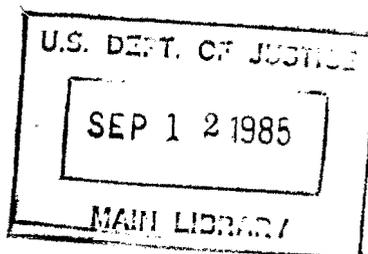




Department of Justice

STATEMENT

OF



EDWIN MEESE III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BEFORE

THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE

CONCERNING

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

ON

SEPTEMBER 11, 1985

Chairman Lugar, Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations: I am pleased to appear before you this morning to discuss the extremely serious matter of international narcotics control and the role played by the Department of Justice in support of the President's National Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking.

At no time in our history has narcotics control been such a central issue in the formulation of both our domestic and foreign policy. It is therefore significant that this Committee is taking an active role in keeping narcotics matters at the forefront. The questions you are asking are good ones and I will endeavor to respond to the concerns that you have raised.

Before describing Department of Justice drug policies and programs in detail, I believe that it is important to place our initiatives in the proper context. The Justice Department's primary mission is enforcement, but we have many ancillary programs dealing with such areas as drug abuse, education, and prevention. Our personnel are involved in a broad array of activities in support of investigating and prosecuting major international drug traffickers and ensuring that they are brought to justice, whether in the United States or in a drug source or transit country. Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters, Jon Thomas, is also appearing before this Committee today and will more fully describe the broad scope of

United States programs directed at the many interrelated facets of international narcotics control.

Prior to describing the major thrusts of the Justice Department's drug control programs and our many accomplishments in that regard, I would like to first briefly review some of the more significant drug abuse and availability trends in the United States.

In 1984, overall marijuana consumption declined slightly, primarily as a result of declining use by young people, and we expect this trend to continue through 1985. There have been decreases in marijuana-related hospital emergencies. Another positive sign in this country has been spot shortages of Colombian marijuana as a result of that government's enforcement and test eradication programs, as well as a net decrease in the amount of domestically produced marijuana.

Cocaine availability and use remained widespread in 1984. We expect that cocaine availability this year will remain at high levels, although the number of users is expected to stabilize. Over the past year, we have seen cocaine-related hospital emergencies and deaths rise sharply, reflecting increased frequency and complexity of cocaine use. These intensified use patterns will continue to result in a high incidence of adverse health consequences.

Cocaine producers and traffickers have experienced numerous setbacks at the hands of law enforcement officials in South America; and elsewhere. However, the traffickers are tenacious and they are expanding their cultivating, processing and distributing activities into other non-traditional areas, particularly in Europe and the United States.

In 1984 there was an increase in the illicit use of all dangerous drugs, especially methamphetamine and PCP. Unfortunately, our indicators suggest that this trend will continue in 1985. In the past year we have also seen the emergence of the controlled substance analogs, the "designer drugs." Having identified this problem in the early stages of its development, we expect, as I will describe in more detail later, to be successful in curtailing this insidious form of drug abuse.

Heroin consumption in 1984 declined slightly and this level of abuse is not expected to change this year. According to DEA's Heroin Signature Program, the proportion of Southwest Asian heroin (Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan) increased slightly, at the expense of Southeast Asian heroin (Thailand, Burma, Laos). The proportion of Mexican heroin remained about the same. No major changes in heroin availability are forecast for 1985. There may be some decrease from Southeast Asia but an increase from Mexico and Southwest Asia.

We are beginning to realize the impact of our efforts. We are disrupting the drug traffic. We have held supplies at levels far below what they otherwise could have been. And, most importantly, we are beginning to effectively challenge the upward trends in drug abuse which have been prevalent in our country for too long.

