

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1977

Peter Bourne -

The attached was returned in
the President's outbox. It is
forwarded to you for appropriate
handling.

Rick Hutcheson

Re: Monthly Narcotic Report #5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ATTACHMENT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 11, 1977

cc To Bourne
J

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter Bourne **P.B.**

SUBJECT: Monthly Narcotic Report #5

Colombia

We are scheduled to provide the promised briefing to President Lopez-Michelsen in Bogota on July 21, 1977. It will be conducted by Peter Bensinger of DEA, a representative of the Central Intelligence Agency under State Department cover and myself.

Good

The material to be presented has been prepared with exceptional care, and consistent with your instructions we will carefully qualify the information we provide making it particularly clear the degree of certainty we attach to it.

It is also our intention to recommend to him that he set up, with our help, an Internal Security Division to further investigate corruption, appoint a special prosecutor, and consolidate the several fragmented law enforcement agencies dealing with narcotics.

We will also present to him photos of opium poppies growing in three separate locations in Colombia. The first hand evidence, which we have obtained only in the last week.

Heroin

Our efforts to reduce heroin flow to this country continue to be successful.

Figure 1 - Shows the steady decline in heroin purity by quarter (the actual figures for June were 4.9%)

Include
in drug
message - "Lowest
% in - years"

Figure 2 - From a recent study, shows a remarkable parallel between heroin purity and burglary in the District of Columbia.

F.B.I. crime figures to be released soon are expected to show a dramatic drop in nationwide crime during the last year, again paralleling the drop in heroin purity. It is something that you might want to take some of the credit for.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
per 6/4/09 State HR
112-01-076
BY: J NARA DATE 9/24/10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter Bourne

SUBJECT: Monthly Narcotic Report #5

Law Enforcement

The Drug Enforcement Administration has had a series of major arrests in the last month including 3 mid-level organized crime figures. They have seized more than 150 lbs. of heroin. Also, and we hope it is an isolated event, they arrested 3 Turks with 12 lbs. of heroin from Istanbul, the first time heroin of Turkish origin has been seized in this country since 1974.

The biggest problem in the law enforcement field remains the frequent inability to get convictions or significant sentences against even major traffickers against whom the evidence is overwhelming. Of those charged with Schedule II offenses (the more serious group of traffickers) in the last year 50 percent were released from jail prior to trial--45 percent on bail, 5 percent on personal recognizance with no money bail required. Most alarming, is that 43 percent of the narcotics and Schedule II defendants were recidivists. Of the narcotics/Schedule II defendants, 24 percent received probation and another 11 percent were sentenced under the Youth Corrections Acts; therefore, more than one-third of these serious drug violators received no jail sentence. Finally, the length of sentence for convicted narcotic/Schedule II violators is less than three years in prison for almost half (47 percent) of them. For the other convicted drug violators, 86 percent were sentenced to less than three years in prison. (To make the problem more acute, the average narcotics offender serves only 34.6 percent of his sentence after consideration is given for good behavior, parole, and other early release opportunities.) Some of the steps we are recommending to you in the drug message will begin to address this issue, but if we can not change the situation our chances of breaking up the major trafficking groups are not great.

DRUG MESSAGE - We had tremendous problems getting consensus on the drug message here in the White House and from the agencies because everyone thinks they are a drug expert even if they have no background or experience in this area. The final product which we sent to you this week is the result of a carefully derived consensus which I now feel is quite good.

