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at the United Nations, 10/21/1985
(2 of 2)

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. THE TEXT OF MRS. REAGAN'S LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR:

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MAY BE ACCOMPANYING YOUR SPOUSE TO NEW YORK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. SINCE THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THIS GATHERING, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AN IDEAL TIME TO HOST ANOTHER MEETING AMONG FIRST LADIES TO DISCUSS THE WORLD WIDE DRUG EPIDEMIC.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS I HAVE CONCENTRATED MY EFFORTS ON BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ADOLESCENT DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE. I HAVE VISITED WITH PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD TO TRY TO LEARN ALL I CAN ABOUT THIS TERRIBLE PROBLEM. I HAVE SEEN THINGS THAT WOULD MAKE THE STRONGEST HEARTS BREAK. BUT I HAVE ALSO SEEN PROGRESS IN THE BATTLE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, AND THIS PROGRESS GIVES ME HOPE.

IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, SEVENTEEN FIRST LADIES JOINED ME IN WASHINGTON FOR A TWO DAY CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS AND LEARN ABOUT THE NATURE OF THIS THREATENING SITUATION AFFECTING ALL OF US.

THE OUTCOME OF THAT CONFERENCE WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT I FEEL WE SHOULD CONTINUE WITH THIS INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. IT SEEMS ONLY NATURAL THAT WE DO THIS DURING AN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING SUCH AS THE CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. SINCE YOU MAY BE ATTENDING, I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME ON OCTOBER 21, 1985 AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOR A MEETING AND A LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW.

TOGETHER WE AS MOTHERS CAN HELP SAVE A GENERATION OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND. SINCERELY, NANCY REAGAN. 44

DECLASSIFIED
Sec. 3.4(h), E.O. 12958, as amended
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2008
BY NARA RW, DATE 6/30/11

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INTERIM RESPONSES

EUROPE

BELGIUM

Invitation extended to Mrs. Martens who is out of the country

FRANCE

Still unclear if Fabius or Mitterand attending

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Embassy working out invitation to Kohl or Von Weizsaecker

IRELAND

Invitation extended to Mrs. Fitzgerald

ITALY

PM Craxi still deciding if to attend UNGA

LUXEMBOURG

Expect response shortly--vacation

NORWAY

Mrs. Willoch will probably not accompany PM Willoch

ROMANIA

Invitation extended

USSR

Invitation extended to Mrs. Gromyko

NEAR EAST ASIA

INDIA

Mrs. Ghandi may accompany PM Ghandi

CA

CHAD

President Habre undecided about attendance at UNGA

COMOROS

Invitation has been extended

LIBERIA

Mrs. Doe may attend; Presidential elections may conflict

MOROCCO

Invitation has been extended

NIGERIA

Invitation has been extended

ZAMBIA

Mrs. Kaunda's travel plans are still in the works

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA

President Alfonsin undecided about UNGA

BELIZE

Mrs. Esquivel was in Great Britain

PANAMA

Invitation was extended

EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

PM Hawke still deciding whether to attend UNGA

JAPAN

Mrs. Nakasone looking at her schedule to see if she can attend

MALAYSIA

Strong possibility that Siti Hasmah will come

SAMOA

Prime Minister Tofilau Eti's wife has been invited

SOUTH KOREA

S.K. Embassy has picked up info--looks likely

POSSIBLES (STILL WAITING FOR RESPONSE)

Austria
Barbados
Brazil
Brunei
Burkina Fasso
Central African Republic
Cambodia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Eq. Guinea
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Jordan
Lesotho
Madagascar
Morocco
Netherlands
Peru
Philippines
St. Christopher and Nevis
St. Lucia
~~St. Vincent~~
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Spain
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweeden
Tunisia
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
Vanautau
Venezuela
Yemen
Zaire

REGRETS MRS. REAGAN'S INVITATION

Bahamas
Botswana
Canada
Chile
China
Denmark
Israel
Jamaica
Maldives
Malta
Mexico
Poland
Seychelles
Tanzania
Uruguay
Yugoslavia
Zimbabwe
Mozambique
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea

