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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

September 19, 1979

AID/PC MEMO TO PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Response to Directive of August 2, 1979

We welcome your memorandum of August 2, 1979 directing that we evaluate our developmental programs against the specific objectives that promote an improved natural resource base in the developing countries.

We agree that there is much that the United States can do about the problem of deforestation, which is no longer perceived as an abstract environmental concern, but instead one of considerable direct importance to poor people in developing countries and to mankind in general. Both A.I.D. and Peace Corps have made significant progress in helping reduce the effects of deforestation and improving already degraded areas. We expect our support to increase as leaders of other countries recognize the importance of maintaining a sound natural resource base.

The following examples of A.I.D and Peace Corps activities and our expectations for the future exemplify our concern and involvement:

In Latin America, several projects are underway including a \$10.8 million watershed management project in Panama, and a \$2 million reforestation project in Peru. Forthcoming activities include a \$500,000 conservation and environmental protection project in Bolivia, a \$225,000 program of environmental improvement in El Salvador, and a \$9.8 million natural resource project in Costa Rica. Agro-forestry, village woodlots, alternative fuels and land reclamation activities are also being carried out in some countries in Africa, Asia, and the Near East.

Significant steps have been taken in Africa to encourage cooperative efforts between our two agencies for new initiatives on village woodlots and other firewood production efforts.

An A.I.D. workshop this fall will focus attention on energy, forestry and environmental priorities in Asian countries.

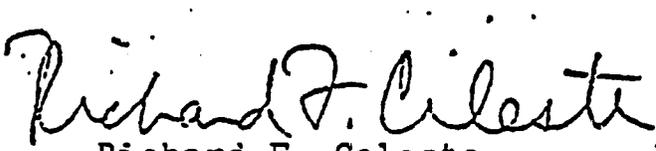
Peace Corps Volunteers have been working to achieve grassroots solutions to the problems of deforestation and environmental degradation for nearly nineteen years. Presently, approximately 500 volunteers are working in over forty countries addressing natural resource and conservation issues. A substantial portion of this group is made up of volunteers working directly in forestry and reforestation.

As a result of the importance of the problem, Peace Corps is now defining an expanded major initiative to assist in identifying appropriate solutions to the world forestry problem. This should lead to a major Peace Corps/A.I.D. collaborative effort, building on our experience in the Sahel, a Natural Resource Conservation project in El Salvador, and the CARE/Peace Corps/A.I.D. agro-forestry project in Chad.

In addition, the relationship between deforestation and the need for the development of alternative energy sources is clear to both our agencies. In response to this need, Peace Corps has begun implementation of a comprehensive energy use evaluation and alternative energy development project funded by A.I.D. These village level programs will train volunteers to identify and respond to specific energy needs of third world people in an effort to find alternative sources of energy and enhance current conservation techniques.

In the Fiscal Year 1981 Budget, A.I.D. and Peace Corps will be seeking your support for these and similar initiatives in renewable energy, forestry, and natural resource conservation.

We appreciate your recognition of the importance of these subjects to development assistance and will keep you informed of our progress in carrying out your directive.



Richard F. Celeste
Director
Peace Corps



Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Administrator
Agency for International Development

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 1979

We appreciate your recognition of the importance of these subjects to development assistance and will keep you informed of our progress in carrying out your directive.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE DIRECTOR OF ACTION

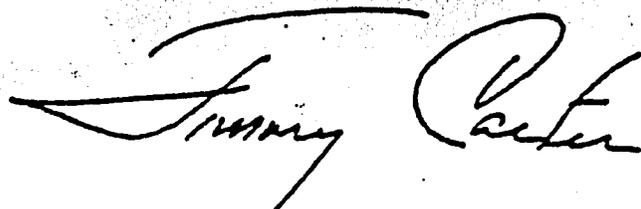
Richard F. Celeste Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Director Administrator

In my Environmental Message of August 2, 1979, I expressed concern about the rapid disappearance of the earth's forests, especially in the tropics and subtropics. I believe there is much that the United States can do in our development assistance to other nations to contribute to environmentally sound care and management of the earth's forests and to the well-being of people affected by them.

I am directing you to evaluate your development assistance programs in light of the following objectives and to give high priority to programs which would advance these objectives:

- necessary preservation of natural forest ecosystems and their rich complex of plant and animal life;
- multiple uses of highly diverse tropical forests, including management of natural stands, development of ecologically sound forest plantations, and combined agriculture and forestry;
- increasing yields in family-scale tropical agriculture to relieve pressures on forest lands that are not suitable for cultivation;
- developing integrated projects for reforestation, more efficient fuelwood use, and alternative energy sources.

Please give this assignment your immediate attention.



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AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20523

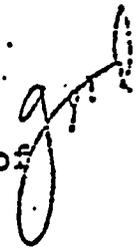
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ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

August 10, 1979

NOTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: Presidential Environmental Message
on Reforestation

The attached Presidential memo to you and ACTION
(did he really mean Peace Corps?) was initiated by
CEQ. A significant number of actions are already
underway and further initiatives are being planned.
Recent legislative language stresses the same points
outlined in the President's memo. I have discussed
with the Peace Corps the desirability of a joint
response from you and Dick Celeste setting forth
what we are now doing and steps planned for the future.
A draft is now being prepared, but as Dick will be
abroad until the end of August we would need to wait
until then to send the President a memo. I think a
joint memo would be especially useful as an indication of
how the two agencies are working together.



Unless you suggest a different course, we will proceed
along these lines.

Alex
Alexander Shakov

Attachment

Due ES 8/27/79

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