



The Pathfinder Fund

pathways in population planning

CLARENCE J. GAMBLE, M.D.  
Founder (1894-1966)

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Dear Friend,

Do you remember 1957? Ike was President. Times were good.

Very few people at that time were thinking about global famine or the population explosion. But a few people clearly saw it coming. One of them was my late husband, Dr. Clarence James Gamble. He had helped to establish the first family planning clinics in 40 American cities.

And, in 1957, he founded The Pathfinder Fund.

His vision of pioneering new and better ways of family planning has grown into a worldwide, non-profit organization, now working in over 49 developing nations. The Pathfinder Fund is helping to prevent a horrifying scenario of massive famine, economic collapse and social turmoil.

To bring the point home to you, in the short time you've spent reading these few paragraphs over 500 people have been born. This amazingly rapid growth in sheer numbers of human beings born minute after minute, hour after hour, day after day is threatening our survival.

But the situation is far from hopeless. In the United States and most western countries population growth has stabilized at the replacement level. Major victories in reducing birth rates are taking place more frequently.

The World Fertility Survey indicates a sharp drop in the birth rate in many Third World countries. In Costa Rica, women today bear half the number of babies their mothers did.

In South Korea, Sri Lanka and other Asian countries, women now marry later. Delayed marriage may enable them to stay in school longer, perhaps to gain some experience in the job market. These factors give parents a better chance to weigh options about when they will have children and how many.

You and I are deeply affected by this vital struggle to restore a workable balance between the world's population and its resources. We can take heart from evidence that the birth rate in some countries is slowing down.

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But persistent effort must be expended if birth rates are to be reduced throughout the world. Even now many women in developing countries want to limit their childbearing, but they don't know how.

This is where The Pathfinder Fund is helping.

In Kenya, Pathfinder reaches rural areas through Maendeleo Ya Wanawake, a national women's organization that has chapters in more than 5,000 local communities. Financial and technical assistance from The Pathfinder Fund is making it possible for them to add family planning information and maternal and child health instruction to their regular self-help programs.

The success of this project has led Pathfinder to develop and support similar ventures in Peru, Ecuador, Egypt and Indonesia.

Pathfinder is also breaking new ground in Haiti -- one of the world's poorest countries -- where the birth rate is still very high. With Pathfinder support, a national women's center is developing a capability to train urban and rural community leaders.

Encouraging as these beginnings are, countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Rwanda and Nepal are still being strangled by excessive and ever-growing populations.

For hundreds of millions of people in these countries, the short step from life's beginning to its end may be one of unrelieved misery.

In many parts of Asia, Africa, Central and South America, the cycle of poverty, ignorance and disease grinds on. Without population control there is little hope.

On the Caribbean island of Jamaica, teenage pregnancy may not be accidental. It can be a matter of survival. Here a young girl may become pregnant because the only way she can get a man to support her is to bear his children.

And, maybe he does for a while. But in the end, she might be deserted -- left to make her own way along -- no education...no skills... and a young baby to feed and care for.

The Pathfinder Project for Adolescent Mothers has helped break that pattern. Pregnant students are encouraged to return to school after child-birth. Older adolescents may be taught a skill.

Through education, vocational training and family planning services, young women are helped to find alternatives to having babies when they are not yet ready to care for them.

Pathfinder Fund  
Letter

Someone once told me the best way to demonstrate success is to succeed in the most difficult of circumstances. In population control, Bangladesh is one of the most difficult countries in the world. Some have described the country as the "population basket case of the world."

Imagine a country in which 90% of the people -- 80 million -- live on the edge of disaster with famine just days away. The population seems literally to be exploding -- growing at a terrifying rate of 3% -- faster than food, jobs, schools, and homes.

Bangladesh is collapsing under the weight of too many people. Unless the birth rate is dramatically reduced, the country may sink into complete chaos.

One aspect of Bangladesh's tragic condition is that each year an estimated 300,000 women, desperate to terminate an unwanted pregnancy, resort to clandestine, back-alley abortions. Over 10,000 die and many more experience serious illness as a result of improperly performed procedures. The tragedy is that these deaths, this suffering, could be avoided if contraceptive services and safe abortions were adequately available to these unfortunate women.

Five years ago Pathfinder agreed to help the Bangladesh government develop a pilot, comprehensive reproductive health clinic in Dacca. All methods of family planning -- contraception, sterilization, and abortion -- were offered.

The clinic was very successful. Especially notable was the fact that the vast majority of women who came for a pregnancy termination left with a modern method of family planning. Many had not used contraception before. Many had not even known how to prevent pregnancy.

Because the clinic was so successful and because the offering of pregnancy termination services seemed an excellent way to introduce family planning, the Population Control and Family Planning Division of the Ministry of Health asked Pathfinder's assistance in designing, funding and implementing a plan to make medically safe abortion available throughout Bangladesh.

Over the past three years, after careful development of a teaching curriculum, abortion service and training facilities have been established at seven of Bangladesh's eight medical school teaching hospitals and at two district hospitals. Additional facilities will gradually be brought into the program.

Practicing physicians, interns, residents, medical students and auxiliaries (called Family Welfare Visitors in Bangladesh) are being trained. The Government of Bangladesh is providing the physical facilities and assuming the salaries of senior administrative personnel.

Pathfinder has undertaken the responsibility of securing the funding for the balance of the costs, more than \$250,000 this year. Because the project includes abortion, we cannot use U.S. Government funds.

Contributions from friends like you are essential if the effective program now underway is to achieve optimal results.

The Bangladesh Government wants sufficient personnel trained so that comprehensive family planning, including pregnancy termination, can be offered at health facilities in each of the 413 thanas (counties). It is anticipated that the Pathfinder-supported training facilities will eventually be absorbed into the Government's regular teaching and health programs and then help from abroad will no longer be needed.

While not desirable as a primary method of birth control, experience in Bangladesh and elsewhere has shown that the availability of abortions leads to increased utilization of contraceptive methods, if proper counseling is provided at the time of the abortion. Thus, we hope that this newest Pathfinder program will not only reduce unwanted births today, but will promote far wider use of contraceptives and diminish the need for abortion tomorrow.

The Pathfinder Fund must continue to help. Bangladesh can become a symbol of victory for population control in the Third World.

Will you help us to make it happen?

Your support today will not only provide direct assistance to family planning projects in Bangladesh and other countries, but will help leaders understand population policies and launch the programs needed to attain these goals.

No single government, and certainly no single agency, can do the job alone. By acting together, we may succeed in stemming the population tide.

Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or even more will enable us to open new pathways where there was only despair and suffering before. Making a better life possible for hundreds of millions of people is a goal worth striving for.

Sincerely yours,

*Sarah Gamble*

Mrs. Clarence J. Gamble  
Honorary Chairwoman

P.S. Please take a few moments to look over the enclosed brochure on the work of The Pathfinder Fund. A generous, tax-deductible gift, which can be sent in the enclosed envelope, will be greatly appreciated.