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NOT YET INVITED (have not responded to UNGA/ 40th anniversary yet)

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Antigua/ Barbuda
Bahrain
Benin
Bhutan
Bulgaria
Burma
Burundi
Byelorussia
Cameroon
Colombia
Congo
Czechoslovakia
Dem. Yemen
Djibouti
Ecuador
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Germ. Democratic Republic
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Kuwait
Laos
Lebanon
Libya
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mongolia
Nepal
Niger
Oman
Paraguay
Portugal

Qatar
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Syria
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
Vietnam

PRESS GUIDANCE

PROPOSED UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DRUG AWARENESS

Mrs. Reagan, based on the success of her First Ladies Conference on Drug Awareness, held in April, will host a meeting and luncheon for First Ladies who accompany their husbands to the celebrations surrounding the 40th anniversary of the United Nations this fall in New York. Invitations for the October 21 meeting are in the process of being extended to over seventy wives, and the meeting and luncheon are being hosted by Mrs. Reagan as part of the U.N. spouses program. The meeting will be a non-policy, mother-to-mother discussion on prevention and education issues, and is intended as a follow-up to the April First Ladies Conference attended by the First Ladies of seventeen nations. The Secretary General of the United Nations, and his wife, Mrs. Perez de Cuellar, have expressed support for this program. The meeting will be conducted in the U.N. languages. In her letter of invitation, Mrs. Reagan stated that "The outcome of (the April meeting) was so successful that I feel we should continue with this international effort. It seems only natural that we do this during an international gathering such as the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the United Nations."

Q: Has an invitation to this meeting been extended to all First Ladies--even those from countries the U.S. has accused of facilitating trafficking such as Nicaragua?

A: --NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE ARE GLOBAL ISSUES WITH GLOBAL RAMIFICATIONS. NO ONE COUNTRY IS IMMUNE FROM DRUG ABUSE, AND IN THE SPIRIT OF UNIVERSALITY, MRS. REAGAN HAS INVITED ALL SPOUSES OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WHO WILL ATTEND THE UNGA MEETINGS IN OCTOBER.

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Q: What does Mrs. Reagan hope to accomplish by hosting this meeting?

A: MRS. REAGAN WANTS TO CONTINUE RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE IN AN INTERNATIONAL SETTING. THE FIRST LADIES CONFERENCE ON DRUG AWARENESS HELD IN APRIL HAD MANY POSITIVE RESULTS INCLUDING INCREASED AWARENESS IN THE PARTICIPANTS' COUNTRIES, WORLD ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEM OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE, AND THE INCREASED COMMITMENT BY THE FIRST LADIES TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND PREVENTION IN THEIR NATIONS.

DRUG ABUSE: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Estimates have been assembled of the extent of drug abuse among the young in countries participating in this meeting. The data supports the contention that drug abuse is widespread and that the young of the world are at risk. This meeting and others like it are important to convey to the world and especially to parents that they have the power to act and to protect their hearths and homes.

Summary of Regional Patterns of Adolescent Drug Abuse

The Americas

Latin America

Latin America had escaped until recently the ravages of a drug abuse epidemic among its adolescents. Now, with the soaring and unchecked production and processing of the coca plant, drug abuse in the region has become a fact of life. While good data on the extent of drug abuse are not available, reports come from many different sources: priests, psychiatrists, and others who work with youth and their families say that the problem is growing.

The coca leaf is processed first into a substance called coca paste (cocaine sulfate) and then into cocaine (cocaine hydrochloride) which is the form in which it is usually exported. Young people in South America have discovered that by mixing the coca paste with either marijuana or tobacco, the combination (called "basuco" in Colombia and "pitillo" in Peru) can be smoked as a potent intoxicant. Unfortunately, they are ignorant of the fact that smoked coca paste is likely to be a much more potent and addictive drug than is inhaled cocaine, because it is rapidly absorbed by the lungs and reaches the brain about as fast as if it had been injected.