Furthermore, we have increased the cost of doing business for the drug trafficker. Our aggressive investigation and prosecution of major international narcotic cartels and the forfeiture of their assets is having an impact: established drug organizations are being immobilized. Strong anti-drug efforts in key source countries are driving the traffickers to untested bases of operation. Intensive interdiction activities are narrowing the scope of the profit from which the drug traffic draws its strength. The effect is cumulative. We are creating a climate favorable for our long-range supply and demand reduction efforts. In short, we are seeing success from our national strategy.

This blueprint was first outlined in President Reagan's National Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking. This document clarifies the roles of all of the Federal departments and agencies involved in drug enforcement and drug abuse prevention, and prescribes important responsibilities for state and local agencies, as well as for the private sector. With some minor modifications to reflect the passage of the

Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the 1984 National Strategy has since been adopted by the National Drug Enforcement Policy Board which I chair.

The Strategy has five components which provide a balanced and comprehensive approach. They are: prevention, drug law enforcement, international cooperation, medical detoxification and treatment, and research. As I noted at the outset, the Justice Department, although involved in many aspects in support of the Strategy, concentrates its efforts on drug law enforcement, but international cooperation and prevention remain major and interrelated concerns. Drug law enforcement and international cooperation have become increasingly interrelated. Successful domestic law enforcement requires a great deal of international cooperation, whether that be in our intelligence, interdiction, extradition, or securing evidence efforts. International cooperation, however, remains principally the concern of the State Department and prevention remains principally the responsibility of the Department of Health and Human Services; however, our own role remains critical.

Our drug law enforcement strategy seeks to reduce the availability of illegal drugs and those drugs diverted from legitimate production. Through law enforcement, regulation, and diplomatic efforts, four principal strategies are pursued. First, illegal drugs are destroyed at the source. Second, drug contraband is intercepted and seized enroute to or at the borders

of the United States. Third, drug trafficking organizations are identified, investigated, and prosecuted. We immobilize these criminal enterprises by seizing their drugs, incarcerating the traffickers, and seizing their drug derived assets. And, lastly, numerous control measures are used to minimize the diversion of legitimately produced drugs into the illegal market.

The Strategy recognizes the phenomenon which we call the internationalization of drug abuse. Whereas not too long ago other nations viewed drug abuse as an American problem, spawned by our own hedonism, this is no longer the case. You may recall the front-page headlines in the Washington Post several weeks ago, "Britain Coming to Grips with Surge of Drug Abuse." Many nations are quickly recognizing that drug abuse and drug trafficking are no longer uniquely a United States problem. The adverse social, economic, political and corrupting influence of drug abuse and drug trafficking on all nations is becoming distressingly clear.

There is now a global understanding that narcotics threaten the stability of all of our societies. That is why more nations, including drug source, transit and consumer countries, are involved in the drug control effort now than at any other time in our history. And, in so doing, many of these nations are overcoming what for many years were considered to be insurmountable cultural and political obstacles to implementing effective drug control programs.

We have seen evidence of the internationalization of drugs in several unique ways. This past spring, First Lady Nancy Reagan reached out to hold an unprecedented First Ladies' conference and they focused only on one issue: drug abuse. Because they care, seventeen first ladies from all parts of the world came to Washington to learn about drug abuse and how to prevent it. Their efforts are having an impact. And a follow-up conference, even larger in scope, will be held this October in conjunction with the opening session of the United Nations.

Not surprisingly, at this year's Economic Summit in Bonn, the issue of controlling international drug trafficking abuse spontaneously became an agenda item. I will defer to Assistant Secretary Thomas to discuss this matter in detail, but again, this demonstrates that our nations' leaders have now fully come to understand that drugs are an international problem that must be high on all of our foreign policy agendas. Furthermore, we all understand that no one nation alone can solve the problem. The only way we will ultimately be successful is to work together in a coordinated and comprehensive effort.

