

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Svahn, John: Files  
**Folder Title:** United Nations Population, Aid,  
Abortion (3)  
**Box:** OA 13531

---

To see more digitized collections visit:  
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:  
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

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 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.

#### 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.

To: ~~Jack~~ Svahn  
FYI.

Jim Liscia  
7/2

DANTE B. FASCELL, FLA., CHAIRMAN

LEE HAMILTON, IND.  
GUS YATRON, PA.  
STEPHEN J. SOLARZ, N.Y.  
DON BONKER, WASH.  
GERRY E. STUDDS, MASS.  
ANDY IRELAND, FLA.  
DAN MICA, FLA.  
MICHAEL D. BARNES, MD.  
HOWARD WOLPE, MICH.  
GEO. W. CROCKETT, JR., MICH.  
SAM GEJDENSON, CONN.  
MERVYN M. DYMALLY, CALIF.  
TOM LANTOS, CALIF.  
PETER H. KOSTMAYER, PA.  
ROBERT G. TORRICELLI, N.J.  
LAWRENCE J. SMITH, FLA.  
HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIF.  
HARRY M. REID, NEV.  
MEL LEVINE, CALIF.  
EDWARD F. FEIGHAN, OHIO  
TED WEISS, N.Y.  
GARY L. ACKERMAN, N.Y.  
ROBERT GARCIA, N.Y.

WILLIAM S. BROOMFIELD, MICH.  
LARRY WINN, JR., KANS.  
BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, N.Y.  
ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO, CALIF.  
JOEL PRITCHARD, WASH.  
JIM LEACH, IOWA  
TOBY ROTH, WIS.  
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE  
HENRY J. HYDE, ILL.  
GERALD B. H. SOLOMON, N.Y.  
DOUGLAS K. BEREUTER, NEBR.  
MARK D. SILJANDER, MICH.  
ED ZSCHAU, CALIF.

Congress of the United States  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.  
CHIEF OF STAFF

June 28, 1984

Mr. Robert C. McFarlane  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

6/29  
Jim  
Fyi

Dear Mr. McFarlane:

In view of the continuing debate regarding the U.S. position for the U.N. Conference on Population, we would like to reiterate our support for a U.S. policy paper which reflects policy as it has been developed in a bipartisan accord between Congress and the Executive Branch over the last 20 years.

This consensus, which is shared by many other countries, recognizes that the unprecedented high rate of population growth in developing countries in recent years, with the demands it places on social services, housing, and job creation, makes it more difficult for these countries to combat poverty and to assure economic growth and improvement in living standards for all. Supporting more rational economic policies is critically important for economic growth to proceed in many of these countries. In addition, family planning programs play an important role in many countries in helping people who choose to limit their family size, thus allowing income per capita to grow more rapidly.

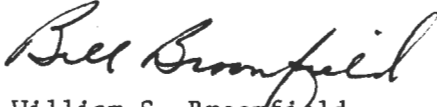
The Congress has repeatedly supported the provision of family planning services, both in direct bilateral support for family planning activities of other countries, and through support for private organizations and the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, which carry out family planning programs in many countries. Any proposed policy going beyond the scope of restrictions and safeguards in existing law and which would reduce or further limit U.S. support for these programs would be contrary to existing practice. We must emphasize that such a position would undercut long-term U.S. foreign policy interests and would face strong bipartisan criticism from the Congress.

Mr. Robert C. McFarlane  
Page 2  
June 28, 1984

We welcome consultation with you and others in the Executive Branch as further consideration is given to the development of a U.S. policy paper for the Mexico City conference.

With best wishes, we are,

Sincerely yours,

  
William S. Broomfield  
Ranking Minority Member

  
Dante B. Fascell  
Chairman

cc: James A. Baker III  
M. Peter McPherson

mgj

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.



# American Life Lobby, Inc.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, P.O. BOX 49C, STAFFORD, VA 22554  
703-659-4171 OR METRO DC (703) 690-2510  
GOVERNMENT LIASON OFFICE, 426 C STREET SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20002  
202-546-5550

June 28, 1984

## Executive Board

### President

Judie Brown

### Secretary

Susan M. Sassone

### Treasurer

Walter L. Avery

## Committee of Special Friends

Pat Boone

Rt. Rev. Joseph M. Harte, STD.

