

REMARKS BY
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AT THE

NEW DIRECTIONS CONVOCATION

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THIS IS THE LAST SPEECH I WILL MAKE AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. FRIDAY WILL CONCLUDE MY ADMINISTRATION AND WILL BRING TO A FORMAL CONCLUSION THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LEARNING EXPERIENCE I HAVE EVER HAD.

I AM PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO ADDRESS YOUR ORGANIZATION TODAY BECAUSE AS A RESULT OF THE PAST TWO YEARS I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND PEOPLE. BY ITS VERY NATURE NEW DIRECTIONS CAN HELP ME GET THAT MESSAGE TO THEM. YOUR GROUP IS A CITIZENS' LOBBY WORKING TO ADVANCE WORLD SECURITY, RELIEVE GLOBAL HUNGER AND POVERTY AND PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TODAY IS CENTRAL TO ALL THOSE ISSUES.

WHEN I WAS ASKED TO BECOME ADMINISTRATOR OF A. I. D. I KNEW AS MUCH ABOUT FOREIGN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS THE AVERAGE INFORMED CITIZEN OR THE AVERAGE MEMBER OF CONGRESS --- VERY LITTLE. I AM CONVINCED THAT SOONER OR LATER GLOBAL EVENTS WILL FORCE ALL AMERICANS TO LEARN WHAT I HAVE LEARNED SINCE THEN. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE AS A NATION, WILL RECOGNIZE THAT WHAT HAPPENS IN THE LESSER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (THE LDCs) IN THE NEXT FEW DECADES WILL AFFECT DECISIVELY THE CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF OUR LIVES. AND CITIZENS AND CONGRESS WILL COME TO SHARE MY SENSE OF URGENCY AND COMMITMENT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD.

PRIOR TO MY APPOINTMENT TO A.I.D., I HAD SPENT MOST OF THE PREVIOUS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN ELECTIVE POLITICAL OFFICE AT THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS AND IN CONGRESS. I HAD, OF COURSE, AS A DOCTRINAIRE LIBERAL, VOTED FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BILLS DURING MY STAY IN THE HOUSE. BUT I HAD LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WAS INVOLVED AND WAS MOTIVATED BY THE SIMPLISTIC NOTION THAT THE UNITED STATES, WITH ALL ITS WEALTH,

SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING FOR THE WORLD'S POOR.

THOSE FIRST WEEKS OF MY ADMINISTRATION WERE A PERIOD OF SHOCK AND REVELATION. CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WHICH I SHARED, FOR EXAMPLE, TENDS TO REGARD THE A.I.D. PROGRAM AS AN INTERNATIONAL SOUP KITCHEN WHICH DOLES OUT HUGE QUANTITIES OF AMERICAN CASH THAT ULTIMATELY FINDS ITS WAY INTO SOME DISTANT RAT HOLE. THE FACT IS THAT APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF BILATERAL AID TO DEVELOPING NATIONS IS SPENT IN THE UNITED STATES. IT GOES TO AMERICAN BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN THE THIRD WORLD. IT PAYS THE SALARIES OF TECHNICIANS AND ADVISORS WHO LEND THEIR EXPERTISE TO A.I.D.-APPROVED AND ASSISTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THESE PROJECTS FOCUS ON SUCH ISSUES AS ARID LAND FARMING, WATER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT, LAND RECLAMATION, PRESERVATION OF THE ECOLOGY, FAMILY PLANNING, PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE LIKE.

I ALSO CAME TO RECOGNIZE MORE FULLY THAT BILATERAL AID IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THE U. S.

CONTRIBUTES TO THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, AND SEEKS TO FACILITATE IT THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF FREE TRADE, EXTENSION OF CREDIT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF INVESTMENT ABROAD.