Since becoming Attorney General, I have met with my foreign counterparts to map out bilateral and multilateral strategies to control the narcotics problem -- one which respects no nation's boundaries or sovereignty. I am pleased to report that a just completed United Nations conference in Milan attended by DEA Administrator John Lawn resulted in the passage of a UN

resolution which treats as an absolute priority the strengthening of the means of investigation and solutions to the pervasive international drug problem. Last month I traveled to Mexico with DEA Administrator John Lawn, Assistant Attorney General Stephen Trott and Assistant Secretary Jon Thomas to follow up on a previous visit by the Attorney General of Mexico to the United States.

The time was right to discuss numerous issues: the status of the Mexican anti-corruption program, improved security for Drug Enforcement Administration personnel, the formulation of major violator task forces, and the importance of opium poppy and cannabis eradication programs. As you would expect, we also engaged in a lengthy and serious dialog regarding the status of the investigation into the abduction and murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena. We renewed our commitment to each other to cooperate in those matters which affect both of our nations. I believe that progress is being made, but there is still more to be done.

International cooperation in investigating cases, obtaining evidence, and coordinating prosecutions is one of the central aspects of the Justice Department's enforcement efforts. Our experience has shown that bilateral mutual legal assistance treaties in criminal matters is one of the most effective ways of assuring such cooperation, particularly where evidence would otherwise be unavailable to our grand juries because of bank

secrecy laws. The Department of Justice is committed to the goal of negotiating a global web of such treaties.

The first such treaty, the one with Switzerland, entered into force in 1977 and has proven invaluable to us in a number of investigations and prosecutions. Since 1980, we have had treaties with the Netherlands and the Netherland Antilles and with Turkey enter into force. We have also signed treaties with Canada, Colombia, Italy, and Morocco, and are currently in various stages of negotiation with the Bahamas, Israel, West Germany, Thailand, Jamaica, Sweden, Panama, and the Cayman Islands. The Canadian Treaty was just signed in March and a draft treaty with Thailand was initialed in April.

One of the most significant treaties we are negotiating is with the Bahamas. We began those negotiations in January 1985 in order to improve the access of United States law enforcement to evidence in the Bahamas, including the records of Bahamian bank accounts used to launder money in drug, fraud, and organized crime cases. Three negotiating sessions have been held since then, resulting in a final text which is currently being reviewed by the Bahamian Cabinet.

Our efforts with the Cayman Islands are also of great significance. On July 26, 1984, we exchanged diplomatic correspondence establishing an Executive Agreement with the United Kingdom on access to documentary evidence in the Cayman

Islands for use in drug cases. So far, we have made almost 50 successful requests for evidence under the Agreement. That Agreement also contained an obligation to begin negotiations on full-dress mutual legal assistance treaty between the United States and the Caymans. The bilateral agreement with the Grand Caymans, we believe, is a unique enhancement to our arsenal and we plan to work towards attaining similar agreements with other countries. We expect that those talks with the British will be held within the next several weeks.

The historic 1982 Extradition Treaty with Colombia has now been fully implemented. To date, Colombia has extradited to the United States seven fugitives, of whom six are Colombian nationals, charged with narcotics trafficking and related activities. Two have already been convicted. The United States is also meeting its responsibilities under this treaty; we have extradited a United States national accused of narcotics trafficking to Colombia. Other extradition treaties have been or will shortly be renegotiated where necessary to be sure they are fully adequate for securing the extradition of drug traffickers.

We applaud the Colombian government officials who have courageously moved against narcotics traffickers in Colombia at great personal risk in order to improve the extradition process and facilitate the transfer of fugitives. We recently agreed with Colombian officials that members of their Ministry of Justice and our Justice Department will meet regularly to ensure

that everything possible was being done to promote the extradition and prosecution of narcotics traffickers. The first such meeting was held this past June when Assistant Attorney General Stephen Trott went to Bogota.

