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Folder Title: President Wolfensohn - Briefing Book for President's Meetings and Events - Health, Nutrition and Population - Sector Board Luncheon - November 6, 1997

Folder ID: 30488710

Series: Meeting and event briefing materials

Dates: 11/04/1997 – 11/06/1997

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THE WORLD BANK

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(JDW Pop-In): Health, Nutrition & Population
Sector Board Luncheon
(To Say Hello to Dr. Paul Marks)

Thursday, November 6, 1997
12:45 - 1:00 p.m.
MC Dining Room K

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President Wolfensohn - Briefings Books for Presidents Meetings - Meeting Materials
Health, Nutrition and Population - Sector Board Luncheon - November 6, 1997

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A. CLASSIFICATION

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☐	Communications with Staff

☐	Phone Logs
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☐	Press Clippings/Photos

☐	JDW Transcripts
☐	Social Events
☐	Other

B. SUBJECT: REMINDER: JDW TO POP-IN AT THE HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION (HNP) SECTOR BOARD LUNCHEON TO SAY HELLO TO DR. PAUL MARKS // VENUE: MC DINING ROOM 'K' // CONTACT: SUSAN @ 33665 // NOTES: 10/21 JDW AGREED TO DO THIS // 10/22 EMAIL ADVISING THAT JDW WILL POP-IN // ACTUAL TIMING OF MARKS' LUNCHEON: 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.
EXC: JDW // LFG (10/22)
Brief includes:
--- Cover note: Letter from David de Ferranti to JDW, Nov 4
--- Briefing Information

DATE: 11/06/97

C. VPU

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E. COMMENTS:

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INT 484/
MM

David de Ferranti
Vice President
Head, Human Development Network

November 4, 1997

Mr. James D. Wolfensohn

*RE: Population issues and a forthcoming report
by Population Action International (PAI)*

Jim,

As I mentioned at our dinner together last week, a group called Population Action International (PAI) will be coming out with a report soon on the Bank's work in the population field. Robin Chandler Duke is the chair of PAI.

Attached is a briefing note on what to expect from PAI, and what the underlying issues are. The latest developments in the population field (especially since the Cairo conference in 1994), and the Bank's programs in population, are also summarized briefly.

PAI will seek to gain public and media attention by focusing on what they will say are deficiencies in the Bank's work on population. Their statements will reflect their traditional concentration on family planning narrowly defined. Other groups, including the Population Council, UNFPA, and the International Women's Health Coalition (Joan Dunlop and Adrienne Germain, both of whom you have met) disagree with PAI on many points and take a broader view consistent with the Cairo agreements. Some of these groups will be critical of PAI's positions on the Bank.

PAI's complaints will be a mixed bag, including some points that are off-base and reflect their own, narrow agenda, and some other points that are valid (and on which we agree we can do better, and are working on doing so).

PAI will seek to meet with you, and Robin Duke may call you. PAI's Board includes three former Bank Presidents (McNamara, Conable, and Clausen); whether any of them will get involved on this report and want to speak with you is not yet clear. PAI is having internal problems at the moment, having recently fired the new president they had installed not long ago.

I am in touch with Mark Malloch Brown on the external affairs aspects of the PAI report release, and will keep you posted of any other developments.


David de Ferranti

Attachment

Population: What The Core Issues Are Now

Rapid population growth is still a problem in many developing countries. But fertility (births per woman) has fallen significantly faster than expected.

Global and country populations will still get much larger in the next hundred years, despite the fertility decline. Both the eventual *levels* reached and the *rate of change* remain important concerns.

- The *levels* appear more sustainable now than was thought previously, thanks in part to improved food production prospects; but the environmental implications are still ominous.
- The *rate of change*, especially in the fastest growing countries, is more immediately worrying, given the huge challenges and costs of providing services (education, health, etc.) and infrastructure to rapidly expanding populations.

Past efforts focusing on population “control” have serious deficiencies. Their message of control -- by officials vis a vis common people, and also, some thought, by rich countries vis a vis poor countries -- could not succeed over the long run.

Newer approaches have found success by emphasizing together:

- *empowerment and choice* -- i.e., give people the means (family planning information, education, supplies, access) to enable them to make their own choices about family size. This helps reduce unwanted births -- and ultimately total births too, as people over time come to understand more about their options and prefer smaller numbers of children.
- *health considerations* -- i.e., promote good reproductive health (“safe motherhood”), including helping women avoid the risks of too many births, too closely spaced, or initiated when the mother is too young or too old. Improvements in reproductive health have multiple benefits: lower fertility, lower maternal mortality, healthier children, and better-off families.
- *linkages with broader development policies* -- i.e., focus not just on family planning but more broadly on the full range of actions needed, including in particular, girls’ education, women’s status, poverty reduction, etc.

These new approaches have been endorsed by the 1994 Cairo Population Conference and 1995 Beijing Women’s Conference, both of which called for a more people-centered approach to population.

PAI's Perspective on Population

PAI (formerly the Population Crisis Committee) has traditionally been a strong advocate for population control. Other groups have embraced the Cairo agenda more. Many of these groups, including the International Women's Health Coalition (Joan Dunlop and Adrienne Germain), the Population Council (Margaret Catley-Carlson), and UNFPA (Nafis Sadik), disagree with PAI's positions.

PAI has adopted Cairo/Beijing language, but still stresses family planning as the way to address the population problem.

The Forthcoming Report

PAI has issued similar reports on the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development. **PAI's** last report on the Bank was issued in 1989. The new PAI report on the Bank has three main messages:

- It calls for Bank management to speak out more on population issues, particularly in the policy dialogue and in Country Assistance Strategies. The report criticizes the Bank for having "buried" population in the health lending program.
- It also criticizes the Bank for not lending enough for family planning and calls for more free-standing projects to support family planning.
- It calls on the Bank to increase its staff capacity for population and family planning work.

The Bank's Response

In case there is a meeting with or call from Robin Duke or other **PAI** Board Members, some talking points would be:

- The Bank appreciates PAI's thoughtful critique, particularly their efforts to consult with Bank staff in preparing it, and is already drawing on the report in our work on a new strategy paper for population.
- We could do a better job in bringing population into the policy dialogue. The HD Network is addressing this through its work on knowledge management, training (including an EDI core course on population) and staff development.
- The Bank is fully committed to the broader approach to population called for at the Cairo and Beijing Conferences. It is addressing population through its work on girls' education, credit for poor women, and other social programs as well as by ensuring that all women have access to high-quality family planning and other reproductive health services.
- These areas have been at the forefront of expanded Bank lending in the social sectors. While we recognize the need for increased financing in the social sectors, we are also being more attentive to the quality and financial sustainability of programs we support.