REVISED DRAFT STATEMENTIntroduction

For many years, the United States has supported, and helped to finance, programs of family planning, particularly in the less developed countries. This Administration has continued that support but has placed it within a policy context different from that of the past. It is sufficiently evident that the current exponential growth in global population cannot continue indefinitely. There is no question of the ultimate need to achieve a condition of population equilibrium. The differences that do exist concern the choice of strategies and methods for the achievement of that goal. The experience of the last two decades not only makes possible but requires a sharper focus for our population policy. It requires a more refined approach to problems which appear today in quite a different light than they did twenty years ago.

First and most important, population growth is, of itself, a neutral phenomenon. It is not necessarily good or ill. It becomes an asset or a problem only in conjunction with other factors, such as economic policy, social constraints, need for manpower, and so forth. The relationship between population growth and economic development is not <sup>necessarily</sup> negative one. More people do not necessarily mean less growth. Indeed, in the economic history of many nations, population growth has been an essential element in economic progress.

Before the advent of governmental population programs, several factors had combined to create an unprecedented surge in population over most of the world. Although population levels in many industrialized nations had reached or were approaching equilibrium in the period before the Second World War, the baby boom that followed in its wake resulted in a dramatic, but temporary, population "tilt" toward youth. The disproportionate number of infants, children, teenagers, and eventually young adults did strain the social infrastructure of schools, health facilities, law enforcement and so forth. However, it also helped sustain strong economic growth, despite occasionally counterproductive government policies.

Among the developing nations, a coincidental population increase was caused by entirely different factors. A tremendous expansion of health services -- from simple inoculations to sophisticated surgery -- saved millions of lives every year. Emergency relief, facilitated by modern transport, helped millions to survive flood, famine, and drought. The sharing of technology, the teaching of agriculture and engineering, and improvements in educational standards generally, all helped to reduce mortality rates, especially infant mortality, and to lengthen life spans.

This demonstrated not poor planning or bad policy but human progress in a new era of international assistance, technological advance, and human compassion. The population boom was a challenge; it need not have been a crisis. Seen in its broader context, it required a measured, modulated response. It provoked an overreaction by some, largely because it coincided with two

negative factors which, together, hindered families and nations in adapting to their changing circumstances.

The first of these factors was governmental control of economies, a development which effectively constrained economic growth. The post-war experience consistently demonstrated that, as economic decision-making was concentrated in the hands of planners and public officials, the ability of average men and women to work towards a better future was impaired, and sometimes crippled. In many cases, agriculture was devastated by government price fixing that wiped out rewards for labor. Job creation in infant industries was hampered by confiscatory taxes. Personal industry and thrift were penalized, while dependence upon the state was encouraged. Political considerations made it difficult for the economy to adjust to changes in supply and demand or to disruptions in world trade and finance. Under such circumstances, population growth changed from an asset in the development of economic potential to a peril.

One of the consequences of this "economic statism" was that it disrupted the natural mechanism for slowing population growth in problem areas. The world's more affluent nations have reached a population equilibrium without compulsion and, in most cases, even before it was government policy to achieve it. The controlling factor in these cases has been the adjustment, by individual families, of reproductive behavior to economic opportunity and aspiration. Historically, as opportunities and the standard of living rise, the birth rate falls. [Economic freedom has led to economically rational behavior]

*In many countries*

That historic pattern might be well under way in many nations where population growth is today a problem, if counter-productive government policies had not disrupted economic incentives, rewards, and advancement. In this regard, localized crises of population growth are, in part, evidence of too much government control and planning, rather than too little.

The second factor that turned the population boom into a crisis was confined to the western world. It was an outbreak of an anti-intellectualism, which attacked science, technology, and the very concept of material progress. Joined to a commendable and long overdue concern for the environment, it was more a reflection of anxiety about unsettled times and an uncertain future. In its disregard of human experience and scientific sophistication, it was not unlike other waves of cultural anxiety that have swept through western civilization during times of social stress and scientific exploration.

The combination of these two factors -- counterproductive economic policies in poor and struggling nations, and a ~~pseudo-scientific~~ pessimism among the more advanced -- led to a demographic overreaction in the 1960's and 1970's. Scientific forecasts were required to compete with unsound, extremist scenarios, and too many governments pursued population control measures, ~~rather than~~ ~~without~~ sound economic policies that create the rise in living standards historically associated with decline in fertility rates. This approach has not worked, primarily because it has focused on a symptom and neglected the underlying ailments. For the last three years, this Administration has sought to reverse that approach. We

recognize that immediate population pressures may require short-term efforts to meliorate them. But population control programs alone cannot substitute for the economic reforms that put a society on the road toward growth and, as an aftereffect, toward slower population increase as well.

Nor can population control substitute for the rapid and responsible development of natural resources. In commenting on the Global 2000 report, this Administration in 1981 ~~repudiated~~ <sup>disagreed with</sup> its call for more governmental supervision and control, stating that:

"Historically, that has tended to restrict the availability of resources and to hamper the development of technology, rather than to assist it. Recognizing the seriousness of environmental and economic problems, and their relationship to social and political pressures, especially in the developing nations, the Administration places a priority upon technological advance and economic expansion, which hold out the hope of prosperity and stability of a rapidly changing world. That hope can be realized, of course, only to the extent that government's response to problems, whether economic or ecological, respects and enhances individual freedom, which makes true progress possible and worthwhile."

Those principles underlie this country's approach to the International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico City in August.

## Policy Objectives

The world's rapid population growth is a recent phenomenon. Only several decades ago, the population of developing countries was relatively stable, the result of a balance between high fertility and high mortality. There are now 4.5 billion people in the world, and six billion are projected by the year 2000. Such rapid growth places tremendous pressures on governments without concomitant economic growth.

The International Conference on Population offers the U.S. an opportunity to strengthen the international consensus on the interrelationships between economic development and population which has emerged since the last such conference in Bucharest in 1974. Our primary objective will be to encourage developing countries to adopt sound economic policies and, where appropriate, population policies consistent with respect for human dignity and family values. As President Reagan stated, in his message to the Mexico City Conference:

We believe population programs can and must be truly voluntary, cognizant of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and families, and respectful of religious and cultural values. When they are, such programs can make an important contribution to economic and social development, to the health of mothers and children, and to the stability of the family and of society.

U.S. support for family planning programs is based on respect for human life, enhancement of human dignity, and strengthening of the

family. Attempts to use abortion, involuntary sterilization, or other coercive measures in family planning must be shunned, whether exercised against families within a society or against nations within the family of man.