To further the United States' programs in Colombia in the wake of their crackdown on narcotics trafficking, we have established the subcabinet level Colombian Opportunity Working Group. It is chaired by the Deputy Attorney General and has representatives from DEA, the Marshals Service, Customs, the Coast Guard and the Departments of State, Treasury and Defense, and the White House. This Working Group has been successful in reviewing United States law enforcement and diplomatic efforts with Colombia with specific regard to the drug trafficking problem.

International cooperation is vital in another area whose potential is ominous and that is the increasing use of terrorist tactics by drug traffickers to attain limited political objectives. This new development poses a significant threat to U.S. interests and to the stability of elected governments in drug-source countries. Instances of drug related violence are becoming alarmingly frequent. In Mexico earlier this year, as many of you know, DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena and a Mexican pilot were kidnapped and brutally murdered in an attempt to intimidate DEA into weakening our enforcement pressure there. These tactics did not work, but rather strengthened our resolve.

Similarly, in an attempt to halt the extradition of Colombian drug traffickers to the United States, Colombian traffickers have made many threats against the government of Colombia, the United States presence in Colombia, and the Drug Enforcement Administration specifically. There have been documented reports, for example, of traffickers having placed price tags on the heads of top DEA officials for their kidnapping or murder.

Thus far, I have focused primarily on specific diplomatic initiatives. However, our involvement in the international arena takes many forms. I am particularly pleased with the progress we have achieved as a result of bringing together the senior-most law enforcement officials of drug source and transit countries. The precedent was set in the days of the French Connection, when officials from DEA met with their French counterparts to exchange operational information and generalized drug trafficking intelligence. Since then, this annual conference has expanded to include Canada and, most recently, Italy.

Similarly, we participate in the Italian/American Working Group on Organized Crime and Narcotics Trafficking. This Working Group stemmed from a meeting between President Reagan and Italian Prime Minister Craxi. In recognition of the seriousness of narcotics trafficking and traditional organized crime they

States delegation, primarily from the Justice Department, traveled to Rome. As a direct result of the efforts of this Working Group, an Italian narcotics official has been placed on temporary duty at DEA Headquarters and we have adjusted some of our procedures and liaison functions in Italy. We have permanently assigned an attorney from the Departments' Criminal Division to Rome for better coordination and handling of the legal problems which arise.

I am particularly encouraged by the International Drug Enforcement Conference. In early 1983, the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration invited the policy-level directors of the national police agencies from Western Hemisphere countries in which DEA had offices to meet to discuss coordinated drug control strategies. They met in April of that year and immediately recognized the value of an Inter-American forum to exchange information and to develop bilateral strategies with neighboring countries. A charter was drawn for the 13 participating nations and IDEC, as it is now called, was formalized.

IDEC has successfully brought together the drug law enforcement community of the Americas. Dialog among these nations has since become contagious. Border interdiction programs, extradition agreements, and eradication campaigns have all been furthered by accords. As IDEC has grown, so too has its

interests increased -- information sharing to the development of regional strategies. European nations participate as observers.

As a result of IDEC III, held this past June in Santiago, Chile, it was agreed that six major initiatives would be pursued, notable among these efforts are the ones to develop regional communications and information systems, regional interdiction programs, and regional control of precursor chemicals. With the DEA Administrator in place as the permanent co-chairman of the conference, I feel confident that the United States will long continue to benefit from support of this conference.

There are many other ways, such as with training, through which the United States supports improved drug law enforcement activities in other nations. For example, as a consequence of the Italian/American Working Group, the Department of Justice Office of International Affairs helped sponsor a conference with a large group of Italian magistrates in Rome this past June to discuss problems in processing extradition requests.

Additionally, over the past year, the DEA Office of Diversion Control has ventured into an area which heretofore had not been explored by presenting seminars on the diversion of legitimately produced drugs and chemicals to law enforcement, health, and regulatory officials in Panama, Brazil, Venezuela and Ecuador. The seminars provided a forum for the exchange of information within the different services of each of these countries and

helped increase their awareness of trafficking patterns and methods of operation of international diverters of legitimate pharmaceutical and chemical goods. The response from these countries has been exceptionally positive and DEA is planning to conduct future seminars in Argentina and Colombia.

