

and kilos of cocaine were interdicted, yet it is clear from testimony... that these seizures represent only the tip of the iceberg. Despite dedicated and heroic efforts by Federal, State and local law enforcement personnel, the committee estimates that less than 5 percent of the total contraband coming into south Florida was seized prior to the committee's hearings. The committee found among other things that fortunes were being built on the drug trade... that the drug trade was so pervasive that many millions of dollars in cash were being diverted by the Federal Reserve System to the Miami district in order to meet the demands of the illicit drug trade. The committee discovered that the total gross dollar value of the drug trade in south Florida was at least \$7 billion annually, of which the majority represented sales of marijuana and at least \$500 million sales of cocaine.

Testimony made it clear that illegal drug trafficking had, within the past two years, become the single largest commercial activity in the Florida area. Such a situation not only breeds disrespect for the law but also, as the recent *Miami Herald* editorial puts it, "erodes the moral fiber of the community."

If the Federal Government were to adopt a mistaken policy of overlooking the smuggling of large quantities of marijuana because of an ill-founded notion that marijuana is not "all that harmful" and is being "decriminalized" by several States, grievous harm could be caused. The smuggling of any contra-

band, especially in large bulky shipments, cannot be countenanced because if traffickers are left free to smuggle, they will soon be dealing in arms, explosives, and other terrorist paraphernalia, as is beginning to be the case now....

Law enforcement responses to this horror were even more disturbing than the actual situation. The manpower, funds and material available to Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies were found to be totally inadequate....

Despite the committee's most urgent efforts, it is unable to determine how much marijuana, cocaine and heroin enters the United States through Florida. The state... has 8,425 miles of shoreline and as many as 200 clandestine airstrips... 7,000 daily international travelers enter the port of Miami through its airports alone.... On June 10, 1978 the committee, comparing the south Florida drug smuggling problem to a national disaster, called for emergency action by the Federal Government to alleviate problems of limited law enforcement resources... a telegram was sent... to the White House, State Department, DEA and Customs....

Summary of testimony

...The regional director of DEA, Mr. Frederick A. Rody, Jr., stated that "south Florida has become inundated with marijuana and cocaine smuggling and trafficking." Seizures by the Coast Guard, Customs,

Carter pledges crackdown on drugs

At a question and answer session with senior editors on Latin American affairs Sept. 22 President Carter was pressured to commit his Administration to international cooperation to stamp out the narcotics trade.

Q. Mr. President, in south Florida...we're concerned about the drug traffic, which we seem to be the chief landing point. We also have a feeling that the Carter Administration is not taking all of the steps that should be taken to stop this flow of traffic. And my question to you, sir, is do you have any plans to try to work out some sort of agreement with the countries that are the source of some of these drugs?

The President. Well, we've already done a great deal, never enough in

the case of drugs. When I became President...about 90 percent of the heroin coming into the country was obtained from Mexico...

That's been almost completely eliminated, the heroin sources in Mexico...with aerial photographs, infrared, that shows the location of poppy fields, with the very good cooperation for the first time, really in an all-out effort along with Mexico to destroy the poppy fields once they are found, to try to shift the small farmers in the high altitude regions above 3,000 feet elevation to alternate sources of income, away from the poppies that were formerly used for heroin. This has been successful.

At the same time, we tried to restrict the shift of drug production, not just from heroin to something else but to reduce it overall. We've still got a serious problem with marijuana....

We do still have a problem of co-

caine. As you know, the coca leaves are produced in nations to the south of Colombia. Much of it is processed in Colombia, and that's been a major avenue of drugs. But we've had good cooperation now from the Colombian Government. We are forming alliances with them, actually signing documents that share responsibility. We provide some technical assistance, some helicopter services, a free exchange of information between our authorities and theirs. We've had very good, unprecedented cooperation at the top level.

But narcotics control is a major element of our relationship with the Latin American countries. They all see it as the most threatening source of corruption and even destruction of their own governmental society. And I've had long talks with President Lopez Michelsen and others, in Colombia and Mexico and different countries about this subject.