Beverly LaHaye

Howard Phillips

Phyllis Schlafly

Rudy Vallee

Christine Westgard

Paul M. Weyman

Rev. Don Wildmon

## National Advisory Board

Ladd Alexander, CLU

Theodore H. Amsnoff, Jr., Esq.

Bobbie Ames

Gabriele Avery

William Brennan, Ph.D.

Paul A. Brown

Gary Crum, Ph.D.

Peggy Cuddy

Eugene F. Diamond, MD

Hon. Robert K. Dornan

Michael M. Donovan, MD

Pat Driscoll

Jose C. Espinosa, MD

Olga Fairfax, Ph.D.

James H. Ford, MD

Mary Jo Heiland

John F. Hillabrand, MD

Vicky Iwa

Hon. Jim Jettles

Jacqueline Kasun, Ph.D.

Mary Ann Kuharski

Wilma Lettwich

Bettye J. Lewis

Lore Maier

Fr. Paul Marx, OSB

Onalee McGraw, Ph.D.

Hon. Walter Mengden

Murray Nornis, Ph.D., J.D.

Charles E. Rice

Liz Sadowski

Robert L. Sassone, Esq.

Joseph M. Scheidier

Michael Schwartz

William Sears, MD

Leonie Watson, MD

June Webb, RN

Mary Winter

Hon. James A. Baker  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Baker,

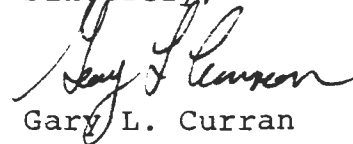
The Population Control Lobby in opposing the White House draft policy statement for the U.N. Population Conference has said - incredibly - that if the U.S. Government adopts the policy of cutting off funds for population control organizations it will be a laughing stock.

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

I enclose a copy of the order paper of the British Parliament that lists a motion for suspension of 3 million pounds from Her Majesty's government to International Planned Parenthood Federation.

In short the U.S. is not the only Government that is considering the cut off of population control funds.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Curran

GLC:cp

Hon. Larry P. McDonald  
1935-1983

ALL... for God, for Life, for the Family, for the Nation

"But because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold, nor hot, I will begin to vomit thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:16)

**787** *SUSPENSION OF FUNDS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION*

Mrs Ann Winterton  
Mr Ken Hargreaves  
Mr Nicholas Winterton  
Sir John Biggs-Davison  
Mr William Shelton  
Mr Richard Holt

Mr James White  
Sir Patrick Wall

Mr Roy Beggs

Mr Piers Merchant

★ 37

That this House notes with extreme concern the comments in the recent report published by the International Planned Parenthood Federation entitled *The Human Right to Family Planning* which argues that children as young as 10 years of age should be given contraceptives without their parents being consulted ; calls upon the Attorney General to investigate immediately these comments to consider whether they constitute a breach of the law in encouraging individuals to take part in unlawful sexual relationships ; and demands that the payment of funds by the Government to the International Planned Parenthood Federation through the Overseas Development Administration, which currently total nearly £3 million per annum, be suspended immediately, and that no further such payments be made until such time as the Attorney General is satisfied that no offence has been committed and until such time as the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is fully satisfied as to the purpose for which these funds are used.

**791** *REPATRIATION OF INDONESIAN REFUGEES*

Mr Jerry Hayes  
Mr Alfred Dubs  
Mr Peter Bottomley  
Mr Dave Nellist  
Mr Robin Squire  
Mr Cyril D. Townsend

Mr Simon Hughes

★ 29

That this House, gravely concerned that the Government of Papua New Guinea intends to return immediately 8,000 refugees who have fled to Papua New Guinea from the Indonesian Province of Brian Jaya and whose lives are in danger if they go back without the involvement of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, calls on Her Majesty's Government as a member of the Commonwealth to press the Governments of Papua New Guinea and Indonesia not to send back any refugees without involving the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and to permit the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to screen refugees so that their exact status may be ascertained.

