~~1983~~ DOMESTIC MARIHUANA
ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM, 1982.

FINAL REPORT

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DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

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the same manner as in the previous paragraph for percentage of sinsemilla. This resulted in a U.S. average of 3.?8% of the marihuana crop estimated to be grown in greenhouses. Marihuana cultivation in greenhouses is harder to detect and is an additional element of illicit cultivation sophistication. This parameter will be monitored during the coming season.

Strategic Estimates of Domestic Marihuana Production

Traditionally, estimates of domestic marihuana production are derived from analyses of U.S. consumer data (estimated number of users, frequency and dosage of use, etc.), combined with field survey data indicating the relative proportions of marihuana in the traffic from domestic production and the various foreign sources. The latest published estimate * for domestic marihuana production in 1980 is 700 - 1,000 metric tons. Not yet published estimates for 1981 indicate an increase to 900 - 1,200 metric tons.

Quantitative analyses of data derived from the 1982 Domestic Marihuana Eradication/Suppression Program reveal that domestic marihuana production for 1982 was significantly greater than that estimated for previous years.

Column B indicates that a total of over two and one-half million marihuana plants were eradicated in 1982 in the U.S. This figure was derived from actual plant count rather than estimates for most states and is considered reasonably accurate. Any error contained therein would result primarily from plants eradicated without being counted in the state total, an error on the side of conservatism.

"Plant count" was selected as the primary unit of measure rather than weight. Plant count is independent of the size of the plant at the time it is eradicated and represents the potential of the plant at maturity. The use of plant weight at the time of eradication provides inconsistent statistics as a result of the various plant sizes due to stage of growth, the loss of weight as the plant dries, etc. To arrive at an estimated weight of marketable marihuana for that which was eradicated, the following factors are used: One sinsemilla plant yields two pounds of marketable material; one regular marihuana plant yields one pound of marketable material. These factors are considered conservative. Their use, in conjunction with an accurate plant count, provides a consistent statistical measure.

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* The National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee, The Supply of Drugs to the U.S. Illicit Market from Foreign and Domestic Sources in 1980 (with projections through 1984).