

REMARKS PREPARED FOR
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
PRESS CONFERENCE ON BUDGET ENHANCEMENT FOR
DRUG INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES

JUNE 12, 1985

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THESE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE AND MY CABINET COLLEAGUES IN SUPPORT OF THIS NATION'S FIGHT AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF DRUGS ACROSS OUR BORDERS.

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SENATORS WHO WILL SOON BE COMPLETING CONGRESS' ACTION IN FUNDING THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION -- AND SPECIFICALLY FOR THE COAST GUARD -- FOR THE REST OF FISCAL YEAR 1985. THE FUNDS WILL ENHANCE OUR AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES, PERMITTING THE ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL AEROSTATS, IN THE CARIBBEAN -- THE MAIN AVENUE OF DRUG SMUGGLING. WE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DETECT SHIPS THAT ARE ATTEMPTING TO BRING DRUGS TO OUR SHORES. THE COAST GUARD'S LONG RANGE SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT FLEET WILL ALSO BE INCREASED.

WE ARE MODERNIZING THE COAST GUARD FLEET AND DEVOTING MORE OF THE COAST GUARD'S RESOURCES TO THE MARITIME POLICE ACTION THAT IT PERFORMS. THE COAST GUARD HAS AVAILABLE MAJOR NEW CUTTERS, NEW JET AIRCRAFT, AND NEW SEARCH HELICOPTERS TO USE IN DRUG INTERDICTION.

JUST LAST MONTH THE COAST GUARD CARRIED OUT ITS LARGEST COCAINE SEIZURE IN HISTORY -- 1,909 POUNDS, OR NEARLY A FULL TON, WITH A STREET VALUE OF ROUGHLY \$260 MILLION. SO FAR IN 1985, THE COAST GUARD HAS SEIZED MORE THAN DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF COCAINE IT SEIZED IN ALL THE YEARS COMBINED FROM 1973 THROUGH 1984. WITH MORE NEW RESOURCES WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR PERFORMANCE.

WE WILL ALSO INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, OUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET, NEEDED TO WAGE THIS WAR. DOLLAR ESTIMATES CAN NEVER REPRESENT THE VALUE OF THE COURAGE OF THE WOMEN AND MEN OF THE COAST

GUARD, THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AND THE OTHER MILITARY SERVICES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. EVERY DAY THEY ARE PUTTING THEIR LIVES AT RISK.

AND THEY ARE DETERMINED TO PREVAIL. ALREADY THEY ARE STOPPING TONS OF MARIJUANA AND THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF COCAINE FROM REACHING THE UNITED STATES. I AM HAPPY THAT TODAY, LEADERS OF CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION ARE TAKING ANOTHER STEP TOWARD GIVING THEM THE RESOURCES THEY NEED, FOR THIS IS A WAR WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE.

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