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) calls for legal protection for children before birth as well as after birth. In keeping with this obligation, the United States does not consider abortion an acceptable element of family planning programs and will no longer contribute to those of which it is a part. Accordingly, when dealing with nations which support abortion with funds not provided by the United States Government, the United States will contribute to such nations through segregated accounts which cannot be used for abortion. Moreover, the United States will no longer contribute to separate non-governmental organizations which perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations. With regard to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the U.S. will insist that no part of its contribution be used for abortion. The U.S. will also call for concrete assurances that the UNFPA is not engaged in abortion or coercive family planning programs; if such assurances are not forthcoming, the U.S. will redirect the amount of its contribution to other, non-UNFPA family planning programs.

In addition, when efforts to lower population growth are deemed advisable, U.S. policy considers it imperative that such efforts respect the religious beliefs and culture of each society.

U.S. Government authorities will immediately begin negotiations to implement the above policies with the appropriate governments and organizations.

It is time to put additional emphasis upon those root problems which frequently exacerbate population pressures, but which have too often been given scant attention. By focusing upon real remedies for underdeveloped economies, the International Conference on Population can reduce demographic issues to their proper place. It is an important place, but not the controlling one. It requires our continuing attention within the broader context of economic growth and of the economic freedom that is its prerequisite.

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#### The U.S. at Mexico City

In conjunction with the above statements of policy, the following principles should be drawn upon to guide the U.S. delegation at the International Conference on Population:

1. Respect for human life is basic, and any attempt to use abortion, involuntary sterilization, or other coercive measures in family planning must be rejected.

2. Population policies and programs should be fully integrated into, and reinforce, appropriate, market-oriented development policies; their objective should be clearly seen as an improvement in the human condition, and not merely an exercise in limiting births.

3. Access to family education and services ~~is needed~~ <sup>s to be</sup>

~~Significantly expanded,~~  
broadened especially in the context of maternal/child health

programs, in order to enable couples to exercise responsible parenthood. Consistent with values and customs, the U.S. favors offering couples a variety of medically approved methods.

4. Though population factors merit serious consideration in development strategy, they are not a substitute for sound economic policies which liberate individual initiative through the market mechanism.
5. There should be higher international priority for biomedical research into safer and better methods of fertility regulation, especially natural family planning, and for operations research into more effective service delivery and program management.
6. Issues of migration should be handled in ways consistent with both human rights and national sovereignty.
7. The U.S., in cooperation with other concerned countries, should resist intrusion of polemical or non-germane issues into Conference deliberations.

# Insert A

## The Ramifications of Rapid Population Growth

Conservative projections indicate that, in the sixty years from 1950 to 2010, many Third World countries will experience four, five or even sixfold increases in the size of their populations. Even under the assumption of gradual declines in birth rates, the unusually high proportion of youth in the Third World means that the annual population growth in many of these countries will continue to increase for the next several decades.

~~Population growth--of such dimensions and over such a relatively short timeframe--is contributing to economic, social~~

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section

~~and resource pressures which threaten to undermine initiatives for peace, economic progress, and human dignity and freedom in many areas throughout the world.~~ Rapid population growth unmatched by economic growth in many cases limits governmental options in meeting societal needs by diverting resources from capital investment to consumption, retards economic growth, heightens youth and minority dissatisfaction, and can create internal disorder. Thus, the destabilizing aspects of population change and demographic pressures, if unchecked, can lead to the conditions in which democracy is thwarted and repressive regimes are imposed on people.

#### Population, Development and Economic Policies

Sound economic policies and a market <sup>Insert</sup> economy are of fundamental importance to the process of economic development. Rising standards of living contributed in a major way to the demographic transition from high to low rates of population growth which occurred in the United States and other industrialized countries over the last century.

The current situation of many developing countries, however, differs in certain ways from conditions in 19th century Europe and the United States. The rates and dimensions of population growth are much higher now; the pressures on land, water, and resources are greater; the safety-valve of migration is more restricted; and, perhaps most important, time is not on their side because of the momentum of demographic change.

Rapid population growth compounds already serious problems faced by both public and private sectors in accommodating changing

social and economic demands. It diverts resources from needed investment, and increases the costs and difficulties of economic development. Slowing population growth is not a panacea for the problems of social and economic development. It is not offered as a substitute for sound and comprehensive development policies. Without other development efforts and sound economic policies which encourage a vital private sector, it cannot solve problems of hunger, unemployment, crowding or social disorder.

Population assistance is ~~but one~~ <sup>an</sup> essential ingredient of a comprehensive program that focuses on the root causes of development failures. The U.S. program as a whole, including population assistance, lays the basis for well grounded, step-by-step initiatives to improve the well-being of people in developing countries and to make their own efforts, particularly through expanded private sector initiatives, a key building block of development programs.

Fortunately, a broad international consensus has emerged since the 1974 Bucharest World Population Conference that economic development and population policies are mutually reinforcing.

Even LDCs with relatively sound, market-oriented economies have found it important to pursue voluntary programs to moderate population growth as part of their overall development strategy.

By helping developing countries slow their population growth through support for effective voluntary family planning programs, in conjunction with sound economic policies, U.S. population assistance contributes to stronger saving and investment rates, speeds the development of effective markets and related employment opportunities, reduces the potential resource requirements of

programs to improve the health and education of the people, and hastens the achievement of each country's graduation from the need for external assistance.

The United States will continue its longstanding commitment to development assistance, of which population programs are a ~~an~~ ~~integral~~ part. We recognize the importance of providing our assistance within the cultural, economic and political context of the countries we are assisting and in keeping with our own values.

#### Health and Humanitarian Concerns

Perhaps the most poignant consequence of rapid population growth is its effect on the health of mothers and children. Especially in poor countries, the health and nutrition status of women and children is linked to family size. Maternal and infant mortality rises with the number of births and with births too closely spaced. In countries as different as Turkey, Peru and Nepal, a child born less than two years after its sibling is twice as likely to die before it reaches the age of five, than if there were an interval of at least four years between the births. Complications of pregnancy are more frequent among women who are very young or near the end of their reproductive years. In societies with widespread malnutrition and inadequate health conditions, these problems are reinforced; numerous and closely spaced births lead to even greater malnutrition of mothers and infants.

Lack of voluntary private family-planning programs may result in population measures which infringe upon human rights and dignity.

It is an unfortunate reality that in many countries, abortion is used as a means of terminating unwanted pregnancies. This is unnecessary and repugnant; voluntary family assistance programs can provide a humane alternative to abortion for couples who wish to regulate the size of their family, and evidence from some developing countries indicates a decline in abortion as such services are expanded.

The basic objective of all U.S. assistance, including population programs, is the betterment of the human condition--improving the quality of life of mothers and children, of families and of communities for generations to come. For we recognize that people are the ultimate resource--but this means happy and healthy children, growing up with an education, finding productive work as young adults and able to develop their full mental and physical potential.