One consequence of this "rapid delivery" method of use is the creation of a group of heavy users whose chronic, compulsive addiction baffles treatment efforts and even leads to some radical and unsuccessful actions such as brain operations.

Cocaine and/or coca paste use has been identified in Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela, and Brazil. There is no reason to believe that it will be limited either to those countries or to current levels. Brazil, in which coca production has been identified, can expect leakage of coca

paste into its cities. Mexico--which is used by cocaine traffickers as a transit country, in addition to being a producer of marijuana and heroin--stands to experience a growing problem if coca product leakage occurs. Realistically, the region as a whole should consider itself at risk. Even the United States is not invulnerable; recently, coca paste abuse was reported in both New York City and Miami.

Private sector organizations have taken initial steps to cope with the problem. Parents are concerned, but frequently lack adequate information about the nature and extent of the problem. The economic recession in Latin America has limited the availability of private sector resources.

The Caribbean

The Caribbean has long been familiar with ganja (marijuana) production and use, but has recently discovered that cocaine, originally limited to affluent tourists, is now threatening local populations. Even ganja production is becoming a threat because ganja growers are rumored to be paid off in cocaine which is then sold domestically.

As trafficking continues through the region, greater cocaine availability can be expected and small countries may find themselves vulnerable to a concomittant of the trade: efforts by traffickers to "purchase" protection from officials.

Asia

Southeast Asia

This region has experienced severe heroin addiction epidemics as a consequence of opium production/heroin processing in the Golden Triangle region, formed by Burma, Thailand, and Laos. In addition to the Golden Triangle countries themselves, non-opium producer countries are also victims: Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore, and even distant Australia. The ready availability of heroin makes control of addiction difficult until overall production in the region can be significantly reduced.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGO) are well-established in Southeast Asia and hold an annual meeting in the region. They provide a means for regional discussion of the drug problem, and for linkage between government and private sector organizations. The NGO group includes PEMADAM from Malaysia, the Society for Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts of Hong Kong, the Anti-Narcotic Volunteer Association of the Thai Council of Social Welfare, and the Singapore Anti-Narcotic

Association. The chairmanship and venue of the group rotates annually. Cooperation with the NGO group is an option which could be explored during this meeting.

Southwest Asia

Cultural acceptance of opium use has made difficult the mobilization of governmental and societal condemnation of opiate use when heroin was introduced into the region. As a result heroin addiction is established and spreading in the region with particularly significant recent increases in Pakistan. As in Southeast Asia, prevention of addiction among the young is difficult in the face of the abundance of heroin in the region.

The private sector movement does not exist as a regional phenomenon, although an incipient movement is developing in Pakistan. It is possible that, given the strength of the Islamic religion, effective private sector support on a regional basis may require a religious dimension.

Europe

Heroin addiction is a well-established and recognized problem in the region, with the British Isles, including Ireland, undergoing a current increase in addiction among inner-city youth.

What preoccupies many European governments and societies, which were caught unaware by the heroin epidemics of the 60s and 70s, is the possibility of an impending cocaine epidemic. Governments generally acknowledge that unless production in South America is reduced, Europe will increasingly be a target for traffickers.

Although parent groups exist, they do not appear to coordinate with one another across Europe and miss the opportunity to pool resources and ideas. Encouraging intra-European parent group cooperation during this meeting could be useful. The Catholic Church is very active in the drug abuse field in Italy.

Africa

Like South America, Africa has generally been spared serious levels of drug abuse among the young. Now, however, recent events increase the risk to the region. Methaqualone, a drug

which was seriously abused in the United States at one time, is smuggled (under the trade name "Mandrax"), through several African countries into Southern Africa. Heroin is smuggled from Pakistan and South West Asia through Nigeria to Europe and the United States. Leakage from trafficking routes could lead to local addiction.

Implications of Worldwide Drug Abuse

Drug abuse is widespread throughout the world. Contributing to this spread of drug abuse has been a) the entrenchment of sophisticated, criminal enterprises which produce illicit drugs in locations where governments cannot readily exercise political and physical control; b) the extensive involvement of organized crime in the traffic of illicit drugs; c) the adoption of abuse of drugs as a faddish "statement" by young persons; d) ignorance of the dependency-producing effects of drugs by society-at-large and by the user; and e) lack of information in leading sectors of the world's societies which inhibit early preventive actions.

