

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

Honorable William P. Rogers  
Honorable David M. Kennedy  
Honorable Melvin R. Laird  
Honorable John N. Mitchell  
Honorable Clifford M. Hardin  
Honorable Maurice H. Stans  
Honorable Robert H. Finch  
Honorable John A. Volpe  
Honorable Robert Kunzig

RE: "Action Task Force"  
Narcotics, Marihuana and Dangerous Drugs

On June 3, 1969, Secretary Kennedy and Attorney General Mitchell submitted to me an inter-departmental task force report dealing primarily with narcotics and marihuana, their traffic between Mexico and the United States and their sale and consumption in the United States. Some 23 persons representing ten Departments and agencies of the Government worked several months on the report. I concur in the basic conclusions and in the essential recommendations of the report.

In order to implement many, if not all, of the essential recommendations of the report as expeditiously as possible, I have this date asked the Deputy Attorney General to organize and place into immediate operation an "Action Task Force". This task force will proceed at once upon the following general guidelines:

1. In consultation with the respective Cabinet Officer or Agency head, and the Deputy Attorney General, there will be immediately appointed one person to serve on the task force from the following Departments or divisions thereof:
  - a) Customs
  - b) Defense
  - c) BNDD
  - d) Criminal Division - Justice
  - e) FBI
  - f) Immigration
  - g) Transportation
2. The Ambassador to Mexico shall be kept advised of all programs of the task force by the Deputy Attorney General.
3. The task force shall bring about and put into action immediate steps calculated to make a frontal attack on the narcotic, marihuana and dangerous drug traffic across the Mexican border.
4. Specific proposals of the task force shall be submitted to the Attorney General in advance and prior to their effectuation.
5. I hereby designate John Ehrlichman, Counsel to the President, with the authority and responsibility to either consider and resolve any problems which might arise in connection herewith or to refer the same to me for disposition.
6. The Deputy Attorney General shall submit interim written reports to the Attorney General and to the Counsel to the President, and, in addition, shall prepare a full report at the end of each three-month period following July 1, 1969, to the President and the Attorney General.

7. The work of the task force shall be confidential and any and all publicity with respect to its work and accomplishments shall be released only by the White House.

The work of this task force is government-wide. Because of the alarming increase during the past three years in the consumption of marihuana in particular by our Nation's youth, the task force and its work must be given high priority. I request that each Cabinet Officer and Agency head give his Department's or Agency's unqualified support to the task force in terms of cooperation, facilities, resources and personnel wherever and however possible.