U.S. aid is designed to promote economic progress in developing countries through encouraging sound economic policies and freeing of individual initiative. Thus, the United States supports a broad range of activities in various sectors, including agriculture, private enterprise, science and technology, health, population and education. Population assistance amounts to about ten percent of total development assistance.

#### The Private Sector's Role

A distinctive feature of U.S. family planning assistance is its success in engaging private sector U.S. institutions to work with private sector organizations in developing countries to meet family-planning needs. U.S. assistance demonstrates the

effectiveness of non-profit and market-oriented private institutions to make family planning services available to people who are beyond the reach of public sector delivery systems, providing services that respect their preferences, and gaining their financial support for the services. The ultimate achievement of self-reliant national service delivery networks is in large part dependent on the extensive growth of these private sector family planning activities. At the same time, the United States will also continue well-designed bilateral assistance programs with governments that request family-planning assistance and are ready to make effective use of our assistance.

Technology as a Key to Development

The transfer, adaptation and improvement of modern know-how is central to U.S. development assistance. People with greater know-how are people better able to improve their lives. Population assistance ensures that a wide range of modern technology related to demographic issues is made available to developing countries and that technological improvements critical for successful development receive support.

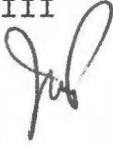
The efficient collection, processing and analysis of data derived from census, survey and vital statistics programs contribute to better planning in both the public and private sectors.

~~SECRET~~THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 3, 1984

DECLASSIFIED  
White House Guidelines, August 22, 1997  
By CB NARA, Date 6/7/01~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JOHN POINDEXTER 

SUBJECT: Population Paper

Attached please find what we hope will be the final redraft of the population issue paper. Its first six pages, under the heading Introduction, are taken from the original Svahn draft. Its subsequent pages, from the subtitle Conference Objectives (page 6), are from the joint NSC/AID/State draft. It is a good mix. The paper accomplishes three things: (1) the abortion language is strong and something we can live with, (2) the paper reads as if it was an outgrowth--with amplifying language--of the original Svahn draft, and (3) the policy mix is correct from the NSC/State/AID point of view.

We look forward to your comments and a final agreement on this matter.

Attachment

TAB A Population paper

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Issue Paper  
for International Conference on Population

Introduction

For many years, the United States has supported, and helped to finance, programs of family planning, particularly in the developing countries. This Administration has continued that support, but has placed it within a policy context different from that of the past. It is sufficiently evident that the current exponential growth in global population cannot continue indefinitely. There is no question of the ultimate need to achieve a condition of population equilibrium. The differences that do exist concern the choice of strategies and methods for the achievement of that goal. The experience of the last two decades not only makes possible but requires a sharper focus for our population policy. It requires a more refined approach to problems which appear today in quite a different light than they did twenty years ago.

First and most important, population growth is, of itself, a neutral phenomenon. It is not necessarily good or ill. It becomes an asset or a problem only in conjunction with other factors, such as economic policy, social constraints, need for manpower and so forth. The relationship between population growth and economic development is not necessarily a negative one.

Several factors have combined to create an unprecedented surge in population over most of the world. Although population

levels in many industrialized nations had reached or were approaching equilibrium in the period before the Second World War, the baby boom that followed in its wake resulted in a dramatic, but temporary, population "tilt" toward youth. The disproportionate number of infants, children, teenagers and young adults did strain the social infrastructure of schools, health facilities and law enforcement. It also, though, helped sustain strong economic growth, despite occasionally counterproductive government policies.

Among the developing nations, a coincidental population increase was caused by entirely different factors. A tremendous expansion of health services--from simple inoculations to sophisticated surgery--saved millions of lives every year. Emergency relief, facilitated by modern transport, helped millions to survive flood, famine and drought. The sharing of technology, the teaching of agriculture and engineering, and improvements in educational standards drastically reduced the mortality rates--especially infant mortality--and lengthened life spans.

This demonstrated not poor planning or bad policy, but human progress in a new era of international assistance, technological advance and human compassion. Seen in its broader context, it required a measured, modulated response. It provoked an overreaction by some, largely because it coincided with two negative factors which, together, hindered families and nations in adapting to their changing circumstances.

The first of these factors was governmental control of economies--a development which effectively constrains economic growth. The post-World War II experience has demonstrated that

when economic decisionmaking was concentrated in the hands of planners and public officials, the ability of average men and women to work toward a better future was impaired and sometimes crippled. In many cases, agriculture was devastated by government price fixing that wiped out rewards for labor. Job creation in infant industries was hampered by confiscatory taxes. Personal industry and thrift were penalized, while dependence upon the state was encouraged. Political considerations made it difficult for an economy to adjust to changes in supply and demand or to disruptions in world trade and finance. Under such circumstances, population growth changed from a potential asset in the development of economic potential to a peril. Historically, as opportunities and the standard of living rise, the birth rate falls.

The second factor that turned the population boom into a crisis was confined to the western world. It was an outbreak of an anti-intellectualism, which attacked science, technology and the very concept of material progress. Joined to a commendable and long overdue concern for the environment, it was a reflection of anxiety about the unsettled times and the uncertain future. This view demonstrated a disregard of human experience and scientific sophistication. It was not unlike other waves of cultural anxiety that have, over the centuries, swept through western civilization during times of social stress and scientific exploration.

The combination of these two factors--counterproductive economic policies in poor and struggling nations and a pessimism among the more advanced--led to doomsday scenarios that took the

place of realistic forecasts. Too many governments pursued population control measures that have had little impact on population growth, rather than sound economic policies that create the rise in living standards historically associated with decline in fertility rates. This approach has not worked primarily because it has focused on a symptom and neglected the underlying ailments. For the last three years, this Administration has sought to reverse that approach. We recognize that, in some cases, immediate population pressures may make advisable short-term efforts to ameliorate them. But population control programs alone cannot be a substitute for the economic reforms that put a society on the road toward growth and, as an after-effect, toward slower population increase as well.

Nor can population control substitute for the rapid and responsible development of natural resources. In commenting on the Global 2000 report, this Administration in 1981 disagreed with its call "for more governmental supervision and control" and stated that:

Historically, that has tended to restrict the availability of resources and to hamper the development of technology, rather than to assist it. Recognizing the seriousness of environmental and economic problems, and their relationship to social and political pressures, especially in the developing nations, the Administration places a priority upon technological advance and economic expansion, which hold out the hope of

prosperity and stability of a rapidly changing world. That hope can be realized, of course, only to the extent that government's response to problems, whether economic or ecological, respects and enhances individual freedom, which makes true progress possible and worthwhile.

Those principles underlie this country's approach to the United Nations Conference on Population to be held in Mexico City in August. In accord with those principles, we reject compulsion or coercion in family planning programs, whether it is exercised against families within a society or against nations within the family of man.

