To Establish Justice,
To Insure Domestic Tranquility

A Thirty Year Update of the National
Commission on the Causes and
Prevention of Violence.

The Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation

Violence, fear of crime, the proliferation of firearms and racism in the
criminal justice system have all increased over the past three decades,
according to this update on the first National Commission on the Causes
and Prevention of Violence, which was formed in the late 1960s after the
assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Senator Robert F.
Kennedy. The report by the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, which has
carried out the work of the Commission, serves as a cautionary balance to
the plethora of reports and news stories about the national drop in crime in
the mid-1990s. Among other findings: violent crime reported to the FBI
increased in big cities by over 40 percent between 1969 and 1998; fear of
crime increased more than 30 percent between 1967 and 1998; and the
number of firearms in the U.S. has increased more than 120 percent from
the late 1960s to the present. All this at the same time that prison-building
has increased seven-fold.

The report recommends a different approach: that national policy support
reforms in school, youth development, and job training. The report cites
several exemplary programs, such as Head Start, the Dorchester Youth
Collaborative in Boston, the School Development Plan of James P.
Comer, the Argus Learning for Living Center in the South Bronx, and the
Eisenhower Foundation (202) 429-0440. E-mail: