Chemical War on Dope

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS)—"The Bureau of Dangerous Drugs" in urging farmers from the Midwest to spray wild marijuana crops with pesticide 2,4-D which has caused birth defects in mice, hamsters and chickens.

This is just part of a heavily-funded international campaign by the U.S. government to keep the world safe from marijuana.

So far the experiments with 2,4-D have only involved animals who have eaten food treated with it, but a researcher for the Food and Drug Administration feels that 2,4-D may be even more dangerous when smoked.

Furthermore. it is difficult to detect whether the grass you're about to smoke has been treated with 2,4-D, since the smoker usually buys it in its crushed form and it is generally mixed with stronger stuff from Mexico.

Recently the U.S. government gave Mexico $1 million in aircraft and financial aid to help in the control of drug traffic across the border. Part of it was for developing remote sensing devices for detection of growing fields of opium or marijuana, and another part was given for development of materials to eradicate the plants.

Richard Kleindienst, U.S. Deputy Attorney General under Mitchell, said that the gift of five small helicopters and three scouting planes to search out and destroy the marijuana was "one of the most historic occasions of cooperation between nations in many years."

The Mexican government has assigned 10,000 soldiers to the search and destroy operation and increased the surveillance of the borders, while the U.S. law enforcers have added 500 new men to increase the effectiveness of the searches on both the Mexican and Canadian' borders.

The Bureau for Dangerous Drugs has expanded its operations by adding agents in Frankfurt, London, Barcelona, Madrid and Milan. The U.S. has loaned Turkey $1.4 million for equipment for 750 policemen assigned to the suppression of drug traffic.



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