summer Florida initiated a similar program in Broward county. Further, several other states may begin such programs during next summer's growing season.

It should be remembered, however, that significant differences exist between marihuana growing in the U.S. and foreign Western Hemisphere nations. Relatively small amounts are grown in the United States. Additionally, nearly all of the marihuana grown in the U.S. is in small plots, easily accessable by road and is vulnerable to traditional law enforcement effort. On the other hand, very large amounts of cannabis are grown in foreign countries in plots, which by size and isolation in remote, rugged areas, make aerial eradication the preferred efficient method of controlling the illegal crop. As substantiated by Mexico's marihuana and heroin control programs, aerial spraying presents the most practical solution to the problem.

13. Q. Did Presidents Reagan and Betancur discuss the narcotics question?

Q. Yes.

14. Q. Was there any agreement on marihuana eradication?

A. Narcotics control was discussed, but as is customary, the content of the discussions between Heads of States is privileged.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BILLING CODE

BUREAU FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS

AGENCY: Department of State

ACTION: Notice of a Record of Decision regarding the Department of State's action on the proposal to support efforts of foreign Western Hemisphere nations to eradicate cannabis by aerially applying the herbicide paraquat. The environmental consequences in the U.S. of the proposed action and the reasonable alternatives to the proposal were evaluated in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. §4332. The FEIS was filed with EPA on November 5, 1982. This Record of Decision is being issued pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA of 1978 (40 CFR §1505.2) and Implementing Regulations of the Department of State (22 CFR §161.(h)).

DECISION

The Department of State has decided to support the efforts of foreign Western Hemisphere nations to eradicate cannabis by aerially applying the herbicide paraquat. In implementing this decision, the Department now intends to engage in formal discussions with cannabis-producing Western Hemisphere nations.

BASIS FOR DECISION

The United States is party to the 1961 Single Convention

on Narcotic Drugs and is therefore obligated to limit production, manufacture, export, import, distribution of, trade in, use and possession of drugs including marijuana to medical research and scientific purposes. Section 481 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, states that "effective international cooperation is necessary to put an end to the illicit production, smuggling, trafficking in, and abuse of dangerous drugs" and authorizes the Department, on behalf of the President, to conclude agreements and develop international programs aimed at reducing the flow of foreign-origin illegal drugs into the U.S. Toward this end, the Department has negotiated numerous previous agreements for drug control with Western Hemisphere nations.

From 1978 to December 1981, the U.S. Government was, however, effectively precluded by domestic legislation from assisting any foreign government in a marijuana herbicidal eradication program using paraquat. The legislation was a result, in part, of health concerns regarding paraquat use on marijuana as expressed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), based on preliminary data. However, during that period the Government of Mexico engaged on its own in an eradication campaign against cannabis, using paraquat. The program was highly effective and that government states it has resulted in no significant environmental or health impacts.

A decline in marijuana availability in Mexico led, however, to an increase in production in other countries.

Based on the preceding, and since subsequent tests and studies were completed which diminished concern about marijuana with paraquat residues as a potential health hazard, the Congress removed the herbicide restrictions from the Foreign Assistance Act in December 1981. It also stipulated that the Department notify the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of programs involving herbicide use for cannabis control and that HHS monitor the public health for possible adverse effects from any herbicide application, and required that work continue to identify a marking agent to be used in such herbicidal eradication programs.

Because in our view a U.S.-supported, large-scale aerial herbicidal eradication program represents a "major federal action" within the meaning of NEPA, the Department prepared a programmatic EIS. This EIS addressed the various alternatives available to the U.S. which could be utilized in a cannabis control program; namely,

no action

alternative eradication techniques

use of alternative herbicides

the use of a marking agent in conjunction with a herbicide, when available

increased enforcement efforts -
different land use programs
legalization
aerial application of paraquat, the proposed
action

As the flourishing marijuana supply indicates, the no action alternative will not reduce the marijuana supply. While current interdiction levels could be increased, the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory concluded that illicit narcotics can only be effectively controlled in the source country at the stage of production. As noted in the EIS, legalization is not an option available to the Department. Congress, in its passage of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and the U.S. Government in its ratification of the Single Convention, expressed the intent that the U.S. Government engage in international cooperation to control dangerous drugs including marijuana. Considering the health hazards associated with smoking marijuana as identified in the EIS, a significant reduction in the U.S. marijuana supply should also result in beneficial health impacts as well as a significant reduction of marijuana associated criminal activity and law enforcement costs.