Countries have erred not to recognize drug abuse as a disease which had the capacity not only to affect individuals but also to spread rapidly through large segments of the youth within a relatively short time, and which once rooted in a society would be difficult to extirpate.

Countries have also erred not to understand the nature of drug abuse as a social problem requiring a societal solution. Instead, parents and communities assumed that the treatment and prevention of drug abuse was not a task for them because they lacked the expertise, and should instead be left to others such as the government and the professionals.

This failure in perception still continues to plague us. When drug abuse enters a society it invariably affects only a small number at first, and therefore too often is ignored. Furthermore, with good intentions, parents and communities continue to expect the government and experts to solve the problem.

Drug abuse in a society is not controllable by government action alone. In any of the countries where drug abuse has been substantially checked, success has been the result of close cooperation of government and society.

Families are the community, the society. They are the front line of society's defense against drug abuse. Working in unison, families and private organizations are a vast resource pool. What is required is that they be educated about the problem and, once educated, encouraged to join in the fight to save this and future generations.

International Narcotics Situation and the U.S. Role

The U.S. international narcotics control program includes specific objectives for each of the three major production regions: Latin America, Southeast Asia and Southwest Asia. The U.S. provides bilateral assistance to producer and transit countries in all three regions, including assistance for crop eradication and development programs, interdiction and law enforcement support, and the sharing of information on drug abuse prevention, treatment and research. The program also includes controls to stop diversion of illicit drugs into illicit distribution channels.

Latin America

Latin America and Caribbean projects receive the major share of the Department of State's (INM) country program budget because of the large amounts of marijuana, cocaine and heroin coming from these regions. Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia are the world's main sources of coca and cocaine. Colombia is also a principal supplier to the U.S. of marijuana, as are Jamaica, Belize and Mexico. Mexico is also the source of about one third of the heroin consumed in the United States. U.S. goals are to reduce coca production to the minimum level sufficient to meet traditional domestic consumption and licit needs; to eliminate marijuana before it leaves the country of origin; to assist other governments in curbing small-scale narcotics production before it assumes major proportions; and to support an improved opium poppy eradication program in Mexico. Where progress has been slow, e.g., in Bolivia, Peru and Jamaica, some members of Congress have advocated the suspension of U.S. foreign assistance as a lever to force more rapid implementation of narcotics control efforts, an action which the Department of State considers would be counterproductive now.

Southeast Asia

The Golden Triangle, consisting of the common border area shared by Burma, Thailand and Laos, is a major region of illicit opium production. Much of the heroin produced in the Golden Triangle transits Thailand as well as Burma, India and Malaysia enroute to world markets. These countries have heroin and opium addict populations which generate a large-scale demand for opium and heroin.

Burma is the largest producer of illicit opium in East Asia. Since much of the producing area in Burma is outside government control and since collaboration with Laos is difficult for political reasons, U.S. resources are concentrated on eradication and interdiction of opium and heroin (with emphasis on interdiction and suppression of heroin laboratories along the Thai-Burma border) in Thailand and in the Shan State of Burma. Both the Thai and Burmese military and police forces have been active in attacking the illicit drug production and trafficking.

Southwest Asia

Opium production in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran is a principal source of heroin in Western Europe and the United States. Southwest Asia also produces marijuana and hashish. The United States is not in a position to engage in productive bilateral efforts with Afghanistan and Iran. However, U.S. strategy supports narcotics control programs in Turkey, which is a conduit for opiates moving from Southwest Asia to Europe and the United States. In Pakistan, the program focus is on crop control in the Northwest Frontier Province and on enforcement and interdiction assistance, particularly on Pakistan's borders. The Government of Pakistan, which has banned opium production, trade and consumption, has agreed to enforce its ban on traditional opium production in those underdeveloped areas where foreign development assistance has been provided. INM and AID have supported the crop control initiative with rural development projects so that farmers who stop cultivation of illicit drugs will continue to have a source of income.

