



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

29 April 1980

The Honorable William S. Green ↙
The United States House of Representatives
Representatives
1118 Dirksen New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Green:

We are writing to recommend that you support the request of AID to reprogram \$2,000,000 into the World Health Organization's "Special Programme of Research in Human Reproduction." We understand that this proposal will be considered shortly, but that Senator Inouye has had reservations about the action.

Both of us have had substantial opportunities to evaluate the WHO's overall program and its new initiatives to stimulate research pertinent to improving means for control of population growth. We are convinced that the WHO is making a highly professional effort to increase the scale, quality, and visibility of research on what is surely a critical international goal.

One of us (JL) has been involved actively as a scientific advisor to the WHO and, in that capacity, has observed at first-hand the operation of this program. It is an excellent effort, which appears to be coordinated well with the international research community concerned with population research. Moreover, the WHO in this case has sought good scientific advice from the United States.


One of us (RWN) has been a member of US delegations to United Nations conferences on "science and technology for development." In this context, it has become clear that unless the US takes even more vigorous leadership in assessing population issues--and pursuing the biomedical and social research pertinent to reproduction--the worldwide effort will continue to be miniscule in relation to the enormous stakes.


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We have enclosed certain background materials that may be useful in your review of this subject. We would be glad to discuss the matter with you or your staff at any mutually convenient time. You can reach Joshua Lederberg at 212-360-1234 and Rodney W. Nichols at 212-360-1163.

Sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg
President


Rodney W. Nichols
Executive Vice President