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) calls for legal protection for children before birth as well as after birth. In keeping with this principle, the United States does not consider abortion an acceptable element of family planning programs and will no longer contribute to those of which it is a part. Accordingly, when dealing with nations which support abortion with funds not provided by the United States Government, the United States will contribute to such nations through separate accounts which cannot be used for abortion. Moreover, the United States will no longer contribute to non-governmental organizations which perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning overseas. With regard to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United States will insist that no part of its contribution to the UNFPA be used for abortion, and will negotiate an arrangement to

immediately implement this policy. The United States will also call for concrete assurances that the UNFPA is not engaged in abortion or coercive family planning programs. If such assurances are not forthcoming, the United States will consider further steps as appropriate under U.S. policy.

Efforts to lower population growth in cases in which it is deemed advisable to do so must, moreover, respect the religious beliefs and culture of each society. Population control is not a panacea. It will not solve problems of massive unemployment.

It is time to put additional emphasis upon those root problems which frequently exacerbate population pressures. By focusing upon real remedies for underdeveloped economies, the United Nations Conference on Population can reduce demographic issues to their proper place. It is an important place, but not the controlling one. It requires our continuing attention within the broader context of economic growth and of the economic freedom that is its prerequisite.

### Conference Objectives

The International Conference on Population (ICP) offers the United States an opportunity to strengthen the international consensus on the interrelationships between economic development and population which has emerged since the last such conference in Bucharest in 1974. Our primary objective will be to encourage developing countries to adopt sound economic policies and, where appropriate, population policies consistent with respect for human dignity and family values. As President Reagan stated, in his message to the Mexico City Conference:

We believe population programs can and must be truly voluntary, cognizant of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and families, and respectful of religious and cultural values. When they are, such programs can make an important contribution to economic and social development, to the health of mothers and children, and to the stability of the family and of society.

The world's rapid population growth is a recent phenomenon. Only several decades ago, the population of developing countries was relatively stable, the result of a balance between high fertility and high mortality.

U.S. support for family planning programs is based on two fundamental principles: enhancing human dignity and strengthening family life. The respect for human life is a basic moral value, and attempts to use abortion, involuntary sterilization or other coercive measures in family planning must be shunned.

#### The Ramifications of Rapid Population Growth

Conservative projections indicate that, in the sixty years from 1950 to 2010, many Third World countries will experience four, five or even sixfold increases in the size of their populations. Even under the assumption of gradual declines in birth rates, the unusually high proportion of youth in the Third World means that the annual population growth in many of these countries will continue to increase for the next several decades.

Population growth--of such dimensions and over such a relatively short timeframe--is contributing to economic, social

and resource pressures which threaten to undermine initiatives for peace, economic progress, and human dignity and freedom in many areas throughout the world. Rapid population growth unmatched by economic growth in many cases limits governmental options in meeting societal needs by diverting resources from capital investment to consumption, retards economic growth, heightens youth and minority dissatisfaction, and can create internal disorder. Thus, the destabilizing aspects of population change and demographic pressures, if unchecked, can lead to the conditions in which democracy is thwarted and repressive regimes are imposed on people.

#### Population, Development and Economic Policies

Sound economic policies and a market economy are of fundamental importance to the process of economic development. Rising standards of living contributed in a major way to the demographic transition from high to low rates of population growth which occurred in the United States and other industrialized countries over the last century.

The current situation of many developing countries, however, differs in certain ways from conditions in 19th century Europe and the United States. The rates and dimensions of population growth are much higher now; the pressures on land, water, and resources are greater; the safety-valve of migration is more restricted; and, perhaps most important, time is not on their side because of the momentum of demographic change.

Rapid population growth compounds already serious problems faced by both public and private sectors in accommodating changing

social and economic demands. It diverts resources from needed investment, and increases the costs and difficulties of economic development. Slowing population growth is not a panacea for the problems of social and economic development. It is not offered as a substitute for sound and comprehensive development policies. Without other development efforts and sound economic policies which encourage a vital private sector, it cannot solve problems of hunger, unemployment, crowding or social disorder.

Population assistance is but one essential ingredient of a comprehensive program that focuses on the root causes of development failures. The U.S. program as a whole, including population assistance, lays the basis for well grounded, step-by-step initiatives to improve the well-being of people in developing countries and to make their own efforts, particularly through expanded private sector initiatives, a key building block of development programs.

Fortunately, a broad international consensus has emerged since the 1974 Bucharest World Population Conference that economic development and population policies are mutually reinforcing. Even LDCs with relatively sound, market-oriented economies have found it important to pursue voluntary programs to moderate population growth as part of their overall development strategy.

By helping developing countries slow their population growth through support for effective voluntary family planning programs, in conjunction with sound economic policies, U.S. population assistance contributes to stronger saving and investment rates, speeds the development of effective markets and related employment opportunities, reduces the potential resource requirements of

programs to improve the health and education of the people, and hastens the achievement of each country's graduation from the need for external assistance.

The United States will continue its longstanding commitment to development assistance, of which population programs are an integral part. We recognize the importance of providing our assistance within the cultural, economic and political context of the countries we are assisting and in keeping with our own values.

#### Health and Humanitarian Concerns

Perhaps the most poignant consequence of rapid population growth is its effect on the health of mothers and children. Especially in poor countries, the health and nutrition status of women and children is linked to family size. Maternal and infant mortality rises with the number of births and with births too closely spaced. In countries as different as Turkey, Peru and Nepal, a child born less than two years after its sibling is twice as likely to die before it reaches the age of five, than if there were an interval of at least four years between the births. Complications of pregnancy are more frequent among women who are very young or near the end of their reproductive years. In societies with widespread malnutrition and inadequate health conditions, these problems are reinforced; numerous and closely spaced births lead to even greater malnutrition of mothers and infants.

Lack of voluntary private family-planning programs may result in population measures which infringe upon human rights and dignity.

It is an unfortunate reality that in many countries, abortion is used as a means of terminating unwanted pregnancies. This is unnecessary and repugnant; voluntary family assistance programs can provide a humane alternative to abortion for couples who wish to regulate the size of their family, and evidence from some developing countries indicates a decline in abortion as such services are expanded.

The basic objective of all U.S. assistance, including population programs, is the betterment of the human condition--improving the quality of life of mothers and children, of families and of communities for generations to come. For we recognize that people are the ultimate resource--but this means happy and healthy children, growing up with an education, finding productive work as young adults and able to develop their full mental and physical potential.

U.S. aid is designed to promote economic progress in developing countries through encouraging sound economic policies and freeing of individual initiative. Thus, the United States supports a broad range of activities in various sectors, including agriculture, private enterprise, science and technology, health, population and education. Population assistance amounts to about ten percent of total development assistance.