Multilateral Efforts

In the multilateral context, the United States also addresses the international narcotics problem in the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (which is the UN policy making body on drug matters), and other UN organs. United Nations agencies monitor and apply controls on the flow and use of narcotics and psychotropic substances, and coordinate multilateral efforts to control production, trafficking and abuse.

UNFDAC (the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control), founded in 1971 with United States sponsorship, has been a leading vehicle for multilateral implementation of narcotics control and demand reduction programs. Other UN agencies include the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Division on Narcotic Drugs (DND). In 1982, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted a long-term global strategy and a basic five-year action plan, which calls for enhanced, expanded efforts by UNFDAC, DND and the INCB.

UNFDAC has assumed an expanding role in advancing international narcotics control. The Fund is now developing projects in support of coca control in South America, marking a long-needed involvement by the United Nations and indirectly by European donors in a problem which affects Europe as well as the United States. This effort has been made possible by a pledge of \$40 million over five years by the Government of Italy. The Fund has also received pledges of more than \$11 million from Italy, the United States, and the United Kingdom, with other pledges likely, for the Special Development and Enforcement Program (SDEP) in Pakistan. Key donors to source country programs include the Federal Republic of Germany, Saudia Arabia, Sweden and Norway among others. The major donors support the Fund's policy that all United Nations drug development projects will contain drug enforcement provisions, and agree that economic assistance should be linked to commitments by recipient governments to eliminate illicit narcotic crops by specified dates.

Several countries earmark portions of their UNFDAC contributions for specific projects, including the Federal Republic of Germany (Pakistan); Norway (Burma) Sweden (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Laos); and Australia (Burma and Thailand). The United States also earmarks portions of its UNFDAC contribution for projects in key narcotics producing countries, particularly source countries undertaking bilateral narcotics control programs.

Economic Dimensions

Because of the inter-relationship between the different stages of drug production and trafficking and the price acceleration that occurs at every link in the chain between the farmer and the street seller, crop control and interdiction programs can adversely affect local economies. A Bolivian

farmer will sell 250 to 500 kilograms of coca leaf for \$200 to \$500. A Colombian wholesaler will realize \$7,000 to \$14,000 for one kilogram of refined cocaine; a U.S. wholesaler will receive \$30,000 to \$50,000 at port of entry, and the U.S. street pusher will realize \$750,000 or more for one kilogram of cut cocaine. Similarly, a Colombian farmer will sell one pound of marijuana for \$2 to \$4, which will ultimately be sold by a U.S. street pusher for as much as \$1,000 a pound.

In attempting to reach agreement with the government of a producer nation on crop control, the fact that the farmer may receive as little as one-half of one percent of the ultimate street price is not as important as the relative value of these drug dollars in local economic terms. Marijuana production in one region of Colombia provides a livelihood for an estimated 19,000 families. Marijuana field workers can earn about \$7.50 a day, compared to just over \$3 per day for work in such areas as agriculture and cattle-raising. Furthermore, the profits from marijuana are 2.5 times greater than coffee even at a high world price.

Recent fluctuations have hampered trade estimates, but Colombia's trade in cocaine and marijuana is said to rank second in value only to coffee exports. The value of the illicit narcotics trade accounts for significant portions of the GDP in key source countries like Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Belize. Despite the huge profits derived from the export of illicit narcotics, most of these profits are not returned to benefit the countries of origin but remain abroad in foreign bank accounts.

Each of the 80-95 metric tons of cocaine used in the United States will sell for about \$250 million or more. And the 11,200 to 14,000 tons of marijuana used will sell for as much as \$2 million a ton, with higher prices for imported and domestic sensemilla.

Thus, the financial incentives favor illicit drug cultivation. Strategies to deal with this reality must include either alternative incentives, in the form of economic development programs, or disincentives, such as arrests and seizures, forceful eradication or other control measures -- and, in many instances, a combination of incentives and disincentives.