

UN and OAS Programs: Impact of Further Selective or
Across the Board Cuts

-- The President asked for \$282 million including:

\$133 million for the UN Development Programs
\$52 million for the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
\$7.5 million for UN University
\$35 million for UNICEF
\$12 million for International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
\$17 million for OAS Assistance Programs

and smaller programs such as UN Disaster Relief Organization and the World Meteorological Organization

-- The Committee has cut the whole account 7% to \$260 million: 7% from UNDP to \$123 million; 14% from UNICEF to \$30 million; and 100% from UN University. A 5% cut would eliminate another \$13 million; 10% would be \$26 million.

-- Further reductions would result in either cutting below 1978 contribution levels for the major programs or completely eliminating the smaller programs. Possible both.

U.S. Leadership

-- Taken together, these voluntary contributions reinforce our continuing effort to improve relations with the developing countries, especially in the context of the United Nations.

-- Given the growing uncertainty in the Third World, particularly in Africa, the U.S. needs to do its utmost to demonstrate by actions our desire to help their long term development efforts, to cooperate with them through the multilateral organizations, and to share the enormous financial burden of achieving real development in the long run. Further reduction in our support for these programs will undermine U.S. leadership in these efforts.

-- This Administration has worked hard to improve our relations with the developing nations both inside the UN and outside. At the last UN General Assembly, this effort showed results. The developing countries cooperated in actions favoring our interests in such areas as airline highjacking, southern Africa, and maintenance of a constructive North/South economic dialogue.

- Through our contributions to the United Nations and the Organization of American States, the United States leads the international community in taking action in response to development problems. These international programs effectively mobilize financial resources and human skills to deliver needed assistance to the recipient countries.
- Strong U.S. support for these programs strengthens our political influence generally in the United Nations and particularly in setting its social and economic policies. The continuation of our leadership in the United Nations and other multilateral organizations is an important element in maintaining American leadership in the world.

Americans now direct the largest UN programs; they head the UNDP, UNRWA, UNICEF and the UN University.

- Other major donors are increasingly conscious, however, that Americans hold these positions while our share of total contributions has declined.
- It is in the interest of the American people for the U.S. to lead in supporting strongly the principle of multilateral cooperation to deal with global problems and of sharing the financial burden of international action. These programs execute those principles. We will default on our leadership if our support continues to decline.
- A further decrease in the UNDP contribution will signal clearly to all UN member countries, especially those from the developing world, declining U.S. support for the main technical assistance program in the UN development system. This will reduce the delivery of technical assistance to many countries desperately in need of human skills.
- The Congress expressed last year strong explicit concern over the growth of multilateral technical assistance funded by assessed contributions to the UN specialized agencies. In response, the Executive Branch provided a detailed policy analysis concluding that the U.S. should act to reinforce UNDP as the central coordinating and funding organization for UN technical assistance. This position has been well received in the Congress.
- The U.S. cannot, however, execute this policy unless our support for UNDP increases at a rate which will support its planned expansion of technical assistance.