ALMOST AS SOON AS I WAS IN OFFICE, I WAS REQUIRED TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS TO TESTIFY ON THE AGENCY'S PROGRAM AND BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979. I DUTIFULLY STUDIED MY BRIEFING BOOKS AND ATTEMPTED TO APPEAR AS KNOWLEDGABLE AS POSSIBLE. BUT HAVING SAT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS, I WAS PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE FACTUAL INFORMATION WHICH WE LUGGED TO THE HILL, OR THAT WAS CONTAINED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION, FAILED TO COMMUNICATE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THE TRUE NATURE OF THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM --- OR ITS IMPORTANCE TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS. IF A MEMBER OF CONGRESS IS GOING TO CAST HIS VOTE FOR FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATIONS WITHOUT COMMITTING POLITICAL HARA-KIRI --- PARTICULARLY

TODAY --- IT IS VITAL THAT HE HAVE THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF THE MAKERS AND PURVEYORS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN HIS DISTRICT OR STATE. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE MEDIA, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESS AND LABOR GROUPS --- AND IN GENERAL THE ENLIGHTENED CITIZENRY YOU IN NEW DIRECTIONS ARE TRYING TO REACH-- UNDERSTAND WHAT FOREIGN AID IS ALL ABOUT.

WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT IS SIMPLY THIS: I AM CONVINCED THAT AN ENDURING, HABITABLE EARTH AND THE FUTURE CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF OUR LIVES HINGE ON THREE THINGS:

FIRST, ON THE RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH IN THE THIRD WORLD.

SECOND, ON THE SUCCESS WITH WHICH GROWING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN THE THIRD WORLD ARE ABLE TO ACQUIRE ADEQUATE FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, HEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT.

AND THIRD, THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES IN THE NEXT DECADES WILL DEPEND ON THE RATE AND WAY WE CONSERVE IRREPLACEABLE RESOURCES.

OF PIVOTAL IMPORTANCE IN ALL THESE IS THE ACCELERATING POPULATION GROWTH RATE.

IT TOOK TWO MILLION YEARS FOR HUMAN NUMBERS TO REACH ONE BILLION. THE SECOND BILLION TOOK ONLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS. AT THE PRESENT RATE OF INCREASE, WITH TODAY'S BASE OF FOUR BILLION PEOPLE, THE SIXTH BILLION WILL REQUIRE ONLY TEN YEARS. EVERY BILLION THEREAFTER WILL REQUIRE AN EVEN SHORTER PERIOD. THIS MEANS THAT THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE TIME WHEN THE EARTH CAN SUSTAIN ITS POPULATION, AND THE TIME IT IS OVERWHELMED BY NUMBERS, IS VERY BRIEF. WE ARE NOW AT THE VERY THRESHOLD OF THE PERIOD OF OVERWHELMING NUMBERS. RECENTLY, ROBERT MCNAMARA, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK SAID: "GIVEN TODAY'S LEVEL OF COMPLACENCY IN SOME QUARTERS, AND DISCOURAGEMENT IN OTHERS, THE LIKELY SCENARIO IS A WORLD STABILIZED AT ABOUT 11 BILLION." THAT IS ALMOST THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF TODAY'S GLOBAL POPULATION. AND EVEN NOW THE FINITE RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT THAT POPULATION ARE BEING STRETCHED TAUT.

THE EARTH'S BIOLOGICAL SYSTEM, FOR EXAMPLE, PROVIDE ALL THE FOOD FOR MANKIND AND ALL THE RAW MATERIALS FOR INDUSTRY EXCEPT MINERALS AND PETROCHEMICALS. INCREASINGLY, POPULATION IS DEMANDING MORE THAN THESE SYSTEMS CAN PROVIDE. IN FISHERY AFTER FISHERY THE CATCH NOW EXCEEDS THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE YIELD. THE WORLD'S IRREPLACEABLE MINERALS ARE BEING CONSUMED AT AN ACCELERATING RATE. OVERGRAZING AND OVERCROPPING ARE CONVERTING FERTILE LANDS TO DESERT. THE CUTTING OF TREES EXCEEDS THE REGENERATIVE CAPACITY OF FORESTS ALMOST EVERYWHERE, THREATENING DISASTER TO OUR CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROGRESSIVE EXTINCTION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES.

THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD, THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR, PLAYS A VERY LARGE ROLE IN THIS SCENARIO. THE MAJOR CONSUMERS OF FINITE GLOBAL RESOURCES ARE THE DEVELOPED NATIONS --- MAINLY THE UNITED STATES. THE U. S., FOR EXAMPLE, ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY FIVE PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, BUT THIRTY PERCENT OF GLOBAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION. IT IS THE AFFLUENT

INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS THAT ARE THE LARGE CONSUMERS OF BAUXITE AND TIN AND MANGANESE ORE AND COBALT --- ALL FINITE, IRREPLACEABLE RESOURCES, FOUND PRIMARILY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MY GRANDSON, BORN A MONTH AGO, WILL CONSUME, IN HIS LIFETIME, 80 TIMES MORE OF THE EARTH'S RESOURCES THAN A CHILD IN INDIA BORN THE SAME DAY.

MOST FUTURE POPULATION GROWTH WILL BE IN THE THIRD WORLD. BY THE YEAR 2000 MORE THAN THREE FOURTHS OF HUMANITY WILL INHABIT THE LDCs --- MOST OF THEM LIVING IN POVERTY. WE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE ALREADY FELT ONE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS TREND: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. SIX TO TEN MILLION LATIN AMERICANS ARE NOW IN THIS COUNTRY ILLEGALLY --- LABORERS, WHO, LIKE PRECEDING WAVES OF FOREIGN MIGRATION, SEEK THE JOBS PROVIDED BY A MORE DYNAMIC AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY THAN THEIR OWN. SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE THE WORLD'S HIGHEST GROWTH RATES WITH MOST OF THEIR POPULATIONS UNDER AGE 15. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT IF MEXICO CITY'S POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW AS IT HAS,

IT WILL BE THE WORLD'S LARGEST CITY BY 1990 --- WITH 28 MILLION INHABITANTS --- MORE THAN THE POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA TODAY. ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE NOW A MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

RAMPANT LDC POPULATION GROWTH ALSO CUTS DEEPLY INTO THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY. IF FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DOES NOT INCREASE ON A SUSTAINED BASIS WE CAN SOON BEGIN TO WITNESS FAMINE THERE, AND INFLATION HERE, ON A MASSIVE SCALE. RECENT HISTORY IS INSTRUCTIVE. IN 1972-74 FAMINE AND GLOBAL FOOD SHORTAGES FORCED THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES INTO HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD FOOD MARKETS. THIS CAUSED DRAMATIC INCREASES IN U. S. SUPERMARKET PRICES AND HELPED TRIGGER INFLATION, THE NUMBER ONE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TODAY. FOOD AND FUEL COSTS ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR UPWARD PRICE PRESSURES. WE ALL KNOW THAT INCREASED OIL PRICES AND DEMAND HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO INFLATION AT HOME. WE PERCEIVE LESS CLEARLY THAT WE HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE HIT IN THE SAME WAY BY CHRONIC FOOD SCARCITIES IN THE THIRD WORLD.

THE PANDORA'S BOX OF POPULATION ILLS WAS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF MY LEARNING EXPERIENCE. BUT I ALSO LEARNED THAT THE LDCs MATTER TO US IN MANY OTHER WAYS. WE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON THEM FOR ESSENTIAL RAW MATERIALS VITAL TO U. S. MILITARY SECURITY. WE IMPORT FROM THE THIRD WORLD 85 PERCENT OF OUR BAUXITE, REQUIRED FOR AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION AND 93 PERCENT OF OUR TIN, ESSENTIAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT. OF OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE IS OIL: FORTY SIX PERCENT OF OUR CURRENT NEEDS COME FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. NOTHING PAINTS THE PICTURE OF U. S. DEPENDENCE ON LDC RESOURCES MORE STARKLY THAN THE WORDS LAST WEEK OF SECRETARY VANCE: HE SAID: "WE CONSIDER THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF SAUDI ARABIA A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES." THAT REMARK, AND OTHERS LIKE IT, WERE INTERPRETED BY THE WASHINGTON POST AS REINFORCING A GROWING IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD USE MILITARY FORCE IF NECESSARY TO PROTECT SAUDI OIL FIELDS AGAINST OUTSIDE THREATS.