As part of its international responsibilities, the Drug Enforcement Administration conducts several types of training for foreign drug law enforcement officials. DEA has three mobile teams which travel around the world conducting country-specific or regional-specific training on the state-of-the-art in narcotics investigations. DEA also conducts Advanced International Training Schools here in the United States. Furthermore, an important part of each DEA Country Attache's responsibility is to work with host country officials and to provide the training they need. DEA also conducts the Executive Observation Program which is funded by the State Department.

Of course, the DEA role overseas goes far beyond training. It is the job of the DEA agent overseas to encourage and assist host countries to establish and support effective drug law enforcement and intelligence collection programs to promote intergovernmental enforcement cooperation and intelligence exchange. Although the exact nature of a DEA agent's job overseas varies from country to country, all DEA agents overseas -- and there are currently 206 -- are involved in the collection and exchange of tactical operational and strategic intelligence

to facilitate drug investigations both in the host country and here in the United States.

Another important facet of their job is to explore with the foreign governments ways to monitor and impact the substantial cash flow generated by illicit drug transactions and to encourage foreign enforcement officials to seize drug-related assets where they have the authority to do so. Additionally, the DEA overseas agents are an important part of our country teams, advising the Ambassador about narcotics policy and programs and acting in a liaison capacity for other U.S. law enforcement agencies.

The Senate well understands the importance of DEA's overseas mission, and enhanced that program with its 1985 supplemental funding. The supplemental includes funds for additional overseas staffing, investigations, and security and we appreciate the Senate's action.

Many nations reap the benefit of DEA's overseas presence. By way of example, for the past two years, DEA agents have been working with their Pakistani counterparts on a major international Southwest Asian heroin trafficking organization. Based on intelligence that DEA received, an indictment was returned in which the principal defendant -- who was responsible for distributing between 10 and 20 kilograms of high-quality heroin per month to customers in Los Angeles, Detroit and St. Louis -- was charged with conducting a continuing criminal

enterprise. This was the first time that the "Drug Kingpin Statute" was used in Nevada. In fact, this head of the organization was convicted on all counts of the indictment and was sentenced earlier this month to 40 years and a \$50,000 fine. Several of his confederates have either pleaded guilty or were convicted and received substantial sentences and fines, as well.

Furthermore, based on information DEA developed, the Pakistani officials have been able to identify several of the heroin conversion laboratory operators, and our law enforcement counterparts in Canada, Southeast Asia, and the United Kingdom have also been able to take action against violators associated with this significant Southwest Asian heroin trafficking organization.

The bottom line is that it is the DEA's responsibility to help reduce the supply of drugs of foreign origin destined for the United States. We are moving forward with several innovative approaches to control the drug traffic. In addition to going after the traffickers, their drugs, and their assets, we are targetting the chemicals which are needed to convert the raw plant material into illegal drugs.

Operation ChemCon was initiated to track ethyl ether, which is needed to manufacture cocaine, from principal international manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers to clandestine cocaine laboratories. The program relies on the cooperation of the licit

chemical industry and other governments, who are not only conducting intensified enforcement activity, but are also banning the importation of these essential chemicals.

Since the inception of this program, over 16,000 55-gallon drums of ether have been seized, with an estimated wholesale cost of over \$6.5 million. This quantity of ether could have produced 194 metric tons of cocaine. Operation ChemCon has forced some traffickers to move their laboratories closer to the source of the essential chemicals and to the point of sale. For example, 21 cocaine laboratories were seized in the United States in 1984, almost double the number seized in 1983.

