

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AGANA, GUAM

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 78-9

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION  
"OPERATION SAVE A LIFE"

WHEREAS, I have on previous occasions sadly reported that:  
"...Many of Guam's young people are dying in a different  
type of war;

- a war in which the enemy is difficult to detect and defeat;
- a war in which very few bullets are used but where the fatalities are high;
- a war, like all other wars, wherein our young people are the sacrificial lambs, the cannon fodder;
- a war that has caused much turmoil and change in our way of life;
- a war that, if left unchecked, could destroy the Guam we know and love; and

WHEREAS, I am referring to the war we are currently waging against drugs; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Mental Health and Substance Abuse Single State Agency has advised me that the current drug addict population of Guam exceeds 900 persons; and

WHEREAS, as of December 1977, Guam recorded 19 heroin related deaths: 4 in 1974, 2 in 1975, 6 in 1976, and 7 in 1977; and

WHEREAS, within the first four months of 1978, reports indicate that at least 6 deaths resulted from an overdose of heroin and other related drugs; and

WHEREAS, within these first 120 days of 1978, six (6) homicides are alleged to have resulted from the drug problem which has now reached crisis proportions; and

WHEREAS, the communicable disease section of the Department of Public Health and Social Services has reported that serum hepatitis morbidity has increased 100% within two (2) calendar years, and that unspecified viral hepatitis increased by 33% within one calendar year; and

WHEREAS, within the last two weeks, the Guam Mental Health and Substance Abuse Single State Agency contacted staff of the Drug and Alcohol Unit of the Community Mental Health Center, Guam's three public high schools, several private medical clinics, Guam Memorial Hospital Admissions Office, and person knowledgeable with respect to what is happening in the world of heroin useage to determine what impact the recent shortage of heroin selling on the streets has had in terms of persons seeking treatment for problems relating to heroin addiction; and

WHEREAS, the report indicates that the Guam Memorial Hospital Emergency Admissions and Outpatient Department received 5 overdose/withdrawal cases on April 18, 1978, and six other cases on April 17, 1978; and

WHEREAS, the report further states over the last three weeks 21 cases of overdose/withdrawal cases have been treated by the Guam Memorial Hospital Emergency Admissions and Outpatient Department; and

WHEREAS, the number treated by Guam Memorial Hospital represents only a fraction of the hundreds of other addicts being treated by private physicians throughout our island; and

WHEREAS, a cursory survey of physicians conducted within the last week has produced responses, such as:

"During last two weeks, I refer more patients to mental health clinics due to drug addiction."

"There has been an increase of persons dependent on drugs coming to our clinic - really about 100% increase. In talking with these individuals there seems to be a "holding back" of the drugs and thus making it hard to obtain. I feel there is an opportunity at present to help many who otherwise would not seek help. I cannot keep up with the load of requests coming to our clinic, however, would appreciate some help in referring these individuals elsewhere."; and

WHEREAS, I have received information that a local gang leader confirmed reports that a shortage of heroin existed and that many teenagers were suffering withdrawal pains. This person further stated the preference of such teenagers to rely on each other's strength and support as opposed to seeking treatment from outside sources; and

WHEREAS, clientele of the Drug and Alcohol Unit of Community Mental Health Center have indicated that:

- (a) the heroin shortage is expected to continue;
- (b) the price of heroin has increased drastically;
- (c) addicts are becoming angry, exhibiting strange behavior, and violence is expected;
- (d) many first year users are experiencing withdrawal pains for the first time in their lives; and

WHEREAS, in a recent survey conducted within JFK High School, 87 students admitted heroin use and of that number 33 stated they had experienced withdrawal pains, thus indicating addiction. Counsellors at Voc-Tech High School said a number of students were currently receiving assistance in withdrawing from heroin. Approximately 40 students at GW High School indicated they were addicted to heroin; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICARDO J. BORDALLO, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby proclaim that as a result of the aforestated statements, and other facts which much remain confidential, at this time, that a State of Emergency exists in this Territory of Guam, and I, therefore, order that:

(1) All Departments and Agencies of the Government of Guam and all concerned citizens join me in cooperating with the Guam Mental Health and Substance Abuse Single State Agency in establishing and implementing "Operation Save a Life" designed to meet the crisis needs of heroin abusers created by the decreased availability of heroin on the streets by providing them with:

- (a) crisis intervention centers;
- (b) hotlines;
- (c) counselling services; and
- (d) medical assistance.

(2) I further order that an Ad Hoc Committee to Save a Life be established to direct this "operation".

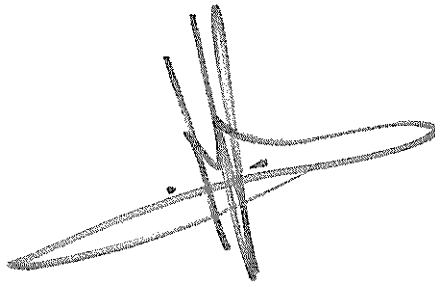
(3) I further order that the Administrator of Guam Mental Health and Substance Abuse Single State Agency chair this ad hoc committee which shall include the:

- (a) Administrator, Guam Mental Health & Substance Abuse Single State Agency;
- (b) Director of Public Safety;
- (c) Director of Public Health & Social Services;
- (d) Director, Department of Education;
- (e) President, University of Guam;
- (f) Attorney General of Guam;
- (g) Director, Department of Corrections;
- (h) Administrator, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

(4) I further order that the committee may include representatives from the:


- (a) Guam Legislature;
- (b) Judicial Branch;
- (c) Juvenile Justice;
- (d) Ministerial Association;
- (e) Roman Catholic Diocese of Agana;
- (f) Armed Forces Service;
- (g) any concerned civic organization.

Signed and promulgated at Agana, Guam this 21st day of  
APRIL, 1978.



RICARDO J. BORDALLO  
Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:



RUDOLPH G. SABLAN  
Lieutenant Governor