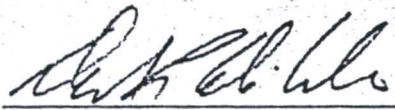
Based on the information contained in the EIS, the use of the herbicide paraquat for cannabis eradication is the most effective alternative swiftly to eliminate marijuana production destined for the U.S. The following herbicides were compared

for effectiveness and toxicity: 2,4-D, 2,4,5,-T, diquat, glyphosate, and paraquat. Based on this comparison paraquat is the most effective means of eradication. While its potential toxicity to personnel handling the herbicide is higher, the proposed monitoring program should adequately mitigate any adverse health impacts. Furthermore, available evidence indicates that it is not likely that significant adverse health effects would result from consuming marijuana with paraquat residues.

Other alternatives addressed by the EIS would not be cost-effective or successful for a program of this magnitude over the long-term. In order to mitigate any adverse impact, any spray operations are to be in accordance with generally accepted professional standards and appropriate training will be provided to the cooperating nation which, in turn, will be able to establish monitoring programs. This should minimize possible contamination of food crops. In addition, the Secretary of HHS, as authorized by the 1981 amendments to the Foreign Assistance Act, will monitor the impact on the health of persons who may consume marijuana with herbicide residues. The Government will continue to explore the feasibility of using in the program a marker, which would alert marijuana users to the presence of herbicides.

Based on the findings of the EIS, the decision was therefore made to support the efforts of foreign Western Hemisphere nations to eradicate cannabis by aerially applying the herbicide paraquat.

Dec. 21, 1982
Date


Dominick DiCarlo
Assistant Secretary
for International
Narcotics Matters



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

National
Program
Staff

Beltsville, Maryland
20705

March 26, 1982

Dr. Carlton Turner
Office of Policy Development
Room 220, Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500


65-5-4000

Dear Carlton:

During our meeting in your office on March 23, we discussed the Crop Substitution Program in Pakistan. I told you that we are using Special Foreign Currency (PL 480, Pakistan rupees) to fund the projects we have underway there. I also reported that our Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD), that administers the PL 480 program in USDA, questions whether using these funds to support narcotic crop substitution programs meets the "mutual benefits" requirement of the law. For FY '82 there are no PL 480 funds in Pakistan for new projects.

OICD reports to Under Secretary Seeley Lodwick. I'm sure that he would appreciate the opportunity of discussing mutual interests in PL 480 funds for work in Pakistan.

Sincerely,


QUENTIN JONES
Assistant to Deputy Administrator
for Germplasm

447-3111

① See get meeting with the man!!

② P.A. letter include for meeting

5/10 5:45 pm Secy web to Schedule... Lodwick will be out of country next wk

5/14

(Ester is Secij)

Sec. Lodwick will be out of the
Country... maybe next week. WCB

sol.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 23, 1983

Dear Walt:

I appreciate all the support and assistance you have provided, especially the last few months.

Enclosed is a picture I think you might like. Please keep up the good work!

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carlton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carlton E. Turner, Ph.D.
Special Assistant to the President
for Drug Abuse Policy

Dr. W.A. Gentner
Department of Agriculture
BARC-West
Bldg. 050-Range 4, HH-2
Beltsville, MD 20705

27 OCT 1983

NEWS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Information

USDA News Division
Room 404-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Narlock (202) 475-3778
Napier (202) 447-9523

Carlton - Thought you might be interested.

*End
file
47*

INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS GATHER FOR TRAINING

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20--A three-week training session in wildland fire management, conducted entirely in Spanish, has attracted 60 participants from 20 countries, R. Max Peterson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, said today.

The course will be held Oct. 23 to Nov. 10 at the Forest Service's National Advanced Resource Technology Center in Marana, Ariz. It is the first course at Marana specially designed for Spanish-speaking fire personnel and the first time training was intended specifically for international participants.

The training is being provided in cooperation with the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Agency for International Development. That agency is providing funds for most of the foreign participants to attend. Instructors are personnel of the Forest Service, National Park Service, and National Weather Service. Also teaching will be three Chilean fire fighting specialists.

Peterson said the session was created because these participating countries wanted to do a better job of resource management to protect human life, property and the increasingly valuable natural resources in these areas.

Course subjects will include fire behavior, principles of suppression and organization, fireline equipment and application, air operations, and prescribed fire planning and fuels management. Attendees also will participate in field demonstrations and exercises.

Among the countries participating are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1984

Dear Dan:

I enjoyed visiting with you. It is great to have the General Counsel concerned about and willing to help in our efforts to eradicate cannabis.

The Forest Service has been very helpful and we, with both your support and that of the Forest Service, look forward to removing cannabis from government owned land in 1984.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



Carlton E. Turner, Ph.D.
Special Assistant to the President
for Drug Abuse Policy

Mr. Daniel Oliver
General Counsel
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th and Constitution Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250