

# ***Veterans Administration Program***

The Veterans Administration launched a drug treatment program that will eventually include 30 centers and an annual expenditure of \$10 million.

The VA announcement said that five drug treatment centers will be opened in January of 1971, with a target goal of 30 centers by 1973. Centers planned for the coming year are in Washington, D.C.; Houston, Tex.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Sepulveda, Calif.; and New York City.

In making the announcement, VA said it had reason to believe that drug addiction among veterans will reach its peak in

1973 and decline thereafter.

VA is working with the Department of Defense in coordinating treatment programs for servicemen before they are discharged.

VA said that between 75 and 80 per cent of those treated at the centers are expected to be cured of addiction.

VA said that in 1970 VA doctors treated 1,000 narcotics addicts seeking help and an additional 900 involved with lesser drugs.

VA estimated that the number seeking treatment more than doubled in the past 12 months.