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Department of Justice

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Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst today announced the creation of a new division in the Department of Justice, headed by an Assistant Attorney General, to step up the prompt and effective prosecution of narcotics offenders.

He said that the present practice of having the trial of cases handled by the various United States Attorneys' offices would continue.

The Assistant Attorney General in charge of the new division -- who will be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate -- will act as adviser to the Administrator of the new proposed Drug Enforcement Administration.

This new agency, which will be part of the Department of Justice, will have overall responsibility for the entire range of narcotic enforcement activities.

"This new division will play a vital role in making the new Administration an operating unit from the very beginning," said Mr. Kleindienst. "We need a means to draw together the diverse units which have been operating in the narcotics enforcement field and put them together with uniform rules and procedures, whether the matter is investigation, intelligence, or prosecution."

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He said that many of the present attorneys in the Office for Drug Abuse Law Enforcement will be moved into the new division being created.

"Among other things," said Mr. Kleindienst, "this new division will be able to put together and execute uniform policies in federal narcotics prosecutions, involving things like immunity, plea bargaining, calendar practice, sentence recommendations and bail."

The attorneys in the new division, he said, will work closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration in developing cases, including conspiracy cases, and be able to provide a continuing source of expert information on matters of immunity, grand jury proceedings, granting search warrants and problems of evidence. They will also, he said, appear in court where appropriate and assist United States Attorneys in trying cases.

"Our goal," said Mr. Kleindienst, "is one smooth, coordinated organization. We have been hitting narcotics traffickers hard, and pushers hard. Now that we are able to pull the whole operation together into one functioning, coordinated organization, we plan to hit both of them even harder."

The Assistant Attorney General in charge of the new division will report directly to the Attorney General, as do all Assistant Attorneys General.