

In addition to a stepped-up effort to provide additional security through the installation of improved security containers and intrusion alarms, an intensified investigative effort led to the apprehension of several organized groups responsible for the rash of postal burglaries which plagued us in the late 1960's and early 1970's. As a consequence, we were able to reduce losses due to postal burglaries from a 1970 high of \$1.2 million to just \$197,000 last fiscal year. Additionally, losses of registered mail at airports alone totaled over \$70 million during the period 1967-1970. Through a coordinated program of segregating such mail and conveying it under the aegis of the Security Force, these losses were reduced to just over 400,000 by the end of fiscal year 1973. This decrease has continued to a point where today such losses of registered mail are negligible.

It is in the area of what we call "prohibited mailings" or the criminal misuse of the mails, through such illegal means as fraud, extortion, obscenity and bombs, that our involvement in illegal narcotics traffic lies. As with the narcotics problem, the ever-present threat of letter and parcel bombs passing through the mail stream offers a good example of how we cooperate, not only with federal, state, and local law enforcement officials but with the international community as well, in the sharing and exchange of intelligence and investigative techniques.

The Inspection Service has investigative jurisdiction whenever the mails are used in furtherance of an illegal scheme, but our efforts would be sorely limited without the cooperative *quid pro quo* which exists today among all law enforcement agencies. For example, utilization of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center provides our inspectors with

invaluable and instantaneous data in their criminal investigations. Our role in the overall enforcement of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 is one of cooperation with DEA, which has primary responsibility for its implementation. The U.S. Customs Service cooperates in the enforcement of those provisions relating to the importation of substances controlled by the Act, and we are called upon from time to time to assist in stamping for controlled deliveries of mail suspected of containing contraband other than drugs. It is a system where we, together with Customs, assist DEA, the investigative agency having primary jurisdiction over drug law violations.

I am both gratified and proud that the spirit of cooperation among so many agencies of government, each with its own administrative peculiarities and sometimes unique personalities, continues to work so well. And I believe it is a tribute to the many people involved in solving the dangerous and pressing problems of narcotics control that individual issues can be reconciled to the general good which is attainable only through the ultimate apprehension and conviction of those responsible for this evil.

Unquestionably, the spreading addiction to drugs throughout our country, in many cases involving the very young, is of serious concern to us all. Any effort to reach and obstruct the supplies of illegal drugs demands the fullest cooperation of all law enforcement organizations working with the problem. You have my pledge that the Inspection Service will continue to support and work closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration in its efforts to carry forward the programs designed to curb the flow of narcotics in our country.