A major cornerstone of our international drug control policy has consistently been to encourage drug source nations to control production. It is no less important that we do the same here, to show that the United States is willing to eradicate cannabis growth within our nation, just as we are requesting other nations to eradicate drug crops. DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program has been growing since DEA first provided assistance to Hawaii in 1978. Now all 50 states participate in this venture. DEA's role is to encourage state and local efforts and to contribute training, equipment, funding, and investigative and aircraft resources. Last year, with 48 states participating, over 12 million plants were eradicated. We are projecting that over 20 million plants will be destroyed this year.

Early last month, after months of planning with state and other Federal officials, we kicked off Operation Delta-9, as an intensified component of the overall eradication program. This was the largest campaign ever in terms of numbers of states and officers participating, the numbers of plants seized -- which was over 400,000 -- in terms of the number of plots investigated and in terms of the number of people arrested. This massive coordinated effort signals the resolve of this Administration to deal effectively with widespread cultivation and the sale of marijuana within our borders. The Environmental Impact Study (EIS) having been completed, Administrator Lawn has chosen option number six which provides numerous methods of eradicating marijuana including the use of herbicides. As you know, we have already begun spraying domestic cultivation sites located on Federal lands. I believe that we are sending a strong message, both to the domestic cannabis growers and to other marijuana source countries, that the United States Government takes the need to attack the production of this harmful drug very seriously.

We are also moving quickly against another type of drug produced domestically, the controlled substance analogs, also known as "designer drugs," which are uncontrolled synthetic forms of our most dangerous drugs. The more infamous analogs are extremely potent narcotics which have killed many and irreparably harmed hundreds of others. DEA has been using every available resource to combat this problem. DEA has used the emergency

scheduling authority as provided in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 on three occasions, but individuals continue to evade the law by producing new analogs faster than they can be controlled.

In response to this problem, the Justice Department has submitted to Congress new legislation, which, if enacted, will make it unlawful to manufacture or distribute these analogs for human consumption. The Designer Drug Act of 1985 would provide law enforcement officials with the legal authority to arrest and prosecute those persons who engage in activities involving analogs, even if the substances are not already controlled.

The analog drug problem illustrates the increasing complexity and sophistication of drug abuse and drug trafficking. This is further seen as we look toward taking the profit out of drug trafficking.

As part of our overall efforts against international drug trafficking, we are stepping up our efforts to halt the "laundering" of the profits derived from drugs, as well as from prostitution, gambling, bribery, income tax evasion, and other criminal activity. We have come to realize that the professional money launderer, whether here or abroad, plays a key role in international drug trafficking. The launderer -- who can be a lawyer, an accountant, a banker, or other professional -- takes

the money derived from illegal activities and changes its form through a variety of artifices to make it appear "clean."

To address this problem we have taken several noteworthy steps. First, we have increased utilization of the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act, including the new provisions enacted as part of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, such as the provision making it a violation to attempt to transport unreported currency into or out of the United States and including currency offenses in the coverage of the RICO and wiretap statutes.

Second, we have focused new efforts on financial institutions where banks or other officials have intentionally failed to file the necessary reporting forms. An example of this focus can be seen in the recent indictment of 17 persons -- primarily bank officials and employees -- in Puerto Rico. Seven present and former bank officials have already pleaded guilty in this case.

Most importantly for the future, we have submitted a package of legislative proposals to Congress through which the actual "laundering" of money will be prescribed. Presently, United States law only indirectly addresses this problem, using the system of currency reporting provisions I just mentioned.

Our proposed bill, which was introduced in the Senate as S. 1335, the "Money Laundering and Related Crimes Act of 1985," would directly prohibit an individual or an institution from conducting a transaction involving the movement of money generated by, or derived from, the commission of any crime. Besides a fine and possible imprisonment, the bill would provide for the forfeiture of the money which was illegally laundered. In addition, anyone who conducts a money-laundering transaction having reason to know that the funds were derived from an unlawful activity would be subject to large civil penalties. The bill would also make it a Federal offense to knowingly facilitate the commission of another crime or to receive the proceeds of any United States crime or the proceeds of any major foreign drug crime.