#### The Private Sector's Role

A distinctive feature of U.S. family planning assistance is its success in engaging private sector U.S. institutions to work with private sector organizations in developing countries to meet family-planning needs. U.S. assistance demonstrates the

effectiveness of non-profit and market-oriented private institutions to make family planning services available to people who are beyond the reach of public sector delivery systems, providing services that respect their preferences, and gaining their financial support for the services. The ultimate achievement of self-reliant national service delivery networks is in large part dependent on the extensive growth of these private sector family planning activities. At the same time, the United States will also continue well-designed bilateral assistance programs with governments that request family-planning assistance and are ready to make effective use of our assistance.

#### Technology as a Key to Development

The transfer, adaptation and improvement of modern know-how is central to U.S. development assistance. People with greater know-how are people better able to improve their lives. Population assistance ensures that a wide range of modern technology related to demographic issues is made available to developing countries and that technological improvements critical for successful development receive support.

The efficient collection, processing and analysis of data derived from census, survey and vital statistics programs contribute to better planning in both the public and private sectors.

#### Policy Objectives

Under this Administration, U.S. support for population programs abroad aims at strengthening family life and enhancing the freedom of couples in the exercise of responsible parenthood

by expanding access to a range of safe, effective and acceptable family planning methods. The emphasis is on voluntarism, education and informed choice, and individual responsibility.

U.S. policy in this area is guided by certain basic ethical precepts:

- Aid will be provided in ways which are respectful of human dignity and religious and cultural values;
- U.S. funds will not be used for abortion activities, for involuntary sterilization or for population activities involving coercion; and
- U.S. population assistance will be provided in the context of an overall development program.

#### The United States at Mexico City

Other countries will look for U.S. support in strengthening the broad consensus on population and development that has emerged over the past several years.

The following principles should be drawn upon to guide the U.S. delegation at the ICP:

1. Respect for human life is basic, and any attempt to use abortion, involuntary sterilization or other coercive measures in family planning must be rejected.
2. Population policies and programs should be fully integrated into, and reinforce, appropriate, market-oriented development policies; their objective should be clearly seen as an improvement in the human

condition, and not merely an exercise in limiting births.

3. Access to family education and services needs to be significantly expanded, especially in the context of maternal/child health programs, in order to enable couples to exercise responsible parenthood. Consistent with values and customs, the United States favors offering couples a variety of medically approved methods.
4. Population factors merit serious consideration in development strategy, although they are not a substitute for sound economic policies which liberate individual initiative through the market mechanism.
5. There should be higher international priority for biomedical research into safer and better methods of fertility regulation, especially natural family planning, and for operations research into more effective service delivery and program management.
6. Issues of migration should be handled in ways consistent with both human rights and national sovereignty.
7. The United States, in cooperation with other concerned countries, should resist intrusion of polemical or non-germane issues into Conference deliberations.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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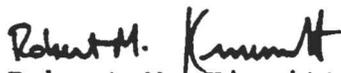
May 30, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLES HILL  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

SUBJECT: International Conference on Population

Attached is a draft position paper for the International Conference on Population in Mexico City, August 6 - 13, 1984. The paper was prepared by the White House Office of Policy Development, in coordination with our staff.

Please provide your comments or concurrence by Wednesday, June 13. Please respond jointly to Robert C. McFarlane and John A. Svahn, Assistant to the President for Policy Development.

  
Robert M. Kimmitt  
Executive Secretary

Attachment  
Tab A Position paper

cc: John A. Svahn

bcc: Carl Anderson, OPD  
Anne Higgins  
Becky Norton Develop

DRAFT Statement

For many years, the United States has supported, and helped to finance, programs of family planning, particularly in the less developed countries. This Administration has continued that support but has placed it within a policy context different from that of the past. It is sufficiently evident that the current exponential growth in global population cannot continue indefinitely. There is no question of the ultimate need to achieve a condition of population equilibrium. The differences that do exist concern the choice of strategies and methods for the achievement of that goal. The experience of the last two decades not only makes possible but requires a sharper focus for our population policy. [It requires a more refined approach to problems which appear today in quite a different light than they did twenty years ago.]

First and most important, in any particular society today, population growth is, of itself, a neutral phenomenon. It is not

necessarily good or ill. It becomes an asset or a problem only in conjunction with other factors, such as economic policy, social constraints, need for manpower, and so forth. The relationship between population growth and economic development is not a negative one. More people do not mean less growth; that is absurd on its face. ] Indeed, both in the American experience and in the economic history of most advanced nations, population growth has been an essential element in economic progress.

Before the advent of governmental population programs, several factors had combined to create an unprecedented surge in population over most of the world. Although population levels in many industrialized nations had reached or were approaching equilibrium in the period before the Second World War, the baby boom that followed in its wake resulted in a dramatic, but temporary, population "tilt" toward youth. The disproportionate number of infants, children, teenagers, and eventually young adults did strain the social infrastructure of schools, health facilities, law enforcement and so forth. It also sustained strong economic growth and was probably critical in boosting the American standard of living to new heights, despite occasionally counterproductive government policies.

Among the less developed nations, a coincidental population increase was caused by entirely different factors, directly related to the humanitarian efforts of the United States and other western countries. A tremendous expansion of health services -- from simple inoculations to sophisticated surgery -- saved millions of lives every year. Emergency relief,

facilitated by modern transport, helped millions to survive flood, famine, and drought. The sharing of technology, the teaching of agriculture and engineering, the spread of western ideals in the treatment of women and children all helped to drastically reduce the mortality rates, especially infant mortality, and to lengthen the life span.

The result, to no one's surprise, was more people, everywhere. [This was not a failure but a success.] ~~It~~ This demonstrated not poor planning or bad policy but human progress in a new era of international assistance, technological advance, and human compassion. The population boom was a challenge; it need not have been a crisis. Seen in its broader context, it required a measured, modulated response. It provoked ~~an over~~ <sup>a quite different</sup> ~~reaction~~ <sup>reaction</sup> by some, largely because it coincided with two negative factors which, together, hindered families and nations in adapting to their changing circumstances.

The first of these factors was governmental control of economies, [a development which has effectively contained economic growth in the Third World. a pathology which spread throughout the developing world with sufficient virulence to keep much of it from developing further.] As economic decision-making was concentrated in the hands of planners and public officials, the ability of average men and women to work towards a better future was impaired, and sometimes crippled. Agriculture was devastated by government price fixing that wiped out rewards for labor. Job creation in infant industries was hampered by confiscatory taxes. Personal industry and thrift were penalized, while dependency upon the state was encouraged. Political considerations made it

difficult for the economy to adjust to changes in supply and demand or to disruptions in world trade and finance. Under such circumstances, population growth changed from an asset in the development of economic potential to a peril.

One of the ~~worst~~ consequence of economic statism was that it disrupted the natural mechanism for slowing population growth in problem areas. The world's more <sup>developed</sup> [affluent] nations have reached a population equilibrium without compulsion and, in most cases, even before it was government policy to achieve it. The controlling factor in these cases has been the adjustment, by individual families, of reproductive behavior to economic opportunity and aspiration. [Economic freedom has led to economically rational behavior.] As opportunities and the standard of living rise, the birth rate falls.