PGB:ss

Attachments

CONFIDENTIAL

figure ①

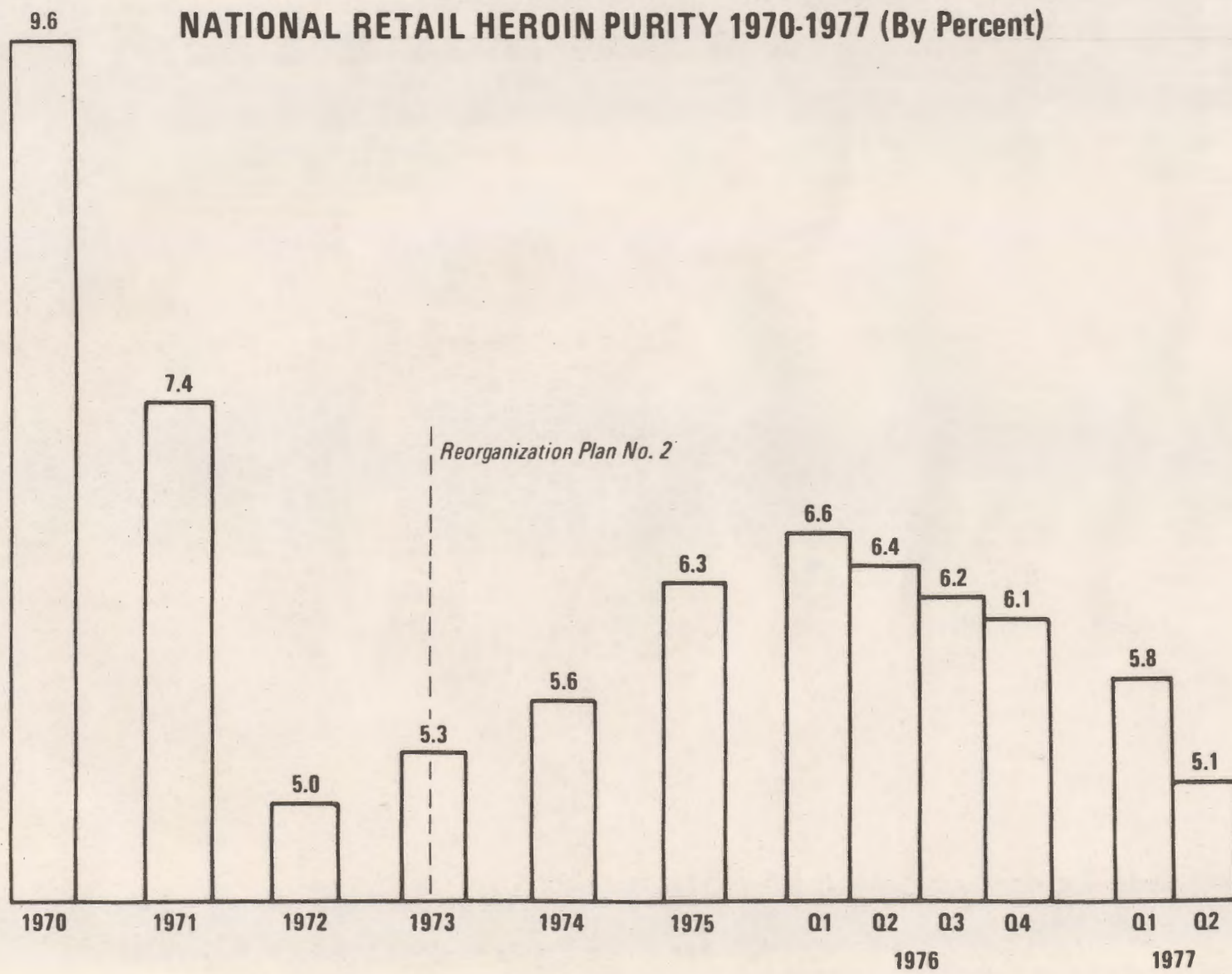


Fig. (2)

