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**INFO**

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FROM : Department of State; Agency DATE:  
for International Development

SUBJECT : Address of Robert S. McNamara, President of  
the World Bank, to the UN Economic and Social  
Council

### JOINT STATE-AID MESSAGE

In his address December 5 to ECOSOC, Mr. McNamara again stressed the significance of high rates of population growth as a burden on economic development in many countries. Among other things, he said: "The World Bank, for its part, is not attempting to dictate population policies. But as a development agency, we must give priority to the problem. We must ask that governments which seek our assistance do so too, and that they evolve a serious strategy for stabilizing the rate of population growth."

Mr. McNamara emphasizes the interest of the Bank in collaborating with UN agencies and particularly offered to consider a cooperative program with UN agencies in the population field.

Relevant excerpts from Mr. McNamara's statement are attached.

RUSK

Attachment

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Clearances:

Excerpts from the Address to the U.N. Economic and Social Council by Mr. Robert S. McNamara, President of the World Bank, December 5, 1968: United Nations, N.Y.

"The many tasks being undertaken by the developing countries -- in providing food, finding capital for industry, providing employment, education and the absolute necessities of life -- are in most of the poor nations made vastly more difficult by high rates of population growth. I fully appreciate that this subject is a controversial one, and I assure you that in taking it up here, as I have elsewhere, it is far from my purpose to create controversy. I treat it from a deep conviction that unrestrained population growth cripples economic growth, and thus in fact degrades the condition of man by depriving him of the elementary essentials for a fuller, happier life.

"It is not, in most countries, the absolute numbers that are most disturbing. The world can still carry a larger population; and it can be argued that some countries have too few people. The trouble that we are in comes, in part, from the speed of growth. If population grows, as it does in many countries of the less developed world by 3 or 3-1/2 per cent a year, even an increase of gross national product of 4-1/2 or 5 per cent leaves far too small a balance available for investment.

"In one poor country after another, the rising tide of population swamps the school system, literally eats away the margin of saving, and inundates the labor market. No power on earth can ensure that there will be such rapid economic progress that all today's children will grow up healthy, well educated and able to take their rightful place in a competitive world. If development efforts are to succeed -- not development of such abstractions as "the economy" or "the state," but development of human beings, of individuals and families -- we must put population policy at the center of our future strategy.

"The emphasis to be placed in national policy on various methods of population control is the responsibility of governments. The choice of methods must be made by parents.

"The World Bank, for its part, is not attempting to dictate population policies. But as a development agency, we must give priority to the problem. We must ask that governments which seek our assistance do so too, and that they evolve a serious strategy for stabilizing the rate of population growth.

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"The targets we have set for the next five years imply faster progress by the developing countries themselves. We pledge that the Bank Group will work with them in the closest possible way to step up the pace. We will consult in detail with member countries as they work out development strategies and policies. We will increase our own work in helping to prepare programs and projects. In some countries, if asked, we may station missions of experts, ready to advise on a broad front of economic problems, as we have done this year in Indonesia.

"We are ready to go deeper into the administration of policy and the execution of projects. We most particularly wish to add to the managerial skills that must be applied to development: for instance, by devising ways of providing, finding or training executives for government ministries, administrators for sector programs and managers for individual projects.

"It will be essential to bring forth a growing number of development enterprises for financing. For this purpose, we already are closely linked with other parts of the United Nations system, and we expect these links to grow stronger and extend further.

"Our collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, as you know, is of long standing. Some \$700 million of World Bank loans and IDA credits have been preceded by, or related to, studies which UNDP has financed; this amounts to more than one-half of all external investment related to studies in the Programme. We also are teaming with UNDP, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in regular consultations looking toward the preparation and ultimate financing of regional projects for the development of

transportation, telecommunications and electric power in Africa. We expect our collaboration with UNDP to result in substantially increased financing by the Bank Group in the near future.

"In preparing projects for education and agriculture, the developing countries will have the benefit of a stepping up in the cooperative arrangements that exist for this purpose between the Bank and FAO and between the Bank and Unesco. Under these arrangements, as the delegates to the Council know, FAO missions help to identify and prepare projects for the development of agriculture, while Unesco missions do the same for educational projects. The flow of projects is increasing. In the past year, Unesco missions have explored or helped to prepare nearly 20 projects. FAO has been working on various phases of more than 50 projects, and we have asked FAO to double the size of the staff which we jointly finance.

"These agreements do not exhaust the possibilities for cooperation between the Bank and other agencies. For example, if there is established within, or in conjunction with, WHO, an interdisciplinary unit to assist governments in formulating population policies and in working up family planning programs and projects, we would be prepared promptly to explore the feasibility of a cooperative program with WHO comparable to those with FAO and Unesco."