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Inner City Challenge

Twenty-five years ago this week the *Kerner Commission* first warned, after urban riots, that this nation was becoming two societies, "one black, one white - separate and unequal."

On the 25th anniversary of the commission's disturbing report, the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation has concluded that little has been learned in the last quarter century about how to prevent the festering social conditions that lead to hopelessness and angry riots.

The Foundation's report says the reaction by Congress and the White House to last year's Los Angeles riots was the wrong one because the remedies proposed won't work.

The foundation instead proposes some approaches that seem more promising:

- Focus on drug treatment and prevention rather than interdiction.
- Reorganize the Job Training Partnership Act to focus more on unemployed inner-city youths.
- Turn responsibility for building low-income housing over to nonprofit organizations rather than profit-seeking developers.
- For the next decade, spend \$15 billion more a year on programs for inner-city youths and another \$15 billion on inner-city infrastructure.

The sickness in America's inner cities continues. It calls for radical intervention and a sustained, imaginative effort at healing.