U.S. STATEMENT AT THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL  
31st Session, Geneva, Switzerland  
June 25, 1984

THE UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

Draft 6/21/84 *note page 2*

President Reagan has set forth the dimensions of our shared concern in his statement to the International Conference on Population -- as he said:

World leaders have come to recognize that the historically unprecedented growth of population now occurring in many countries affects economic and social development and presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities. It is for these reasons that the United States provides bilateral and multilateral assistance in population programs.

Nations have their differences with respect to these matters; as do organized groups within our nations; as do religious groups speaking, in many cases, for world-wide constituencies; as do individuals in our societies. While we have a large area of shared concern, this condition may suggest that all governments and international organizations should respect the judgments of individuals and families, everywhere, in so intimate and personal a matter.

Still, separate governments, and the UNFPA as well, can properly advance toward certain goals respecting family planning, in support of which the United States can join on these principles:

- Coerce no parent, or would-be parent, to abandon their own private plans and convictions in matters of human reproduction. Treat both sociology and demographics, in the end, as exercises in description -- an analysis of the residual product of aggregated private actions.

- Recognize, in the same vein, the essential futility of seeking to advance economic welfare by imposing devices of central command and control. Dismantle, accordingly, existing economic disincentives imposed by governments, which have contributed, in many nations:

- to the decay of domestic agriculture,

- to the over-concentration of a possibly otherwise sustainable population in just a few cities,

- to an unwarranted subsidization of influential importers and privileged economic elites,

- to a disruptive control of foreign exchange rates, which control often denies to domestic producers the means they desperately need if they are to flourish,

- to a pervasive stifling of private economic incentives and responsibilities, and

- to a deadening of the sense that the quality of life for one's own family can be improved -- by application of diligence and initiative, and the private exercise of prudent choice.

- Provide, above all, information, on which families can rely to implement their own choices.

- Do not apologize for the view that, just as every nation ultimately bears responsibility for the burdens and restrictions it places on its citizens, each family properly bears responsibility for the choices it makes -- if it makes them after being informed.

- Allow materials, and accompanying information, to be distributed by effective, anonymous, and non-coercive means, viz., through commercial promotion and distribution.

- Consider that the most effective governmental contribution to family planning -- the dissemination of information and affordable materials -- might be toleration (and subsidization, if chosen) of private and commercial distribution.

- Recognize that economic development, clearly best promoted by proven free-market institutions, provides the climate in which families will become both better educated and less inclined, arguably, to over-populate in search of old age support.

- Respect the social institutions, the cultural mores, and the religious convictions of all nations.

As we tolerate and support the institutions that others have developed, we ask for the understanding of others that our nation, in seeking to contribute to the solution of "population problems," will not act in a manner contrary to the dictates of our national conscience.

It is the public policy of the United States, declared by our elected representatives, to generally refrain from tax-supported subsidization of abortion. This is a question as to which we do understand that women and men of conscience and sincerity can differ (and not along lines of gender). We implore understanding, accordingly, for our view that funds identified as having been contributed by the United States to support the worthy activities of concerned international organizations not be dedicated to the termination of fetal life as a technique of family planning.



If the UNFPA can give appropriate assurances that this is its practice, the United States can continue to extend its financial support. We desire neither to mislead nor to equivocate. It should be understood that our determination to follow our conscience is as clear and strong as is our respect for the moral judgments and social solutions that others adopt -- as they too seek to enhance the quality of life, for themselves, and for all of humankind.

President Reagan, in that same statement, gave a summary of our views that captures the broad scope of our intended support, our statement of conscience, and our genuine interest in the welfare of all:

Recognizing the seriousness of environmental and economic problems and their relationship to social realities, the United States places a priority upon technological advancement and economic expansion which hold out the hope of prosperity and stability for a rapidly changing world.

... 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.

... Together we must strive for a world in which children are happy and healthy. They must have the opportunity to develop to their full mental and physical potential and, as young adults, be able to find productive work and to enjoy a decent and dignified existence.

We will strive, we will work, we will extend our aid. We too are of the Family of Man, and seek but to enhance our common humanity.