AMERICAN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IS ALSO DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH THE LDCs. APPROXIMATELY TWO MILLION AMERICAN JOBS DEPEND ON TRADE TO THE THIRD WORLD. ONE OF EVERY EIGHT OF OUR MANUFACTURING JOBS DEPEND ON EXPORTS. THE OUTPUT FROM ONE OF EVERY THREE ACRES FINDS ITS MARKET OVERSEAS. TRADE-CREATED JOBS HAVE BEEN A MAJOR GROWTH FACTOR IN OUR ECONOMY. IN 1978 THE NON-OIL PRODUCING LDCs RECEIVED 25% OF TOTAL U. S. EXPORTS -- THAT IS ALMOST AS MUCH AS TO EUROPE AND ALMOST THREE TIMES OUR EXPORTS TO JAPAN. THE MORE AFFLUENT THE PEOPLE OF THE LDCs, THE BETTER ABLE THEY ARE TO BUY OUR GOODS. THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, BRAZIL, MEXICO AND SINGAPORE. ONCE THEY WERE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. NOW THEY ARE "MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES" AND AMONG OUR BEST CUSTOMERS.

THERE IS A MOMENT IN THE LEARNING PROCESS WHEN FACTS JELL AND CONCLUSIONS BECOME THE BASIS FOR DECISIVE ACTION. I AM PERSUADED THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS, AS IT HAPPENED TO ME: WHEN THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THIRD WORLD POPULATION GROWTH IS ALSO OUR PROBLEM: THAT LDC

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS ALSO OUR PROBLEM; THAT LDC
ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENT DEVASTATION ARE ALSO OUR PROBLEMS;
THAT DEPLETION OF LDC RESOURCES IS ALSO OUR PROBLEM --- OURS
AS WELL AS THEIRS. I DO NOT WISH TO MINIMIZE IN ANY WAY THE
FACT THAT THE CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT ROLE MUST BE PLAYED BY THE
DEVELOPING NATIONS. INITIATIVE, HARD DECISIONS AND ACTION
MUST BE PRIMARILY THEIRS. THEY TOO MUST MAKE CONCESSIONS AND
ADJUSTMENTS TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS, PRESSURES AND NEEDS. BUT WE
IN THE WEST TAKE THAT FOR GRANTED. WHAT WE HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED
IS OUR STAKE IN THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS OR FAILURE.

LAST YEAR, TO HELP THEM SOLVE THESE MUTUAL PROBLEMS,
THE UNITED STATES SPENT ONE FOURTH OF ONE PERCENT OF OUR GROSS
NATIONAL PRODUCT: WE SPENT \$7.2 BILLION FOR WORLD ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT --- AND IN THE SAME YEAR WE SPENT \$118 BILLION ON
DEFENSE. THOSE SUMS, AND THE COMMITMENTS THEY REPRESENT, ARE
NOT LOST ON THE LDCs. I SAW THIS VIVIDLY IN PARIS IN 1977 AT
A MEETING CONVENED TO DISCUSS THIRD WORLD DEMANDS FOR A

REORDERING OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. IN EFFECT, THE POOR NATIONS SAID TO THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, "YOU HAVE SOME THINGS WE NEED AND WE HAVE SOME THINGS YOU NEED. WE DO NOT SEEK CHARITY; WE SEEK DEVELOPMENT. TO HAVE DEVELOPMENT, WE NEED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION. WE NEED FOREIGN INVESTMENT, CREDIT AND THE RIGHT TO COMPETE FAIRLY IN THE WORLD MARKET. WE NEED A FAIR PRICE FOR OUR RAW MATERIAL EXPORTS AND A FAIR PRICE FOR THE MANUFACTURED GOODS WE MUST IMPORT FROM YOU; WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SELL CHEAP AND BUY DEAR. WE NEED A COMMON FUND TO HELP STABILIZE THE PRICES OF OUR COMMODITIES SO WE CAN DO SOME SUSTAINED ECONOMIC PLANNING. WE NEED THIS FUND SO THAT THE WILD FLUCTUATIONS OF WORLD PRICES DON'T BRING US A DECENT LIVING ONE YEAR AND ECONOMIC DISASTER THE NEXT."

