WHY POPULATION IS IMPORTANT TO AMERICANS

BY

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The 1968 Report of the House Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Development observed that, "Population must come under control and be stabilized at some number which civilization can agree upon! Otherwise, the best use of natural resources will be inadequate and the apocalyptic forces of disease and famine will dominate the earth."

In 1969 the National Academy of Sciences issued a report, Resources and Man, which concluded that a world population of 10 billion "is close to (if not above) the maximum that an intensively managed world might hope to support with some degree of comfort and individual choice."

In 1972, the U. S. Commission on Population Growth and the American Future, chaired by John D. Rockefeller, III, concluded, "We have looked for, and have not found, any convincing economic arguments for continued national population growth. The health of our economy does not depend on it. The vitality of business does not depend on it." This report also recommended that "immigration levels not be increased . . ."

In 1974, then California Governor Ronald Reagan issued a

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PROCLAMATION ON WORLD POPULATION STABILIZATION, THAT "THE U.S. CAN ONLY BECOME WEAKER WITH BURGEONING POPULATION. WE NEED SOUND POPULATION POLICIES TODAY AS NEVER BEFORE."

ESTIMATING THAT THE WORLD'S POPULATION COULD STABILIZE AT 10.5 BILLION BY THE YEAR 2110, A 1981 UNITED NATIONS REPORT WARNS OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH GROWTH. "THOUGH THE 10.5 BILLION .... IS LESS ALARMIST THAN THE FIGURES PROJECTED BY OTHER STUDIES," THE REPORT NOTES, "IT STILL MEANS THAT THE GLOBAL POPULATION WOULD HAVE GROWN TO BE TWO AND ONE-HALF TIMES LARGER THAN THE PRESENT 4.4 BILLION ... EVEN DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY, WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO CLAIM TO HAVE PROVIDED FOR THE BASIC NEEDS OF NEARLY HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION."

MORE RECENTLY THAN THE PREVIOUSLY CITED POPULATION REPORTS, THE GLOBAL 2000 REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT, SUBMITTED IN 1980 BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, INDICATED THAT IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE THE WORLD IN 2000 WILL BE MORE CROWDED, MORE POLLUTED, LESS STABLE ECOLOGICALLY, AND MORE VULNERABLE TO DISRUPTION THAN THE WORLD WE LIVE IN NOW. SERIOUS STRESSES INVOLVING POPULATION, RESOURCES, AND ENVIRONMENT ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE AHEAD. DESPITE GREATER MATERIAL OUTPUT, THE WORLD'S PEOPLE WILL BE POORER IN MANY WAYS THAN THEY ARE TODAY.

FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF THE DESPERATELY POOR, THE OUTLOOK FOR FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES OF LIFE WILL BE NO BETTER. FOR MANY IT WILL BE WORSE. BARRING REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE FOR MOST PEOPLE ON EARTH WILL BE MORE PRECARIOUS IN 2000 THAN IT IS NOW -- UNLESS THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ACT DECISIVELY TO ALTER CURRENT TRENDS.
This, in essence, is the picture emerging from the U.S. Government’s projections of probable changes in world population, resources, and environment by the end of the century as presented in the Global 2000 Study. They do not predict the worst scenario. Rather, they depict conditions that are likely to develop if there are no changes in public policies, institutions, or rates of technological advance, and if there are no wars or other major disruptions. A keener awareness of the nature of the current trends, however, may induce changes that will alter these trends and the projected outcome.

The Global 2000 Report to the President stresses that rapid population growth worldwide is a major factor contributing to resource and energy shortages and to environmental damage which may become irreversible in the next 20 years, unless current policies and programs change.

Principal findings of the report indicate that more serious problems will continue developing in terms of worldwide food production, availability of agricultural lands, petroleum production, depletion of non-renewable energy resources, water shortages, significant losses of world forests, serious deterioration of agriculture soils, atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and ozone-depleting chemicals, and extinctions of plant and animal species.

As recently as this past July, President Ronald Reagan joined with other international leaders in supporting efforts to stem international population growth. Meeting with the heads of State of Canada, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, Italy and France in Ottawa, Reagan joined in a policy statement that reads, in
PART: "WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF WORLD POPULATION GROWTH. ... WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE ISSUES AND WILL PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN THESE AREAS."

