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ATTACHMENT B

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Ernest A. Carabillo, Jr.
Chief, Special Programs Division

FROM : Chief, Special Studies Section

DATE: OCT 06 1976

SUBJECT: Analysis of Amphetamine Abuse Trends

There are indications that the amphetamine abuse problem has changed direction and is now worsening. This paper analyzes the amphetamine abuse trends in terms of the nature of abuse and the sources of the abused drugs.

An examination of DAWN data on a quarterly basis for the three year period ending in June 1976, indicates that a trend of diminishing amphetamine mentions from a peak early in 1974, started to reverse itself during the last six quarters with a 23% increase in DAWN mentions during the past year. The emergency room data and the crisis center data did reflect the reversal of the downward trend (Fig. 1).*

The major reasons given for seeking help in emergency rooms are shown in Figure 2. The number of mentions due to overdoses and chronic effects of amphetamine have been constantly rising since the third quarter of 1973.

*Medical examiner data accounted for only about one and onethird percent of DAWN amphetamine mentions. They were too sparse and too variable over time to assess trends in amphetamine related deaths.