Our ability to seize and forfeit the proceeds of foreign drug crimes and prosecute the money launderers will be a major step in international cooperation and will greatly assist foreign law enforcement efforts. Canada already has a law permitting the seizure of the proceeds of foreign drug offenses and many European nations have expressed interest in enacting similar legislation.

Investigations into money laundering are an important part of the Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Force program. This Presidential initiative has shown that we can pull together the investigative expertise of our entire Federal law enforcement

community to achieve maximum results in immobilizing major drug trafficking organizations. The OCDETF program has continued to build momentum since its implementation two and one-half years ago, and is now one of the main weapons in our drug enforcement arsenal. DEA is participating in 87 percent of the cases, the FBI is involved in 79 percent, and we draw on the IRS, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Customs Service to further the investigations in line with each of these agency's mission.

Significantly, state and local law enforcement is working on about 40 percent of all OCDETF cases. Further, like their Federal counterparts, they are also reaping the benefits of exploiting drug-related asset seizures and forfeitures. The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 has a provision which allows us to share the forfeitures of drug assets with participating state and local agencies. We are just getting this program off the ground, yet there have already been several departments which have directly benefitted. In one California case, three local police departments shared a total of 60 percent of \$3.5 million seized and forfeited from a drug trafficking cartel.

In 1973, a Government reorganization created the Drug Enforcement Administration to give drug law enforcement one central control point, making the DEA the lead agency in enforcing Title 21 (the Controlled Substances Act). This process of streamlining our efforts has continued through the years. The

ultimate objective of the Justice Department is to assure that we have a dedicated, integrated force to effectively deal with the problem of drug trafficking and abuse.

Attorney General William French Smith in January, 1982, continued the process with the delegation to the FBI of concurrent jurisdiction in drug investigations. Currently, more than 1,000 FBI agents are dedicated full time to investigate drug matters. Similarly, since January, 1982, additional steps have been taken to harmonize and to effect economies between the DEA and the FBI, for example, we already have effected joint contracting, such as in the purchase and maintenance of vehicles, and the DEA and FBI are working toward collocating their ADP and research and engineering facilities. A joint study completed earlier this year resulted in my directing that the DEA training programs be transferred during this year from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, to the FBI Academy in Quantico.

The DEA and FBI enjoy an excellent working relationship, characterized by a continuing harmonizing of functions and efforts and an integration of systems that are administrative and supportive in nature. We are, for example, studying (in a major east coast city) the DEA/FBI requirements for and effectiveness of the day to day operational sharing of a single voice privacy system. The command structure, with the Administrator of DEA reporting through the Director of the FBI, has continued to show

positive results with no loss of momentum in the investigative effort. We believe this approach is the only effective way of combatting drug trafficking and I firmly believe that Title 21 control and direction should continue to be strictly in the hands of the Justice Department.

It would be inappropriate to continue to focus on our enforcement successes without also stressing our efforts in the field of reducing the demand for drugs. The only way we will ultimately be successful in the war against drugs is to curb the demand for them. Although in the Department of Justice we are primarily concerned with investigating, arresting and prosecuting violators, as well as taking the profit out of this insidious business, we still have a responsibility to participate in drug abuse prevention and education efforts to the extent that we can. This must be a major component in all of our initiatives.

Overseas, for example, a DEA agent is often the only U.S. Government representative on post who is knowledgeable about drugs. He becomes, in effect, our country's spokesperson on drug abuse and drug prevention. And, as more countries are experiencing the ravages of drug abuse and are addressing the problem, this role is becoming increasingly important.