That historic pattern <sup>might</sup> [would already] be well under way in many nations where population growth is today a problem, if [short-sighted policies had not disrupted] economic incentives, rewards, and advancement. <sup>had not been disrupted by deliberate government policies.</sup> [In this regard, localized crises of population growth are evidence of too much government control and planning, rather than too little.]

The second factor that turned the population boom into a crisis was confined to the western world. It was an outbreak of an anti-intellectualism, which attacked science, technology, and the very concept of material progress. Joined to a commendable and long overdue concern for the environment, it was more a reflection of anxiety about the unsettled times and the uncertain future and disregard of human experience and scientific

sophistication. It was not unlike other waves of cultural anxiety that have, over the centuries, swept through western civilization during times of social stress and scientific exploration.

The combination of these two factors -- counterproductive economic policies in poor and struggling nations and a pseudo-scientific pessimism among the more advanced -- provoked the demographic overreaction of the 1960's and 1970's. [Doomsday] Extreme scenarios took the place of realistic forecasts, and too many governments pursued population control measures [in lieu of, rather than] that have had little impact on population growth, rather than [in tandem with] sound economic policies that create the rise in living standards historically associated with decline in fertility rates. [It was the easy way out, and it did not work.] ~~It focused on a symptom and neglected the underlying ailments.~~ For the last three years, this Administration has sought to <sup>change</sup> ~~reverse~~ that approach. We recognize that, in some cases, immediate population pressures may make advisable short-term efforts to meliorate them. But this cannot be a substitute for the economic reforms that put a society on the road toward growth and, as an aftereffect, toward slower population increase as well.

Nor can population control substitute for the rapid and responsible development of natural resources. In responding to certain Members of Congress concerning the previous Administration's Global 2000 report, this Administration in 1981 repudiated its call "for more governmental supervision and control. Historically, that has tended to restrict the

availability of resources and to hamper the development of technology, rather than to assist it. Recognizing the seriousness of environmental and economic problems, and their relationship to social and political pressures, especially in the developing nations, the Administration places a priority upon technological advance and economic expansion, which hold out the hope of prosperity and stability of a rapidly changing world. That hope can be realized, of course, only to the extent that government's response to problems, whether economic or ecological, respects and enhances individual freedom, which makes true progress possible and worthwhile."

Those principles underlie this country's approach to the United Nations Conference on Population to be held in Mexico City in August. In accord with those principles, we reject compulsion or coercion in family planning programs, whether it is exercised against families within a society or against nations within the family of man. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) calls for legal protection for children before birth as well as after birth; and the United States accordingly does not consider abortion an acceptable element of family planning programs and will not contribute to those of which it is a part. ~~Nor will it any longer contribute directly or indirectly to family planning programs funded by governments or private organizations that advocate abortion as an instrument of population control.~~ ] Efforts to lower population growth in cases in which it is deemed advisable to do so must, moreover, respect the religious beliefs and culture of each society. Population

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control is not a panacea. It will not solve problems of massive unemployment. Jobs are not lost because there are too many people in a given area. Jobs are created by the conjunction of human wants and investment capital. Population growth fuels the former; sound economic policies and properly directed international assistance can provide the latter. Indeed, population density may make the latter more feasible by concentrating the need for both human services and technology. But as long as <sup>ill-advised</sup>~~oppressive~~ economic policies penalize those who work, save, and invest, joblessness will persist.

Population control cannot solve problems of unauthorized migration across national boundaries. People do not leave their homes, and often their families, to seek more space. They do so in search of opportunity and freedom. Reducing their numbers gives them neither. Population control cannot avert natural disasters, including famines provoked by cyclical drought. Fortunately, world food supplies have been adequate to relieve those circumstances in recent years. Problems of transportation remain; but there are far deeper problems as well, in those governmental policies which restrict the rewards of agricultural pursuits, encourage the abandonment of farmland, and concentrate people in urban areas.

It is time to <sup>put additional emphasis</sup>~~concentrate~~ upon those root problems which frequently exacerbate population pressures. By focusing upon real remedies for underdeveloped economies, the United Nations Conference on Population can <sup>place</sup>~~reduce~~ demographic issues <sup>in</sup>~~to~~ their proper place. It is an important place, ~~but not the controlling~~

~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> It requires our continuing attention within the broader context of economic growth and of the economic freedom that is its prerequisite. Most of all, questions of population growth require the approach outlined by President Reagan in 1981, in remarks before the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia: "Trust the people, trust their intelligence and trust their faith, because putting people first is the secret of economic success everywhere in the world." That is the agenda of the United States for the United Nations Conference on Population this year, just as it remains the continuing goal of our family planning assistance to other nations.

REVISED DRAFT STATEMENTIntroduction

For many years, the United States has supported, and helped to finance, programs of family planning, particularly in the less developed countries. This Administration has continued that support but has placed it within a policy context different from that of the past. It is sufficiently evident that the current exponential growth in global population cannot continue indefinitely. There is no question of the ultimate need to achieve a condition of population equilibrium. The differences that do exist concern the choice of strategies and methods for the achievement of that goal. The experience of the last two decades not only makes possible but requires a sharper focus for our population policy. It requires a more refined approach to problems which appear today in quite a different light than they did twenty years ago.

First and most important, population growth is, of itself, a neutral phenomenon. It is not necessarily good or ill. It becomes an asset or a problem only in conjunction with other factors, such as economic policy, social constraints, need for manpower, and so forth. The relationship between population growth and economic development is not a negative one. More people do not necessarily mean less growth. Indeed, in the economic history of many nations, population growth has been an essential element in economic progress.

Before the advent of governmental population programs, several factors had combined to create an unprecedented surge in population over most of the world. Although population levels in many industrialized nations had reached or were approaching equilibrium in the period before the Second World War, the baby boom that followed in its wake resulted in a dramatic, but temporary, population "tilt" toward youth. The disproportionate number of infants, children, teenagers, and eventually young adults did strain the social infrastructure of schools, health facilities, law enforcement and so forth. However, it also helped sustain strong economic growth, despite occasionally counterproductive government policies.

Among the developing nations, a coincidental population increase was caused by entirely different factors. A tremendous expansion of health services -- from simple inoculations to sophisticated surgery -- saved millions of lives every year. Emergency relief, facilitated by modern transport, helped millions to survive flood, famine, and drought. The sharing of technology, the teaching of agriculture and engineering, and improvements in educational standards generally, all helped to reduce mortality rates, especially infant mortality, and to lengthen life spans.

