

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

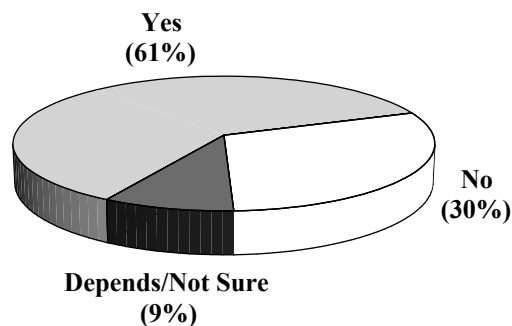
University of Maryland, College Park

Majority of Americans Believe that Drug Control Efforts of the U.S. and Other Countries Should Be Evaluated by an International Organization

Since 1986, the United States has employed a drug certification process to evaluate the effectiveness and cooperation of foreign countries in preventing the production and transportation of illegal drugs to the United States. *Passing Judgement: The U.S. Drug Certification Process*, released last Friday by Drug Strategies and the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication, examines the implementation, recent history, and effectiveness of this drug certification process. One alternative to the current process is the creation of an international organization to evaluate the effectiveness of the drug control efforts of the United States and other countries. According to the report, the majority of U.S. household residents (61%) support the formation of such an organization. To receive a copy of the report, *Passing Judgement: The U.S. Drug Certification Process*, send your request to Drug Strategies at 202-663-6110 (fax) or dspolicy@aol.com (e-mail).

Should an International Organization Comprised of Several Countries Be Formed to Judge the Effectiveness of Drug Control Efforts by the United States and Other Countries?

(N=1,202 U.S. Household Residents Polled in November 1997)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Drug Strategies and University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication, *Passing Judgement: The U.S. Drug Certification Process*, 1998.

What is the U.S. Drug Certification Process?

The President is required by law to annually identify countries that are significant sources of illicit drugs, and then determine if those countries have cooperated with the United States in the war against drugs. A source country is **certified** if it is determined to have fully cooperated with the United States (e.g., reduced illicit drug production and trafficking and eliminated drug-related money laundering, bribery, and public corruption). If a source country is determined to have not fully cooperated, it is **denied certification** and subjected to the suspension of U.S. foreign assistance and U.S. opposition to multilateral development bank loans. However, if it is determined that the decertification sanctions would jeopardize vital U.S. interests, a **national interest waiver** may be issued to countries that would otherwise be decertified.