

Departments of State, Defense and Treasury and the U.S. Information Agency.

The memo urges them to fight "propaganda" against Red China. Included with the memo is a two-page briefing paper prepared by the federal intelligence agencies on Red China and opium.

"The attached report... answers in detail allegations that the PRC (Communist China) is flooding the Western world with illicit opium," declares the memo from White House drug information director Richard Harkness, formerly an NBC newscaster.

"It is earnestly suggested that this factual report be used as a bible for all of us in replying to and countering any propaganda to the contrary. We must cut down this kind of arrant nonsense."

The "bible" included with the memo contends that a "persistent propaganda campaign... is being promoted in this country by a number of groups who have consistently opposed normalization of relations between the U.S. and the PRC."

"Propaganda leaflets against Red China contain a June 23, 1965 quote by Chou En-lai to the late President Gamal Nasser of Egypt. In it, Chou allegedly said that "We are planting the best kinds of opium, especially for the American soldiers in Vietnam..."

The White House report points out that "it was not until mid-1970 that drug abuse

among U.S. servicemen in Vietnam reached serious proportions.

"Moreover, no evidence has yet been produced to indicate any attempt on the part of Peking to introduce opium or heroin into Vietnam.

The White House also maintains that China strictly controls opium production. Even in the old opium belts of Yunnan province, states the briefing paper, there is no "significant illicit cross-border movements" to the outside world.

"The tight political control exercised by the (Red Chinese) government over its citizens has probably made the enforcement of these laws quite effective in most areas," the White House claims.

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Defending Peking

In an unusually conciliatory move toward Peking, the White House is vigorously mobilizing the administration to fight what it calls "arrant nonsense" about Red China's role in world dope trafficking.

The White House gesture toward Mao Tse-tung comes even as President Nixon is wooing Mao's arch-rival in the Communist world, Soviet Party head Leonid Brezhnev.

A White House memo contains evidence that Richard Nixon, once the implacable foe of Communist China, is now defending China. The memo was circulated quietly to the