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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

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THE CRUSADE FOR A DRUG-FREE NATION

FACT SHEET

"We can be proud our students are just saying 'no' to drugs. But let's remember that ending this menace requires commitment from every part of America and every single American -- a commitment to a drug-free America."

--- President Reagan
State of the Union Address
January 25, 1988

The Nation's drug problem reflects the consequences of 25 years of neglect dating back to the days when illicit drug use was called a harmless, victimless crime. As Governor of California, Ronald Reagan spoke out against the drug culture. In his first White House press conference, the President said, "... the answer to the drug problem comes through winning over the users to the point that we take the customers away from the drugs. . . ."

Since 1981, President Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan have led an unprecedented assault against illegal drugs that have been killing our children, wrecking our workforce and weakening our Nation. The President has committed the federal government to help stop drug use. Mrs. Reagan has declared there is no middle ground on this issue: Any use of illicit drugs is unacceptable. Real progress toward the goal of a drug-free America will be best achieved by preventing individuals who do not use drugs from beginning, and by convincing those who do use to stop.

Increasing numbers of America's young people are saying "no" to all types of illicit drugs. The Department of Health and Human Services has reported that current use of cocaine among high school seniors dropped by nearly one-third in 1987. And only one in 30 seniors used marijuana on a daily basis in 1987, the lowest level since surveying began.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S COMMITMENT TO A DRUG-FREE AMERICA

The Drug Abuse Budget

- o Because of the President's commitment, Federal spending for drug enforcement and abuse programs is more than three times higher in FY 1988 than it was in FY 1981. In FY 1989, we will request about \$400 million more than Congress appropriated in FY 1988, a 12 percent increase in just one year.

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

1981	1988	1989
\$1,186	\$3,482	\$3,891

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- o Included in the budget are funds for the enforcement of drug laws through interdiction and seizure; investigation and prosecution; research; treatment for drug abusers; drug-abuse prevention; drug screening for the Armed Forces; eradication of illegal drug crops at home and abroad; prison construction; and other activities that assist in meeting the President's goal of a drug-free America.
- o Each year from FY 1982 to FY 1986, between \$212 million and \$250 million in block grants to pay for treatment for drug and alcohol abuse was distributed to State and local governments. In FY 1987, as a result of the President's initiative, \$163 million was added to these dollars.
- o State and local governments and the private sector are playing a critical role in preventing and treating drug abuse.

Recent Administration Initiatives

- o In August 1986, the President redoubled efforts against drug abuse with six specific goals for a drug-free America.
 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 additional resources to stop drug traffickers.
 6. Increased public awareness and prevention -- the key to preventing drug abuse.
- o A Drug-Free Federal Workplace -- In September 1986, President Reagan signed Executive Order 12564 significantly strengthening the policy against illegal drug use by Federal employees. The Executive Order requires Federal agencies to establish programs to educate their employees on the dangers of drug use, to identify drug users, and to provide treatment and counseling. It also provides, where appropriate, for drug testing of Federal workers, particularly those in positions involving public safety and national security. Scientific and technical guidelines for drug testing were issued by the Department of Health and Human Services in February 1987. Case law supports drug testing. And the Supreme Court has twice refused to disturb decisions upholding mandatory testing programs.
- o The Anti-Drug Abuse Act was signed into law in October 1986. Virtually every new or enhanced program was in place, and awards made to those eligible, by the end of fiscal year 1987. Block grant funds for treatment services are available for distribution to the States and the funding is in place to initiate new or expanded drug and alcohol services. The Department of Health and Human Services established the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention to carry out the prevention activities of the Act.
- o The National Drug Policy Board was created in March 1987. The President gave the Board oversight and coordination responsibilities for all Federal drug abuse health and enforcement functions. The Board has adopted five strategies to reduce the supply of illegal drugs: enhanced international cooperation; stepped-up interdiction of drugs entering the U.S.; improved intelligence on drug activities; stepped-up investigations to eliminate drug trafficking organizations; and targeting prosecution of top drug organizations. The Board has developed four strategies to reduce demand for illicit drugs: prevention education; reduction of drug use by high-risk youths; improved treatment for addicts; and fostering attitudes of intolerance to drug use by adults.
- o White House Conference for a Drug-Free America was established by the President on May 5, 1987. Its mandate is to review and assess all aspects of the drug crisis and report to the President and to Congress. To meet its goals, the Conference has held six regional forums. A national assembly will be held in Washington from February 28 to March 3 to discuss the findings of the regional conferences. Effective programs to create a drug-free America will be highlighted.

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- o United Nations International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held in Vienna in June 1987. Attorney General Meese represented the President in the first U.N. conference on drug abuse. By unanimous consent, all 138 nations agreed to "commit ourselves to vigorous international actions against drug abuse and illicit trafficking as an important goal of our policies."

