

E.P.
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Prime Minister⁽²⁾ To note Policy Unit news. I have passed your point about the health education film to DSS.
22 February 1985

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PRIME MINISTER

PREVENTION OF DRUG MISUSE

On 27 February, the Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs will alert the parents and children to the risks of drug taking. The graph of the increase of addiction which looks like the face of Mount Everest (attached) will frighten the public.

There are three unresolved issues:

1. Leading the young

The Committee says that the young should be given a "positive alternative" to drugs. What is it? Can we not harness the churches, and seek the assistance of the Royal Family. Lord Young's group is there to offer hope for the teenager: we need to present a strong line on this issue.

2. The need to gather information better

A clear decision is needed as to whether this is a police matter or a customs matter. Our enforcement overseas is little more than one man in Pakistan, another man in the Hague and a deadlock between the FCO and the Home Office as to whether to put one man in South America. By contrast, America has 130 foreign drug agents in 42 centres. We desperately need more information from the sources of drugs, particularly

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concerning South American cocaine. Can't we redeploy some of our strengthened police force to tackle this issue?

3. Illicit Profit

It is vital that British criminal law can lay its hands on the money made by the world drug emperors. International action is needed. We should seek the International enforcement of financial penalties for drug offences including criminal bankruptcy. The European Convention on the International Validity of Criminal Judgements, 1970 shows the way.

Conclusion

The US have spent more than \$4 billion on drugs → programmes without great effect. So Government money is not the solution.

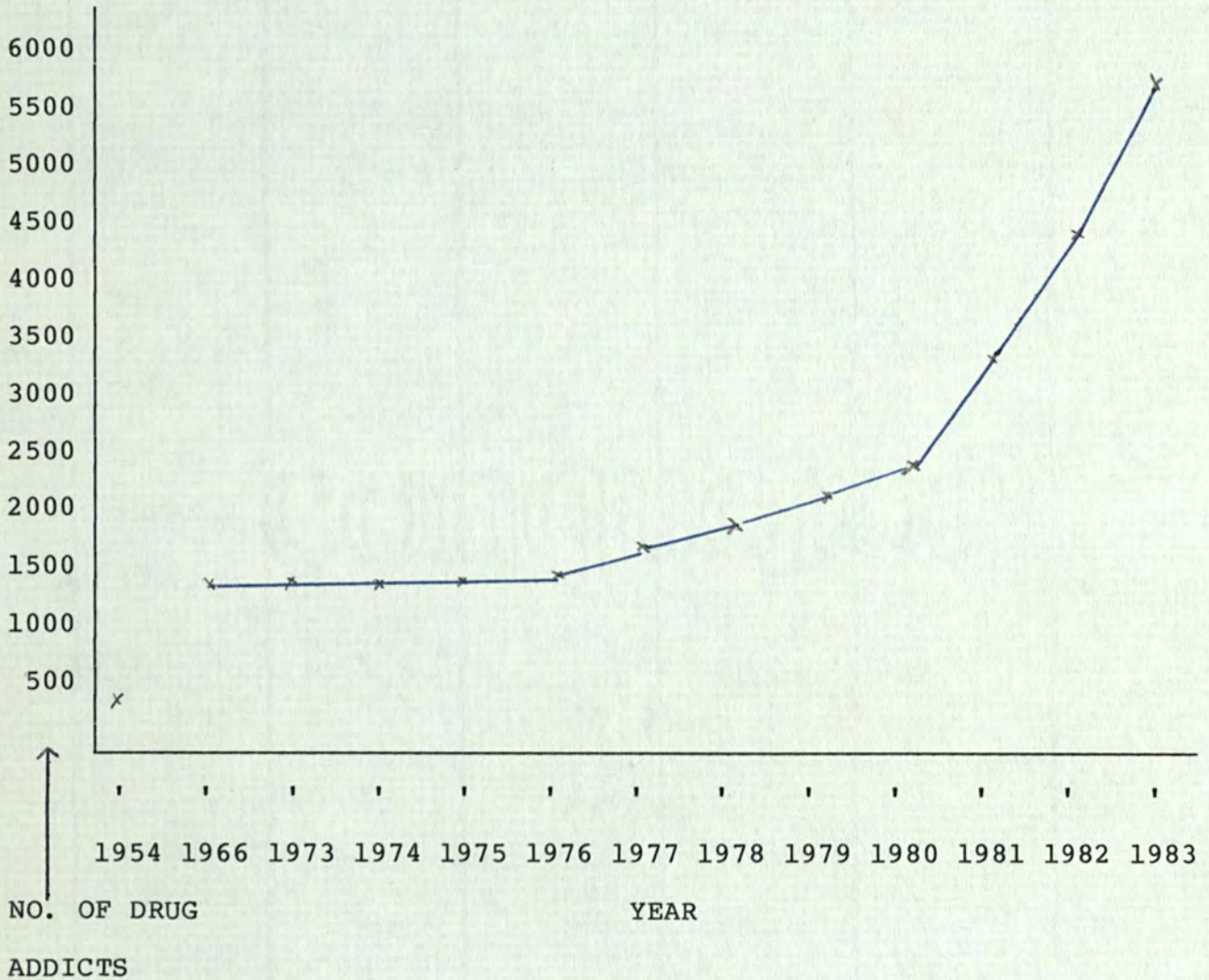
We recommend the Committee proceed. Our criticisms relate to a) a positive alternative for the young, b) the need for more police effort and c) the need for international action against big drug rings.

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PP HARTLEY BOOTH

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REGISTERED DRUG ADDICTS (BEING PROBABLY
10% OF THE TOTAL IN ANY YEAR)



Long House

F. B. I.

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