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE UNITED STATES HAS ENDORSED THE ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL POPULATION POLICIES OR RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR INDIVIDUAL NATIONS TO ADOPT NATIONAL POLICIES. THE UNITED STATES REMAINS AMONG THOSE FEW COUNTRIES WITHOUT ITS OWN OFFICIAL POPULATION COORDINATION AND STABILIZATION MECHANISM.


PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A NATIONAL READERSHIP SURVEY BY THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION (NWF), SHOW THAT POPULATION GROWTH RANKS SECOND AS A PRIORITY ISSUE AMONG NWF MEMBERS. THE NUMBER ONE RANKING CONCERN IS THREATS TO THE NATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.

ONE OF EVERY SIX BABIES BORN IN THE UNITED STATES IS BORN TO AN UNWED MOTHER, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 50 PERCENT IN THE NUMBER OF OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS OVER THE LAST DECADE. MOST OF THE MOTHERS ARE YOUNG AND POOR; ABOUT HALF OF THEM ARE BLACK. IN ADDITION TO CREATING INCREASED PRESSURES ON SOCIAL PROGRAMS (SUCH AS AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN), THE GROWING NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO TEENAGERS POSE VERY REAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. MANY BABIES ARE DELIVERED WITH LOW BIRTHWEIGHTS, MANY ARE PREMATURE, AND FIRST-YEAR MORTALITY RATES ARE HIGHER COMPARED TO RATES FOR OLDER, MARRIED MOTHERS.
Without some improvements in efforts to reduce the number of teenage, unwed and unwanted pregnancies, the costs to society -- in health care, welfare benefits and social alienation -- will only continue to grow more burdensome.

New regulations published recently by the Department of Health and Human Services would require federally funded family planning clinics to notify the parents of teenagers under the age of 18 when prescription drugs or devices are provided. A recent study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute shows that 25 percent of those teenagers surveyed would stop seeking prescription contraceptives if forced to notify their parents. Only two percent said they would stop sexual activity. In 1979, the Guttmacher Institute estimated that family planning services averted nearly 400,000 unintended teenage pregnancies. The proposed regulations, many family planning advocates believe, would only exacerbate the incidence of teenage pregnancy and abortion.

The per capita destruction of our environment throughout the world has been greater during the past 35 years than ever in history; and, in this recent period, we have witnessed a greater toll on our environmental resources than the sum total since man has been on earth. This human animal's capacity to survive and function has evolved over millions of years within a particular set of environmental conditions. We are now altering that environment with little understanding and often little concern regarding the consequences of our actions.

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LANDS STUDY, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR FARM PRODUCTS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY AS MUCH AS 85% DURING THE NEXT 20 YEARS, WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS IRREVERSIBLY CONVERTING THREE MILLION ACRES OF FARM-LAND TO OTHER USES EACH YEAR. SHOPPING CENTERS, HIGHWAYS, INDUSTRIAL PARKS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND SUBDIVISIONS CONTINUE TO GOBBLE UP SOME OF OUR MOST FERTILE AGRICULTURAL AREAS AT ALARMING RATES. EACH DAY, TWELVE SQUARE MILES OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS ARE CONVERTED TO OTHER USES. WE SHOULD BE AS CONCERNED OVER THE LOSS OF PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS AS WE ARE OVER ENERGY SHORTAGES.

IN THE PAST, AMERICA HAS LOST FARM LAND EQUAL TO THE TOTAL AREA OF VERMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, CONNECTICUT, NEW JERSEY, AND DELAWARE. AN AREA OF PRIME FARM LAND EQUIVALENT TO THE ENTIRE STATE OF INDIANA MAY BE PAVED OVER BETWEEN NOW AND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. ALL OF THE PRIME FARM LAND LEFT IN REAL ESTATE-CRAZY FLORIDA WILL PROBABLY DISAPPEAR;
AND CALIFORNIA, THE BIGGEST FARM STATE, WILL LOSE UP TO 15 PERCENT
OF ITS BEST FARM LAND.

