ACTIONS TAKEN BY FEDERAL AGENCIES TO ASSURE THAT ONLY EFFECTIVE DRUGS ARE PROCURED AND THAT FEDERAL PROGRAMS MINIMIZE USE OF HIGH COST DRUGS

As of January 19, 1972, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had published 2,339 reports as to the effectiveness of drug preparations for the indications claimed in their labeling, and had reported them in the Federal Register. At that time FDA recognized that several problems pertaining to drug efficacy remained. Briefly they concerned:

--Conflicting reports relating to several drugs;

--Speeding up the progress on follow-up actions for drugs requiring evidence to be rated "effective";

--Completing compliance activities currently in process pertaining to "ineffective" drugs;

--Completing the review, which FDA expects to publish by June 30, of the remaining drug study reports; and

--Pursuing plans for evaluating the effectiveness of over-the-counter drugs.

Actions taken by the Department of Defense

As of November 18, 1971, the Defense Medical Material Review Board had initiated action to stop further procurement and to eliminate from the supply system all items that FDA had then pronounced "ineffective" or "possibly effective". Also, the Surgeons General of the military departments have emphasized through instructions to medical