

STATEMENT
OF
VICE ADMIRAL WAYNE E. CALDWELL
COMMANDER ATLANTIC AREA
AND
COMMANDER THIRD COAST GUARD DISTRICT
U.S. COAST GUARD

BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Sept. 2, 1964 *151-111*

)

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMITTEE AND GUESTS, WELCOME TO GOVERNORS ISLAND. I AM VICE ADMIRAL WAYNE E. CALDWELL. MY JOBS IN THE COAST GUARD ARE TO SERVE OUR GREAT COUNTRY AS THE COMMANDER ATLANTIC AREA AND AS COMMANDER THIRD COAST GUARD DISTRICT. THIS MEANS I HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING ALL OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES EAST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AS WELL AS HAVING OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES IN ALL OR PORTIONS OF THE STATES OF CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA AND VERMONT.

I HOPE WHILE YOU'RE HERE IN NEW YORK CITY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND A LITTLE OF YOUR VERY PRECIOUS TIME WITH US TO LET US SHOW YOU SOME OF THE EXCITING THINGS WE DO TO ENHANCE OUR COAST GUARD'S OPERATIONS.

BEFORE I DISCUSS OUR EFFORTS IN COMBATING TODAY'S MARITIME DRUG SMUGGLING, PLEASE LET ME PROVIDE A LITTLE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE. GOING WAY BACK IN OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY YOU WILL SEE THAT THE COAST GUARD'S FIRST RESPONSIBILITY INVOLVED THE CONTROL OF SMUGGLING. THE REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE, WHICH WAS THE FORERUNNER OF THE COAST GUARD, WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1790 FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF COMBATING THE SMUGGLING THAT WAS SO BADLY HURTING OUR INFANT REPUBLIC. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PERFORM SUCH MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK RIGHT ON THROUGH TO THE PRESENT.

THE CURRENT DRUG SMUGGLING PROBLEM CAME TO NATIONAL ATTENTION ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO IN SOUTH FLORIDA. COAST GUARD VESSELS THERE STARTED TO SEIZE THE YACHTS THAT WERE PRIMARILY INVOLVED. AS OUR EFFORTS AND OUR EFFECTIVENESS INCREASED DURING THE SEVENTIES, THE

DRUG SMUGGLERS FOUND THEY HAD TO REPLACE THE YACHTS WITH MOTHERSHIPS THAT COULD CARRY LARGE LOADS OF MARIJUANA TO LOCATIONS OFF THE COAST WHERE SMALLER BOATS COULD BE EMPLOYED TO TAKE IT ASHORE. THE PROBLEM GREW RAPIDLY IN BOTH SCOPE AND MAGNITUDE IN THE LATE SEVENTIES AND EARLY EIGHTIES. IT BECAME PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN SOUTH FLORIDA WHICH WAS THE DESTINATION FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE DRUGS. THE RESULTANT ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN THIS REGION OF OUR COUNTRY LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT IN JANUARY 1982 OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON SOUTH FLORIDA CRIME.

WITH THAT AS BACKGROUND, I WILL NOW DISCUSS THE COAST GUARD'S INVOLVEMENT IN ATTEMPTING TO STOP DRUG SMUGGLING INTO THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COAST STATES.

WHEN WE IN THE COAST GUARD TALK ABOUT DRUG SMUGGLING, WE ARE TALKING PRIMARILY ABOUT MARIJUANA. THIS DRUG IS A BULK COMMODITY THAT IS COMMONLY BROUGHT TO OUR COUNTRY BY SEA. THUS, WHILE WE ARE OBVIOUSLY INTENT ON CRACKING DOWN ON ALL IMPORTATION OF DRUGS, AND OFTEN SEIZE OTHER DRUGS, THE COAST GUARD WINDS UP SEIZING MORE MARIJUANA THAN ANY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY.

OUR STRATEGY TO CATCH THE SMUGGLERS IS VARIED. WE WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. NAVY, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE, THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES. STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES ARE ALSO VERY COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL. COORDINATION BETWEEN OUR SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT IN AREAS WHERE THE DRUG SMUGGLERS ARE KNOWN TO BE OPERATING HAS BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE.

OUR MULTI-MISSION VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL IN INTERDICTING DRUG TRAFFICKERS. THIS OFTEN OCCURS

WHILE THEY ARE PURSUING OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN A RECENT CASE IN SOUTH FLORIDA, A COAST GUARD CUTTER WAS CALLED ON TO ASSIST A TUG THAT WAS DISABLED BY A FIRE AND EXPLOSION. IN THE COURSE OF PROVIDING THIS ASSISTANCE, WE LEARNED THAT THE FIRE AND EXPLOSION WERE CAUSED BY THE TUG'S CREW CUTTING INTO THE FUEL TANK TO REMOVE BALES OF MARIJUANA.

I HAVE BEEN GREATLY HEARTENED BY THE SUCCESSES WE HAVE REGISTERED. HOWEVER, I AM ALSO FULLY AWARE THAT THE PROBLEM IS OF A MAGNITUDE SO LARGE THAT OUR MANY SUCCESSES ARE STILL NOT ADEQUATE.