This demonstrated not poor planning or bad policy but human progress in a new era of international assistance, technological advance, and human compassion. The population boom was a challenge; it need not have been a crisis. Seen in its broader context, it required a measured, modulated response. It provoked an overreaction by some, largely because it coincided with two

negative factors which, together, hindered families and nations in adapting to their changing circumstances.

The first of these factors was governmental control of economies, a development which effectively constrained economic growth. The post-war experience consistently demonstrated that, as economic decision-making was concentrated in the hands of planners and public officials, the ability of average men and women to work towards a better future was impaired, and sometimes crippled. In many cases, agriculture was devastated by government price fixing that wiped out rewards for labor. Job creation in infant industries was hampered by confiscatory taxes. Personal industry 19→ and thrift were penalized, while dependence upon the state was encouraged. Political considerations made it difficult for the economy to adjust to changes in supply and demand or to disruptions in world trade and finance. Under such circumstances, population growth changed from an asset in the development of economic potential to a peril.

One of the consequences of this "economic statism" was that it disrupted the natural mechanism for slowing population growth in problem areas. The world's more affluent nations have reached a population equilibrium without compulsion and, in most cases, even before it was government policy to achieve it. The controlling factor in these cases has been the adjustment, by individual families, of reproductive behavior to economic opportunity and aspiration. Historically, as opportunities and the standard of living rise, the birth rate falls. Economic freedom has led to economically rational behavior.

That historic pattern might be well under way in many nations where population growth is today a problem, if counter-productive government policies had not disrupted economic incentives, rewards, and advancement. In this regard, localized crises of population growth are, in part, evidence of too much government control and planning, rather than too little.

The second factor that turned the population boom into a crisis was confined to the western world. It was an outbreak of an anti-intellectualism, which attacked science, technology, and the very concept of material progress. Joined to a commendable and long overdue concern for the environment, it was more a reflection of anxiety about unsettled times and an uncertain future. In its disregard of human experience and scientific sophistication, it was not unlike other waves of cultural anxiety that have swept through western civilization during times of social stress and scientific exploration.

The combination of these two factors -- counterproductive economic policies in poor and struggling nations, and a pseudo-scientific pessimism among the more advanced -- led to a demographic overreaction in the 1960's and 1970's. Scientific forecasts were required to compete with unsound, extremist scenarios, and too many governments pursued population control measures, rather than sound economic policies that create the rise in living standards historically associated with decline in fertility rates. This approach has not worked, primarily because it has focused on a symptom and neglected the underlying ailments. For the last three years, this Administration has sought to reverse that approach. We

recognize that immediate population pressures may require short-term efforts to meliorate them. But population control programs alone cannot substitute for the economic reforms that put a society on the road toward growth and, as an aftereffect, toward slower population increase as well.

Nor can population control substitute for the rapid and responsible development of natural resources. In commenting on the Global 2000 report, this Administration in 1981 repudiated its call for more governmental supervision and control, stating that:

"Historically, that has tended to restrict the availability of resources and to hamper the development of technology, rather than to assist it. Recognizing the seriousness of environmental and economic problems, and their relationship to social and political pressures, especially in the developing nations, the Administration places a priority upon technological advance and economic expansion, which hold out the hope of prosperity and stability of a rapidly changing world. That hope can be realized, of course, only to the extent that government's response to problems, whether economic or ecological, respects and →/ enhances individual freedom, which makes true progress possible and worthwhile."

Those principles underlie this country's approach to the International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico City in August.

## Policy Objectives

The world's rapid population growth is a recent phenomenon. Only several decades ago, the population of developing countries was relatively stable, the result of a balance between high fertility and high mortality. There are now 4.5 billion people in the world, and six billion are projected by the year 2000. Such rapid growth places tremendous pressures on governments without concomitant economic growth.

The International Conference on Population offers the U.S. an opportunity to strengthen the international consensus on the interrelationships between economic development and population which has emerged since the last such conference in Bucharest in 1974. Our primary objective will be to encourage developing countries to adopt sound economic policies and, where appropriate, population policies consistent with respect for human dignity and family values. As President Reagan stated, in his message to the Mexico City Conference:

We believe population programs can and must be truly voluntary, cognizant of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and families, and respectful of religious and cultural values. When they are, such programs can make an important contribution to economic and social development, to the health of mothers and children, and to the stability of the family and of society.

U.S. support for family planning programs is based on respect for human life, enhancement of human dignity, and strengthening of the

family. Attempts to use abortion, involuntary sterilization, or other coercive measures in family planning must be shunned, whether exercised against families within a society or against nations within the family of man.

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) calls for legal protection for children before birth as well as after birth. In keeping with this obligation, the United States does not consider abortion an acceptable element of family planning programs and will no longer contribute to those of which it is a part. Accordingly, when dealing with nations which support abortion with funds not provided by the United States Government, the United States will contribute to such nations through segregated accounts which cannot be used for abortion. Moreover, the United States will no longer contribute to separate non-governmental organizations which perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations. With regard to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the U.S. will insist that no part of its contribution be used for abortion. The U.S. will also call for concrete assurances that the UNFPA is not engaged in abortion or coercive family planning programs; if such assurances are not forthcoming, the U.S. will redirect the amount of its contribution to other, non-UNFPA family planning programs.

In addition, when efforts to lower population growth are deemed advisable, U.S. policy considers it imperative that such efforts respect the religious beliefs and culture of each society.

U.S. Government authorities will immediately begin negotiations to implement the above policies with the appropriate governments and organizations.

It is time to put additional emphasis upon those root problems which frequently exacerbate population pressures, but which have too often been given scant attention. By focusing upon real remedies for underdeveloped economies, the International Conference on Population can reduce demographic issues to their proper place. It is an important place, but not the controlling one. It requires our continuing attention within the broader context of economic growth and of the economic freedom that is its prerequisite.

Page 58  
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The U.S. at Mexico City

In conjunction with the above statements of policy, the following principles should be drawn upon to guide the U.S. delegation at the International Conference on Population:

1. Respect for human life is basic, and any attempt to use abortion, involuntary sterilization, or other coercive measures in family planning must be rejected.
2. Population policies and programs should be fully integrated into, and reinforce, appropriate, market-oriented development policies; their objective should be clearly seen as an improvement in the human condition, and not merely an exercise in limiting births.
3. Access to family education and services is needed, especially in the context of maternal/child health.

programs, in order to enable couples to exercise responsible parenthood. Consistent with values and customs, the U.S. favors offering couples a variety of medically approved methods.

4. Though population factors merit serious consideration in development strategy, they are not a substitute for sound economic policies which liberate individual initiative through the market mechanism.
5. There should be higher international priority for biomedical research into safer and better methods of fertility regulation, especially natural family planning, and for operations research into more effective service delivery and program management.
6. Issues of migration should be handled in ways consistent with both human rights and national sovereignty.
7. The U.S., in cooperation with other concerned countries, should resist intrusion of polemical or non-germane issues into Conference deliberations.