TWO WEEKS AGO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE BROAD OUTLINES OF SUCH A FUND. IT REPRESENTS A STEP FORWARD FOR THE THIRD WORLD. IN MY VIEW IT ALSO REPRESENTS SOME RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED STATES THAT THESE ARE NO LONGER COUNTRIES OR

PEOPLE WHO CAN BE IGNORED OR TREATED AS SECOND CLASS WORLD CITIZENS. THEY HAVE MADE THEIR VOICES HEARD AND THEY ARE BEGINNING TO MAKE THEIR WILL FELT.

NO BLAND OR INDIFFERENT VIEW OF THIRD WORLD ISSUES CAN SURVIVE A CLOSE-UP. I LEARNED THIS ON MY FIRST TRIP TO AFRICA. JUST OUTSIDE THE GATE OF MY WESTERN-STYLE HOTEL WERE PEOPLE --- LOTS OF PEOPLE --- LIVING IN THE STREET, THEIR BABIES CRAWLING IN THE GUTTERS, THEIR FOOD BEING COOKED OVER DUNG FIRES. I HAD SEEN THE SCENE A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE IN PICTURES OR ON TELEVISION. BUT YOU MUST LIVE THE EXPERIENCE BEFORE YOU GET THAT SICK FEELING THAT NEVER QUITE GOES AWAY.

I HAD BEEN USED TO DEALING WITH POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES BUT THIS WAS DESTITUTION OF ANOTHER KIND, ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR AVERAGE AMERICANS TO UNDERSTAND OR RELATE TO. ON ONE TRIP WE DROVE OVER DESERTS THAT STRETCHED FOR MILES WITHOUT VISIBLE VEGETATION. YET SHEPHERDS WITH THEIR FLOCKS ROAMED THE LAND SEEKING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT SUSTAIN LIFE. I WAS TOLD THAT FINALLY THE ANIMALS WILL EAT THE SAND AND DIE. I MARVELED

AT THE ENDURING NATURE OF THE HUMAN BODY AND SPIRIT, FOR PEOPLE SURVIVED IN THIS BLEAK LAND AND SOMEHOW EVEN HAD THE ENERGY AND GRACE TO DANCE FOR US WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THEIR VILLAGES.

ON ANOTHER OF THESE TRIPS I WITNESSED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE HUMAN PENALTY EXACTED BY THE POPULATION EXPLOSION. IN THE PHILIPPINES I VISITED A FARMER WHO HAD BEEN CITED AS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH GOOD FARMING TECHNIQUES. HIS LAND HAD ONCE BEEN PART OF A MUCH LARGER FAMILY HOLDING. BUT IT HAD BEEN DIVIDED AND SUBDIVIDED AMONG GENERATIONS OF MALE HEIRS AND THIS MAN HAD INHERITED ONLY TWO-AND-A-HALF ACRES ON WHICH TO SUPPORT 16 FAMILY MEMBERS. EVERY INCH OF LAND WAS USED. HE RAISED FISH IN THE WATER OF HIS IRRIGATED RICE PADDIES AND HARVESTED THEM MUCH AS HE DID THE RICE. MOUNDS OF EARTH DAMMED AND DIVIDED THE LAND AND ON ONE OF THEM HE RAISED VEGETABLES. HE HAD SENT THREE OF HIS CHILDREN TO THE UNIVERSITY AND WAS PROUD OF HIS ACHIEVEMENT. BUT SADLY

HE OBSERVED, " I HAVE SIX SONS. HOW CAN I DIVIDE TWO AND A HALF ACRES AMONG SIX SONS AND THEIR FAMILIES?"

