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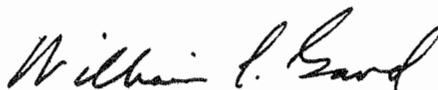
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PD-39

November 3, 1967

POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS

There is increasing world-wide concern over the social and economic consequences of rapid population growth. A.I.D. must help awaken other governments to a full realization of the nature of the population problem, and respond quickly and imaginatively to requests for assistance from countries which desire to limit population growth to a rate commensurate with improvement of the economic and social quality of life. The attached Policy Determination provides a policy framework and guidance for program development growing out of earlier policy statements and the new detailed "Guidelines for Assistance to Population Programs."



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AID List M, Position 25
AID List B-6, Position 25
AID List B-4, Position 5
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PD-39

November 3, 1967

POLICY DETERMINATION
POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS

1. Definition and Objectives

Rapid population growth seriously hampers man's efforts to improve the quality of life. World resources are limited and all nations find it difficult to provide enough food, housing, education and medical care for their people. This is most evident in less developed countries where economic growth is offset by population increases, often despite massive foreign assistance.

The problem of population pressure varies from country to country. In some nations the natural increase is small (1% annually), while in others it runs at a rate which results in a doubling of size within one generation. The rate of population increase, coupled with other variables such as food production, natural resources, and level of health, determines the urgency of the problem in a particular country.

We in the United States are concerned about problems arising from population growth within our own country. Public and privately sponsored programs promote education about family planning. In nearly all states there are state-wide or local family planning programs, in many instances through the support of the U.S. Public Health Service, Children's Bureau or the Office of Economic Opportunity. More important, the majority of American couples began to practice birth control on the basis of personal conviction rather than national policy. This has been the case in other developed countries and seems to be a natural corollary of economic progress. A pluralist, democratic society, the United States believes in full freedom in the selection and the use of such methods for the regulation of family size as are consistent with the mores and creed of the individual concerned. This is our practice at home; this has been and will remain our policy abroad.

Already there is a large and growing number of family planning clinics established throughout the world, particularly under private auspices. In most countries there are national associations and programs to promote interest in the population crisis and its relation to national goals through information, education, motivation and persuasion. All programs face the formidable task of influencing millions of family decisions and of making it easy for individual families to implement decisions to have fewer children.

This cannot be done without bringing knowledge and assistance in applying modern methods of family planning to vast rural populations. For this there is required a network of health and social services which does not exist in most countries. It requires administrators, communications specialists, doctors and paramedical personnel, vehicles, dispensaries, medical implements and communications equipment as well as pills, intrauterine and other devices.

It is apparent, however, that these needs are not likely to be met unless governments accord family planning programs a position of high priority.

Unfortunately, progress to date has been slow. Many governments lack a full appreciation of the enormous impact of fast-growing populations on the life of their people, on their food supply, and on their entire development effort. As a result, many countries have not yet faced up to the need to deal with the problem, or have not pushed forward vigorously enough with well-planned programs.

Without outside encouragement and assistance, it seems likely that some countries will be unable to make real progress. Through its foreign aid program the United States Government is prepared to use every appropriate means to assist developing nations to deal with rapid population growth. This help will be extended only to those countries which ask for it, and only for family planning programs in which participation is voluntary.

AID assistance to family planning programs will, together with assistance to food production programs, share the highest functional priority in AID planning and operations. Within the limits of its dollar and local currency fund availabilities, and its requirements of careful planning and sound administration, AID will do its best to assure that lack of funds will not prevent it from helping governments carry out effective programs in the field of family planning. This assurance will naturally depend on the governments allocating enough of their own financial resources and efforts to make external assistance effective.

The existence of a population program is under no circumstances to be considered a condition of U.S. aid in other areas of economic and social development.

2. The Scope of Family Planning Programs

Family planning programs seek to influence human behavior. Motivation is therefore an important part of any approach to the population problem. This requires understanding of cultural, social, psychological and economic forces. Effective methods of contraception must be made available and acceptable within the behavior patterns of people. As yet, no ideal method of contraception has been devised which is applicable for persons in all socio-economic situations; better contraceptives are being developed but programs should not be delayed until these are available.