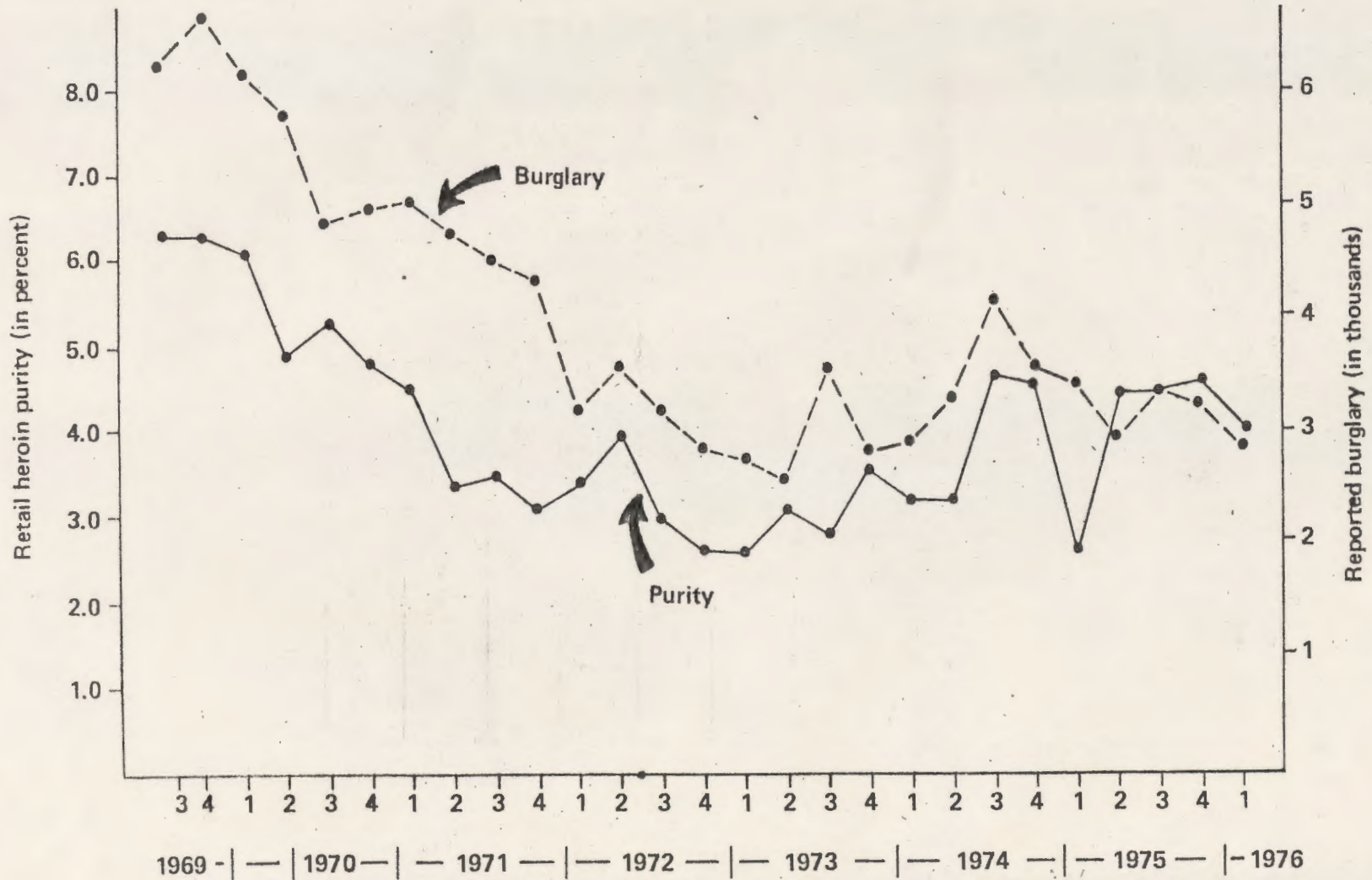


Figure 2 Retail heroin purity and reported burglary in the District of Columbia, 1969-1976

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 11, 1977

TO: Rick Hutcheson
FROM: Peter Bourne *P.B.*

The President asked that I provide him monthly a two page summary on narcotics. Attached is report #5.

PGB:ss

In safe

DECLASSIFIED
per 10/10/99 Gabe H
MSC-01-016
BY *[Signature]* NARA DATE *9/24/10*