ONE ENORMOUSLY ENCOURAGING FACT EMERGED CLEARLY FROM MY VENTURES INTO THAT OTHER WORLD. I BEGAN TO SEE HOW MUCH COULD BE DONE WITH A LITTLE MONEY, PROPERLY USED.

I SAW, FOR EXAMPLE, VILLAGE BLACKSMITH SHOPS WHERE SIMPLE STEEL PLOWS WERE BEING CRAFTED BY HAND. THEY SOLD FOR ABOUT \$35 --- WITHIN THE ABILITY OF MOST FARMERS TO BUY. IN THESE PARTICULAR VILLAGES MEN AND WOMEN HAD BEEN PLOWING WITH WOODEN STICKS FOR CENTURIES. THE NEW PLOW WOULD ALMOST DOUBLE THEIR INCOME.

I SAW SIMPLE TECHNIQUES SUCH AS THE USE OF ANIMALS FOR PLOWING BEING INTRODUCED TO FARMERS --- AND REVOLUTIONIZING THEIR PRODUCTIVITY.

IN INDONESIA, FARMERS ARE BEING TAUGHT TO CONSTRUCT THEIR RICE AND CASSAVA PADDIES TILTED SLIGHTLY BACKWARDS INTO THE HILLSIDE SO THAT WHEN IT RAINS THE CASCADING WATER DOESN'T ERODE THE HILLSIDE, CARRYING AWAY PRECIOUS TOPSOIL.

IN JAVA AND BALI A FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM HAS BEEN DESIGNED WHICH HAS REDUCED THE AVERAGE RATE OF CHILDBEARING MORE THAN TWENTY PERCENT IN EIGHT YEARS.

IN KENYA SOME FIELDS ARE YIELDING TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT MORE MAIZE BECAUSE OF IMPROVED VARIETIES WHICH A.I.D. ASSISTANCE HAS HELPED DEVELOP.

BACK HOME SOME PEOPLE WERE STILL SAYING THAT THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WAS MONEY AND EFFORT DUMPED INTO A BOTTOMLESS CANYON OF HUMAN MISERY. I HAVE SEEN THAT THIS IS NOT SO.

ALL HUMAN ENDEAVOR IS A MATTER OF MAKING CHOICES, ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATING RESOURCES. THERE IS A STRONG AND VERY HUMAN TENDENCY TO IGNORE UNPLEASANT REALITIES, POSTPONE HARD DECISIONS AND DEFER ACTION. HISTORY RECORDS EXTENSIVELY THE FATE OF PEOPLE OR GROUPS OR NATIONS WHO COULDN'T OR DIDN'T MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS OR COME TO GRIPS WITH ISSUES, AND WHO THEREFORE PASSED INTO OBLIVION. BUT LIFE WENT ON. WHAT IS NEW IN OUR TIME IS THE FACT THAT THE PROBLEMS WE FACE

TODAY CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE VERY SURVIVAL OF A DECENT,
HABITABLE, ENDURING WORLD.

THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THAT NEW DIRECTIONS --- AND
ORGANIZATIONS LIKE YOURS --- ARE SO IMPORTANT. I BELIEVE THAT
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS, ONCE THEY UNDERSTAND THE
REALITY OF THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE TO US,
WILL SHOW THEMSELVES ABLE AND WILLING TO SUPPORT THE HARD
DECISIONS, MAKE THE INEVITABLE SACRIFICES, AND TAKE THE
NECESSARY ACTIONS. THEY HAVE DONE IT BEFORE IN TWO WORLD WARS,
AND IN THE MARSHALL PLAN THAT HELPED REBUILD WESTERN EUROPE
AFTER THE CHAOS AND DEVASTATION OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

TO INFORM AND ADVISE --- AND EVEN TO DEMAND ACTION
ON THE PART OF YOUR GOVERNMENT --- IS PART OF YOUR MANDATE.
THE PRESERVATION OF OUR GOOD EARTH IS A MISSION REQUIRING
AND DESERVING YOUR ZEALOUS EFFORT.