THE FRONTIERS ARE GONE AND THE LOSS OF CROP LAND IS PROCEEDING
AT A RATE THAT WILL DESTROY THE BALANCE BETWEEN FOOD AND PEOPLE.
ASPHALT HAS BEEN TERMED "THE LAND'S LAST CROP."
POPULATION PRESSURES ON NATURAL RESOURCES CONTRIBUTE TO INTER-
ATIONAL AGGRESSION TO OBTAIN RESOURCES, AND CAUSE NATIONS TO
SEEK ADDITIONAL "LIVING SPACE" THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGGRESSION.
THE PROBLEMS OF RESOURCES DEPLETION AND OVER-POPULATION HEIGHTEN
THE CHANCES OF GLOBAL INSTABILITY AND NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST. THERE
IS NO GREATER POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR
THAN THROUGH STABILIZING POPULATION.

DESERTIFICATION IS SUBJECTING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO POOR
NUTRITION, DISEASE, AND STARVATION.
OVER-FISHING IS LEADING TO REDUCED CATCHES.
OVER-PUMPING IS LEADING TO WATER SHORTAGES.
DESTRUCTION OF TROPICAL FORESTS IS LEADING TO CLIMATIC CHANGES,
FLOODING AND SPECIES DESTRUCTION.
OVER-GRAZING IS LEADING TO STARVATION AND EROSION.
POPULATION INCREASES ARE OUT-STRIPPING THE PRODUCTION OF
COMMODITY AFTER COMMODITY ON A PER-CAPITA BASIS.
THE CONTINUED DESTRUCTION OF PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES, AND OF THEIR GENETIC HERITAGE, MAY DISTORT THE FUTURE COURSE OF EVOLUTION AND GENETIC DIVERSITY ON THIS PLANET. POPULATION INCREASES ARE CREATING PRESSURES TO EXPLOIT THE LIMITED REMAINING AREAS OF THIS NATION AND THE WORLD. POPULATION INCREASES NOT ONLY LOWER THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR HUMANS, BUT ARE THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE EXTINCTION OF MANY PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES.

IT IS PARADOXICAL THAT WE READ OF RESOURCE SHORTAGES RATHER THAN PEOPLE SURPLUSES -- AS IF THE EARTH IS TO BLAME. AND WE COMMONLY SPEAK OF AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, RATHER THAN PEOPLE POLLUTION.

RHETORIC TO THE CONTRARY, EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE LIVE IN COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERNMENTS OPENLY INDICATE THEIR DESIRES TO LOWER THE RATE OF POPULATION INCREASE. BIRTH RATES HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED IN MANY OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS OF THE WORLD. POOR, ILLITERATE PEOPLE CAN BE TAUGHT THAT THE RATE OF REPRODUCTION MUST BE DECREASED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIFE AND WORLD SECURITY.

NEARLY ONE-HALF OF THE WORLD'S COUPLES GO TO BED EACH NIGHT UNPROTECTED FROM UNPLANNED OR UNWANTED PREGNANCIES.

IMMIGRATION, BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL, ACCOUNTS FOR AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF U.S. POPULATION GROWTH. IF THIS CONTINUES, WE WILL SEE NO END TO POPULATION GROWTH IN THE UNITED STATES DESPITE THE CURRENT RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE BEING DISPLAYED TOWARD FAMILY SIZE BY COUPLES IN THEIR REPRODUCTIVE YEARS. IMMIGRATION POLICIES MUST BE BASED ON CURRENT CONDITIONS, NOT THOSE OF THE PAST CENTURY WHEN WE STILL HAD A FRONTIER AND WERE NOT ALREADY EXCEEDING OUR CARRYING CAPACITY. MORE THAN HALF THE POPULATION OF SOME LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES. THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED FROM THE TIME WE HAD A BIG, EMPTY COUNTRY AND AN ECONOMIC NEED FOR SETTLERS. THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE 1883 WHEN EMMA LAZARUS PENNED THE WORDS MOUNTED ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY:

"GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES, YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE."
NOW, THE U.S. POPULATION IS SOME $4\frac{1}{2}$ TIMES WHAT IT WAS WHEN THOSE NOBLE THOUGHTS WERE WRITTEN, AND WE NOW BETTER UNDERSTAND THE DELETERIOUS IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH OUT-STRIPPING RESOURCES. THE U.S. WOULD NOW BE CLOSE TO ZERO POPULATION GROWTH WERE IT NOT FOR IMMIGRATION OF INDIVIDUALS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE HIGH BIRTH-RATE PATTERNS. A NATION CANNOT BE A NATION WITHOUT A BORDER. THE UNITED STATES TOOK IN MORE ALIENS LAST YEAR THAN ALL OTHER COUNTRIES COMBINED. THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ENTERING THE UNITED STATES COULD REACH 161 MILLION DURING THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS. THESE POPULATION PRESSURES ARE ALREADY BEING FELT AMONG THE MINORITIES IN OUR SOCIETY. THE U.S. MIGHT BE CONSIDERED THE WORLD'S MOST OVER-POPULATED NATION IF WE COMPARE RESOURCES CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA.

POPULATION PRESSURES IN LARGE AREAS OF OUR NATION HAVE LED TO THE MINING OF WATER WITHOUT IT BEING REPLENISHED AT THE RATE IT IS BEING UTILIZED. PERHAPS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF THIS IS IN THE OGALLALA AQUIFER UNDERLYING VAST AREAS OF SEVERAL WESTERN STATES, IN WHICH THE WATER TABLE IS FALLING BETWEEN TWO AND FIVE FEET PER YEAR, AND THE ACQUIFER COULD BE EXHAUSTED IN FORTY YEARS.

MUCH OF THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES HAS BEEN TERMED AN "OASIS CIVILIZATION" THAT DEPENDS ON A FEW RIVERS, PARTICULARLY THE COLORADO. FOR SOME TWENTY YEARS, THE COLORADO'S ONCE-AWESOME FLOW HAS BEEN OVER-UTILIZED TO THE EXTENT THAT NONE OF IT REACHES ITS NATURAL OUTLET INTO THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA.
CALIFORNIA FARMERS ARE REPORTED TO PUMP 652 BILLION GALLONS MORE THAN IS REPLENISHED EACH YEAR.

ONCE PRISTINE, HIGH MOUNTAIN LAKES AND STREAMS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS ARE RECEIVING ACID RAIN AND SNOW PRIMARILY DUE TO POLLUTION FROM POWER PLANTS, THE SAME AS THOSE IN THE ADIRONDACKS IN WHICH FISH ARE BEING KILLED BY ACID RAIN.

WITHIN THE PAST DECADE I HAVE CONTINUED TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF OVER-POPULATION IN MY STATE AND IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES AND THE SO-CALLED SUN BELT IN GENERAL. FACTORS BEYOND OUR IMMEDIATE CONTROL ARE CAUSING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO MIGRATED FROM THE FROST BEST TO THE SUN BELT. EXCEPT FOR THE PROBLEMS OF CLIMATE, THIS MIGRATION AND THE RESULTING OVER-POPULATION IS SERVING TO TRANSFER THE PROBLEMS MANY OF THESE MIGRANTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE. WE IN THE SOUTHWEST ARE DEVELOPING SERIOUS POLLUTION OF OUR AIR, WATER, AND LAND. WE ARE WITNESSING SERIOUS DETERIORATION OF THE FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT IN OUR VALLEYS, MESAS, AND MOUNTAINS. UNEMPLOYMENT IS INCREASING AND HOMICIDES HAVE BECOME MORE COMMON THAN AUTOMOBILE DEATHS IN THE LARGEST CITY IN MY STATE. THESE AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE THE KNOWN AND EXPECTED MANIFESTATIONS OF MIGRATION TO THE SUN BELT AND THE RESULTANT OVER-POPULATION.
Perhaps populations should be viewed something like a giant amoeba, constantly pushing, probing, expanding, growing, engulfing, and finally destroying in its wake. An environmental barrier to such over-population may tend to halt its growth and movement unless it can expand and move in another direction. It seems senseless to me to keep attempting to adapt the environment, the economy, and non-renewable resources to over-population when the more rational approach would be to exert greater efforts to controllin this giant amoeba of over-population while we still have some degree of environmental quality remaining.