With respect to the Justice Department's programs dealing with prevention and education -- we believe our messages are getting through. The decrease in marijuana use by our school-age

population is gratifying, and we expect to see similar decreases in use of other drugs by our young people. One way of describing our role in this area is to think of the Justice Department as the wholesalers of the demand side -- a catalyst or conduit to get the word out to state and local governments, to groups and organizations such as the National Coalition of Parents for Drug Free Youth. DEA's Sports Drug Awareness Program, for example, uses coaches and student athletes to reach the millions of other youngsters and educate them to the dangers of drug abuse. With a view towards ensuring the availability of a community forum for the dissemination and exchange of information, each United States Attorney has established a standing committee on drug abuse and demand reduction.

Mr. Chairman, you have asked me to specifically comment on the coordination of our nation's drug control program. The National Narcotics Act of 1984, passed as part of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, created the National Drug Enforcement Policy Board and named the Attorney General as Chairman. As defined in the Act, Congress intended that the Policy Board improve drug policy development and coordination among the Federal agencies.

The National Drug Enforcement Policy Board has organized itself into the Policy Board, a Coordinating Group, and an interagency staff that supports both entities. As mandated by the law, on July 9, 1985, the Policy Board sent Congress a report

detailing the organization and the anticipated functions of the Policy Board. As I noted at the outset of my testimony, this report included the Policy Board's adoption of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking as modified by the passage of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984.

The Policy Board and the Coordinating Group have been active in exchanging information among the participating agencies, assigning policy issues to the staff for the development of options, and reviewing the current drug trafficking situation and threat as it impacts on the safety of our personnel and the future of our enforcement programs and strategies.

Also, the Policy Board has adopted the Coordinating Group's recommendation regarding the coordination of collection of Federal drug seizure statistics. This means that for the first time we will have a method for keeping track of Federal agencies' seizures of illicit drugs and there should be no more double counting. The analysis of information generated by this new system will enable us to better monitor changing drug smuggling patterns. Furthermore, this system builds on each agency's current data processing modes and obviates the need for wholesale revisions and expenditures.

As required by the Act, I intend to ensure that the Policy Board coordinates the Federal-wide drug law enforcement effort through the development of a National and International Drug Law Enforcement Strategy. We have enhanced policy coordination by merging the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS) Executive Board with the Policy Board, and by making the Director of the White House Drug Abuse Policy Office an advisory member of the Board. The Coordinating Group has met three times and the Policy Board is scheduled to meet for the third time later this month.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I firmly believe that our nation is on the right course of action to control the international scourge of drug trafficking and abuse. In the enforcement area we are concentrating on five major thrusts. First, in the area of international cooperation we are working with source countries to wipe out narcotics trafficking by moving against the trafficker and the illicit crops for distributing and processing into narcotics. Second, we are using all available resources within the United States and in cooperation with foreign countries to stop the smuggling of drugs into this country. Third, we are investigating and prosecuting the highest levels of the drug traffic. This effort is being enhanced through our special programs such as the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces. As part of this effort, we are working more and

more with our foreign counterparts to secure the necessary evidence and apprehend the principal drug traffickers through appropriate treaties. Fourth, we are using innovative approaches to take the profit out of drug trafficking and we have been particularly successful in forfeiting the ill-gotten gains of the traffickers. We are also, I might add, continually sharing information about our legal tools with foreign countries and are encouraging them to enact effective anti-drug legislation. And last, we are embarking on drug eradication campaigns in our country, showing both our citizens and the citizens of the world that the United States is serious about curbing drug production.

We are in a war against drugs and there can be no neutrals in this war. Drug use is not just a health issue in the traditional sense. Drug trafficking is a cancer on our societies, with the potential to destroy our governments, our economies, and our way of life. It will take the will of all of the people, not just the will of individual governments, if we are to be successful. I am confident that our government, in cooperation with other governments and with support from all our citizens, will be able to eradicate this menace.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this Committee's interest in our nation's narcotic control strategy, for it must be at the forefront of our foreign policy. As Attorney General, I pledge

to you my full support in our country's effort to prevent drug abuse and drug trafficking.

Thank you.