How ^SSUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN? IN 1980, WE SEIZED 134 VESSELS, ARRESTED 728 PEOPLE AND CONFISCATED 2.4 MILLION POUNDS OF MARIJUANA. IN 1982 WE SEIZED 174 VESSELS, ARRESTED 1,078 PEOPLE AND TOOK 3.4 MILLION POUNDS OF MARIJUANA OUT OF CIRCULATION. THAT 3.4 MILLION POUNDS, BY THE WAY, REPRESENTS A STREET VALUE IN EXCESS OF TWO BILLION DOLLARS. FROM THIS YOU CAN SEE THAT OUR EFFORTS ARE PROVIDING EXCELLENT RESULTS. THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE INITIATIVES, WHICH ENHANCED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR INTER-AGENCY EFFORTS IN THE SOUTH FLORIDA AREA, CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THESE SUCCESSES.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT OUR AT-SEA INTERDICTIONS OF DRUG SMUGGLERS HAS FORCED CHANGES TO THEIR OPERATIONS. WE HAVE CAUSED THEM TO ALTER THEIR TRAFFIC TO OTHER ROUTES, SEEK OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AND SELECT DIFFERENT SOURCES OF SUPPLIES AS WELL AS DESTINATIONS FOR DELIVERY OF THEIR DRUGS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE NUMBER OF VESSELS SEIZED NORTH OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BORDER IN 1982 WAS 169 PERCENT OF THE NUMBER SEIZED IN 1981; THE MARIJUANA SEIZED IN 1982 WAS 432 PERCENT OF THAT SEIZED IN 1981, AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE

ARRESTED IN 1982 WAS 252 PERCENT OF THOSE ARRESTED IN 1981. AS A MATTER OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, SENATOR DAMATO, I THINK YOU'LL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT THE LEVEL OF DRUG SMUGGLING SEIZURES IN THE NEW YORK AREA SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 400 PERCENT OF LAST YEAR'S LEVEL.

THE INCREASE IN DRUG SMUGGLING ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHEAST IS UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO OUR SUCCESSES IN THE SOUTHEAST CAUSING THE SMUGGLERS TO SEEK LONGER, MORE COSTLY ROUTES TO ALTERNATE DESTINATIONS. WHEN WE CAN DRIVE THE PRICE OF SMUGGLING UP HIGH ENOUGH IN TERMS OF THE CHANCES OF GETTING CAUGHT, IN TERMS OF PUNISHMENT FOR GETTING CAUGHT, AND IN TERMS OF THE RETURN ON THE DOLLARS INVESTED, WE'LL THEN LICK THE PROBLEM. I UNDERSTAND THAT A PORTION OF MARIJUANA THE SIZE OF A PACKAGE OF CIGARETTES IS WORTH ABOUT \$70. THE SAME AMOUNT OF COCAINE WILL NET A SELLER UP TO \$56,000 WHILE PURE HEROIN CAN BRING \$117,000. WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO!

WHERE THEN, ARE WE GOING? I AM CONVINCED OUR PRESENT EFFORTS ARE BEARING FRUIT. WHILE I COULD ALWAYS USE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, I MUST CONCLUDE OUR PRESENT HARDWARE IS CERTAINLY ADEQUATE FOR PURSUING AN EFFECTIVE INTERDICTION EFFORT. ~~THE PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, AS NEEDED, IS ACTIVELY PURSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.~~

WE CONSTANTLY REVIEW OUR EFFORTS TO DETERMINE HOW WE CAN BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE. COAST GUARD PEOPLE ARE TRADITIONALLY DEDICATED TO THEIR TASKS AND I CONSIDER THEM GOOD AT DOING THEM. SINCE WE CAN'T WORK HARDER, WE ARE TRYING TO WORK EVEN SMARTER. TO THIS END, WE ARE BEEFING UP OUR INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM AND THE COMMANDANT IS REALLOCATING PEOPLE TO INTELLIGENCE DUTIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MOST OF MY STATEMENT UP TO THIS POINT HAS BEEN A BROAD OVERVIEW OF THE DRUG INTERDICTION PROGRAM FROM THE CARIBBEAN SOURCE AND IN THE HIGH SEAS AREAS. IN MY JOB AS COMMANDER, THIRD COAST GUARD DISTRICT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR EFFORTS TO STOP DRUGS FROM BEING IMPORTED INTO THE NORTHEAST STATES FROM THE MARYLAND BORDER NORTH TO THE RHODE ISLAND BORDER. THIS COASTLINE IS HEAVILY POPULATED BY COMMERCIAL VESSELS OF ALL SIZES, FISHING BOATS AND RECREATIONAL BOATS. THE COASTLINE IS BROKEN UP BY NUMEROUS BAYS, INLETS AND HARBORS. THESE ARE FACTORS WHICH ARE INVITING TO THE SMUGGLER WHO WILL TRY TO SLIP IN WITHOUT SUSPICION AMONG THE CROWDS OF LEGITIMATE BOAT OPERATORS. WITH MY AVAILABLE OPERATING UNITS, THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN BOARD EVERY VESSEL AND ENSURE THAT NO DRUGS ARE SMUGGLED INTO THIS DISTRICT; NOR DO I BELIEVE WE NEED THAT LEVEL OF ACTIVITY TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT. OUR NATIONAL EFFORTS OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION, ALONG WITH OUR OWN COAST GUARD'S INCREASED EMPHASIS ON INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONAL STRATEGY ARE POINTED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

I HOPE I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A BETTER INSIGHT INTO OUR VERY INTENSE EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE DRUG PROBLEM THAT I CONSIDER TO BE SUCH A TERRIBLE THREAT TO THE WELL BEING OF OUR NATION. I BELIEVE FIRMLY THAT THE U.S. COAST GUARD, ALONG WITH THE MANY OTHER DEDICATED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, IS MAKING HEADWAY IN FORCING DRUG DEALING TO BECOME MORE RISKY THAN PROFITABLE.

THIS CONCLUDES MY PREPARED STATEMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN. MAY I SAY AGAIN THAT WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH YOUR INTEREST IN OUR EFFORTS TO INTERDICT ILLEGAL DRUGS DESTINED FOR OUR SHORES. I WILL BE HAPPY

TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.