To accomplish behavioral changes and provide contraceptive methods, a substantial, effective and well-organized family planning program is

necessary. This is often a major stumbling block, for large numbers of trained people and efficient administrative procedures are required. These are limited in developing countries as are the institutional systems out of which any new organization is derived.

3. A.I.D.'s Role in Support of Family Planning Programs Abroad

Foreign aid assistance in family planning will observe regular A.I.D. procedures, but with an added requirement of urgent and imaginative action. In keeping with A.I.D. policy, assistance will be given to local government programs only upon request of the government and to local nongovernment programs only with the knowledge of the government.

Within A.I.D., responsibility for evaluation of the population problem in A.I.D. receiving countries, and for delineating A.I.D. assistance, rests primarily with US A.I.D. Missions. Each Mission has a person assigned full or part time to follow developments in the field and to work with other Mission personnel in formulating programs. Where additional assistance or more specialized background is required, A.I.D. Washington will supply consultants from the Regional Bureaus, the Population Service of the Office of the War on Hunger, and from outside sources. In countries with large populations and foreign aid needs, Missions are expected to assign full-time persons to population matters. These may be either managerial or technical personnel, depending on the specific situation in each country.

While host country and Mission proposals will be submitted through the usual official channels and be subjected to the normal, critical review, they will be accorded priority consideration at all stages within A.I.D. control.

Country teams in non-A.I.D. developing countries may offer US assistance through regional programs where appropriate or in obtaining advice and help in family planning from private and multilateral organizations.

A.I.D. is prepared to use all its mechanisms of support including grants, loans, advisory assistance, participant training, Cooley and dollar loans, investment guaranties, and investment surveys. In addition to bilateral efforts, A.I.D. will encourage, promote and support the activities of national and international organizations.

A.I.D. may provide financial support to multilateral organizations for family planning efforts that can best be made in this way by contributing directly to specific projects, or by financial support to stimulate greater effort overall in population activities by particular organizations.

A.I.D. may contract with private organizations to carry out specific projects. It may also provide financial support for organizations assisting the LDCs in family planning without requiring that the organization attribute the specific projects to A.I.D. A.I.D. should, in

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providing such support, stipulate countries or kinds of activities on which A.I.D. funds may not be spent.

4. A.I.D. Action Approach

Assessment of the population problem in a host country is a Mission's first step. It must determine the government's and the people's attitude and receptiveness towards family planning. In those countries with minimal awareness or no policy, US A.I.D. Missions are expected to encourage and promote economic and sociologic studies and other measures which would bring this problem into focus. Sponsorship of conferences, seminars and participant visits is appropriate.

In countries without family planning programs or with programs inadequate to their needs, US A.I.D. Missions should assist and encourage local authorities to take steps that will assure that adequate resources and personnel are available.

For those nations with action programs, US A.I.D. will offer both short and long range support. If certain specialized competence or services are needed, A.I.D. can provide these. Contraceptives and other necessary commodities required as an integral element of technical assistance projects must be planned to achieve clear objectives expressed in quantitative and qualitative terms and be supported by agreed host country US A.I.D. work plans. Commodity components necessary for training, pilot or demonstration purposes are not subject to any arbitrary or absolute limit as to size.

Contraceptives and other necessary commodities are eligible for financing under program assistance loans. They may also be financed under development loan projects subject to the usual requirements of project definition, scheduling and monitoring.

It will be more difficult, however, to identify program weaknesses which require long range support. These will usually require institutional development in several areas such as public administration, public health services, education, evaluation, research and logistics capability.

There is no simple answer to solving the population problem. No one method of contraception or organizational pattern is assured of acceptance and success. While time is a critical factor, there will not be quick successes. As in all of our efforts to help the developing countries achieve economic and social progress, our resources for coping with the population problem are limited. However, we have no alternative to extensive and dedicated effort.

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