The First Lady

- o In his address, President Reagan singled out First Lady Nancy Reagan as one of the "heroes" who "has helped so many of our young people to say 'no' to drugs." The President said: "Nancy, much credit belongs to you and I want to express to you your husband's pride and your country's thanks."
- o The First Lady is a national and international leader in the crusade against illicit drug use. She has traveled over 170,000 miles to 62 cities in 31 States and 8 foreign countries in her campaign to encourage young people and their parents at home and abroad to "Just Say No" to drugs. The First Lady has been instrumental in the establishment of thousands of parent and youth groups.
- o In 1985, Mrs. Reagan hosted two international conferences on drug abuse, one at the United Nations and the other jointly held in Washington and Atlanta.

The Vice President

- o In January 1982, Vice President Bush, at the request of President Reagan, established the South Florida Task Force in coordinating the law enforcement offensive against drug traffickers. This landmark approach significantly strengthened our ability to interdict the flow of drugs.
- o In March 1983, the President asked the Vice President to lead the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS), a nationwide extension of the South Florida Task Force, to improve interagency coordination and cooperation. NNBIS increased the role of the military and of intelligence agencies and promoted international anti-drug efforts. NNBIS has won unprecedented cooperation from Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies. The military loaned equipment worth \$400 million to the effort and operated sophisticated surveillance aircraft and Navy ships in support of law enforcement efforts.

Enforcing Drug Laws

- o Thousands of pounds of heroin, hundreds of thousands of doses of illicit dangerous drugs, hundreds of thousands of pounds of hashish and tens of millions of pounds of marijuana have been confiscated under this Administration. The value of drug-related assets seized by the Drug Enforcement Administration in 1987 increased 25 percent over the 1986 level to \$501 million. Seizures of clandestine laboratories in 1987 were up 34 percent to 682 laboratories.
- o Seizures of cocaine by Government agencies have consistently and substantially increased since 1981. In FY 1987, a record estimated 92,000 pounds of cocaine were seized at U.S. borders.

Punishing Drug Traffickers

- o President Reagan believes the first duty of a civilized society is to protect itself from those who prey upon the innocent.
- o The number of Federal drug investigators increased from 3,151 in 1981 to an estimated 6,230 in 1988.

- o FBI drug convictions reached record levels in 1986, and DEA arrests and convictions are the highest ever.
- o Between 1979 and 1987, average sentence length for persons convicted of drug law violations increased by 44 percent, from 51 months to 73 months.

Average Federal* Prison Sentences
For Violations
Of Drug Prevention and Control Laws
(in months)

Year	Sentence
1979	50.8
1980	54.5
1981	55.5
1982	61.4
1983	63.8
1984	65.7
1985	64.8
1986	70.0
1987	73.0

PROGRESS TOWARD A DRUG-FREE SOCIETY

The Nation has launched an aggressive attack on drug pushers by expanding Federal drug law enforcement to its highest level and persuading young people that drug use is a deadly diversion that will not be tolerated. Substantial gains have been made toward a drug-free military, drug-free schools and drug-free public housing. Through a wide-ranging anti-drug program, the Transportation Department is ensuring safe transit of people and their goods. And, as the Nation's largest employer, the Federal Government is setting the standard for promoting a drug-free workplace.

- o Drug use in the military has dropped by 67 percent since 1981.
- o In 1981, one country and two States were eradicating narcotics plants. Today, 20 countries and 46 states are doing so.
- o The Department of Education published Schools Without Drugs to mobilize school, parent, and community efforts against drug use.
 - 1.8 million copies have been distributed to educators, parents and drug enforcement agencies.
 - The Department of Education has a new program for schools, The Challenge Campaign, to encourage schools to adopt the initiatives outlined in Schools Without Drugs.
- o The Department of Housing and Urban Development has taken the lead in a cooperative national effort to achieve drug-free public housing. A national conference was held in Atlanta and a series of regional conferences were held for over 2,100 public housing residents, administrators, law enforcement officials and drug treatment officials to explore ways to achieve drug-free public housing.
- o The Department of Health and Human Services has developed models for identifying drug use in the workplace and appropriate employee assistance and treatment programs.

The Decline in Illicit Drug Use

The evidence is clear: The crusade for a drug-free Nation is succeeding. The President's program is changing behavior. Drug use, and the acceptance of drug use, are declining. A recently released HHS survey confirms the positive effect the President's programs are having on high school drug use.

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- o Cocaine: Current use of cocaine among 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. And the number of students reporting they used cocaine at least once in the past year fell by nearly one-fifth, from 12.7 percent in 1986 to 10.3 percent in 1987.

Last year, nearly half the seniors (48 percent) saw "great risk" in trying cocaine. In 1986, only one-third (34 percent) saw such risk. Fully 97 percent of seniors disapprove of regular use of cocaine, and 87 percent disapprove of even trying the drug.

- o Marijuana: One in 30 seniors used marijuana on a daily basis in 1987, compared to one in nine in 1978. This is the lowest level of use since the University of Michigan began its survey of drug use in 1975.
- o Today's seniors finally realize that using illicit drugs is not just dumb, it is deadly. The President's approach -- described in his first Presidential press conference -- of taking "the customers away from the drugs" is succeeding.

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