About a decade back, the old Life Magazine carried an editorial concerning over-population titled, "Won't Anybody Hear The Awful Truth?" Well, the awful truth still isn't being heard. Political leaders continue to cry for more growth while making futile attempts to solve problems created by or related to over-population. The problems include the energy crisis, pollution, housing, crime, hunger, crowding, deforestation, over-grazing, species extinction, restrictions on individual freedom, health threats, soil depletion, loss of agricultural lands, and water shortages.

Over-population must be viewed as the number one social, economic, health and environmental problem facing this nation and the world. Too many political leaders continue to confuse progress with growth.

A few years ago I copied someone's remarks about "Popullution" as resulting from two selfish drives:

1) Exploitation of the blessings of the Earth in the name of something called progress, and
2) Abuse of the sex drive, which was designed to perpetuate the species rather than destroy it.

Similar to the principles of the Malthusian Theory, too many members of the human species are already being destroyed by violence in over-populated areas in the same manner as suggested by laboratory research utilizing other animals. The target group in both cases is primarily young, healthy males in their reproductive years. Biologically, we know that population will ultimately be controlled by some stress such as war, famine, pestilence, environmental degradation, or congestion if not by rational behavior. People must curb population growth, not from whimsical aesthetic reasons, but for the very self-serving reason that we must protect our environment because it literally gives us life. The Earth and its resources are finite.

Population cannot continue to increase indefinitely in a finite world, and signs of resource shortages, social stresses, and environmental ills are widely apparent. As long as the human population remains uncontrolled, no program of resource conservation or environmental health can be successful for long. The Earth's ability to yield sustenance and absorb punishment in the form of pollution is not endless. Ultimately, the human animal must live in balance and harmony with its environment. We have been and continue to be on a credit-card binge, borrowing against the future. Population will be controlled at some point, whether by war, pestilence, famine, or disease, and it would seem to be more rational to control population through behavior modification while some semblance of environmental quality remains.
Continued population growth and unmanaged demographic changes are eroding our ability to leave a healthy world and a quality environment for future generations.

We can no longer take for granted the renewal of our renewable resources ...our crop lands, forests, streams, estuaries, beaches, and the biological diversity of species.

We must realize that the undesirable symptoms of over-population are visible locally and regionally as well as nationally and globally. Even at the municipal, county, and regional levels, population growth can be affected or controlled through attitudes; educational measures; demographic projections; environmental research, planning, and control; zoning and land-use; fiscal policies; economic incentives; cost assessment to those developmental interests creating growth; and critical analysis of all bond issues to determine if they are allowing, promoting, subsidizing and/or creating growth.

We can't really expect to regain former environmental quality once it is lost. We can't continue to grow without sacrificing many desirable qualities and amenities.

The human animal is altering and destroying some of the very conditions, environment, and ecological relationships which allowed for the evolution of modern man, through toxic chemicals, pesticides, hazardous wastes, pollution of the air and water, deforestation, over-grazing -- all related to the demands of over-population. The environmental ravages to be experienced by the development of synfuels, the "forever" nature of radioactive tailings and wastes, the damages caused by uncontrolled strip-mining, and the destruction caused by acid-rain represent other...
EXAMPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION NOT YET FULLY UNDERSTOOD. NOR DO WE KNOW THE IMPACT OF THESE BY-PRODUCTS OF OVER-POPULATION ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN INASMUCH AS THE HUMAN ANIMAL HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO SUCH INFLUENCES FOR ONLY AN INSIGNIFICANT FRACTION OF HIS EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT.

IT CONTINUES TO BE A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO ME THAT THE HUMAN ANIMAL SOMETIMES SEEMS MORE WILLING TO SUFFER THE HEALTH, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF DISEASE AND POLLUTION, RATHER THAN PAYING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. PERHAPS THE HUMAN ANIMAL CAN SLIGHTLY ADAPT TO SOME DEGREE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, BUT IT IS INDEED ALARMING THAT THE HUMAN ANIMAL MIGHT ATTEMPT TO MERELY SURVIVE THROUGH ADAPTATION RATHER THAN THRIVE IN A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT. POPULATION STABILIZATION IS THE ONLY REAL PREVENTIVE ENDEAVOR, SINCE CURATIVE PROGRAMS TO CONTROL THE SECONDARY PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, ENERGY SHORTAGES, TRANSPORTATION, LAND-USE, CONGESTION, CRIME, AND FAMINE HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT RESOLVING THE BASIC ISSUE OF OVER-POPULATION.

WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING?

WE SHOULD SUPPORT SPECIFIC NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS TO STABILIZE POPULATION LEVELS THROUGH SUCH MECHANISMS AS EDUCATION, RACIAL JUSTICE, SEXUAL EQUALITY, TECHNOLOGY SHARING, BIRTH CONTROL, REORIENTATION OF SOCIAL VALUES AND ATTITUDES, DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING, AND ECONOMIC POLICIES AND INCENTIVES.

WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT SOCIAL SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE ELDERLY ARE AMONG THE MOST EFFECTIVE POPULATION STABILIZATION METHODOLOGIES YET DEvised, INASMUCH AS SUCH A SYSTEM REPRESENTS
THE ECONOMIC SECURITY PROVIDED IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY BY A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

WE SHOULD REALIZE THAT SOCIETY HAS ONLY RECENTLY ALLOWED GOVERNMENTAL CURATIVE EFFORTS IN SUCH ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AS POLLUTION OF THE AIR AND WATER, NOISE POLLUTION, AND SOLID WASTES; BUT HAS NOT YET REACHED THE POINT OF AUTHORIZING PROGRAM EFFORTS TO EFFECTIVELY RESOLVE PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE BASIC PRIORITY ISSUE OF OVER-POPULATION.

WE SHOULD CHANGE OUR COLLECTIVE ATTITUDES AND ADJUST TO THE FACT THAT "BIGGER IS NOT BETTER", AND THAT "GROWTH IS NOT PROGRESS".

WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE MAN AS A PART OF THE ENVIRONMENT RATHER THAN AS A SUPREME BEING IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE SHOULD INSIST THAT ALL GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT DEVELOP MECHANISMS TO INSURE PAYMENT AND INTERNALIZATION OF THE HIDDEN AND LONG-TERM COSTS OF GROWTH AND POLLUTION NOW INSTEAD OF DEFERRING THESE COSTS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY OF STABILIZING POPULATION AND REDUCING ENERGY AND OTHER RESOURCE CONSUMPTION RATHER THAN CONSIDERING ONLY THE ALTERNATIVES OF CONTINUED GROWTH AND INCREASING ENERGY AND RESOURCE DEMANDS.

WE SHOULD GUIDE NATIONAL POLICY AND PRIORITIES SO THAT POPULATION STABILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY RESOURCES PRIORITIZE AT LEAST AS HIGH AS PUTTING A MAN ON THE MOON.

WE SHOULD DEVELOP IDEAL FAMILY PLANNING WHICH IS SAFE, EFFECTIVE, REVERSIBLE, AVAILABLE TO ALL, AND CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE; AND WE SHOULD INSURE THAT FAMILY PLANNING IS AS BASIC AS SAFE FOOD, CLEAN WATER, AND CLEAN AIR.
WE SHOULD INSIST THAT WOMEN HAVE A BROAD ARRAY OF REALISTIC CHOICES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CHILD BEARING.

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXPAND PUBLIC INFORMATION EFFORTS REGARDING THE PROBLEMS OF OVER-POPULATION AND THE MEANS OF INTERVENTION.

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO RESEARCH IMPROVED BIRTH CONTROL METHODS FOR USE BY MEN.

WE SHOULD JOIN FORCES WITH OTHER GROUPS AND RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS OVERDUE TO ADOPT A NATIONAL POPULATION PLANNING POLICY, AS THE NEED FOR SUCH A POLICY BECOMES MORE URGENT EVERY DAY.

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW HOW POPULATION GROWTH AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES ARE AT THE ROOT OF MANY OF THE PROBLEMS OF OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.

WE SHOULD PAY AS MUCH ATTENTION TO THE CONTROL OF BIRTHS AS PUBLIC HEALTH HAS DEVOTED TO THE CONTROL OF DEATHS AND DISEASE.

THE EARTH SERVES MAN BEST WHEN HE HAS THE HUMILITY TO LEAVE SOME OF IT ALONE. WE HAVE INHERITED THE EARTH FROM OUR PARENTS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE ARE BORROWING IT FROM OUR CHILDREN.