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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

October 31, 1995
(House Floor)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES.)

**H.R. 1868 -- FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED
PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 1996**

(Sponsors: Livingston (R), Louisiana; Callahan (R), Alabama)

This Statement of Administration Policy provides the Administrations's views on the item reported in disagreement by the conference on H.R. 1868, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, FY 1996. Your consideration of the Administration's views would be appreciated.

The conferees have reported in disagreement provisions related to population assistance to non-governmental organizations. This is an issue of the highest importance to the Administration.

The Administration opposes coercion in family planning practices, and no U.S. assistance is used to pay for abortion as a method of family planning. The House provision, however, would prohibit any assistance from being provided to entities that fund abortions or lobby for abortions with private funds, thus ending U.S. support for many qualified and experienced non-governmental organizations providing vital voluntary family planning information and services. The provision would also end U.S. support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This would sharply limit the availability of effective voluntary family planning programs abroad that are designed to reduce the incidence of unwanted pregnancy and thereby decrease the need for abortion. The Administration also has serious concerns about the constitutionality of the House provision. If the House language were included in the bill presented to the President, the Secretary of State would recommend to the President that he veto the bill.

RETURN TO POLITICS: [NORMAL](#) || [LOW-GRAPHICS](#)



Federal funding of overseas birth control expected to create debate

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WASHINGTON (Jan 30, 1997 00:12 a.m. EST) -- The Clinton administration is preparing to send Congress a measure to speed up spending on family planning overseas, setting up what abortion opponents describe as the first abortion-related vote in the new Congress.

Family-planning advocates say the measure has nothing to do with abortion, since none of the money can be used for abortions. But anti-abortion forces say the money would be used to further the administration's "abortion crusade" overseas.

And, given the charged political atmosphere in which such matters are always debated on Capitol Hill, both sides recognize that it will be cast in terms of abortion, as it was last year when it nearly derailed the budget.

At stake is the distribution of millions of condoms, birth-control pills and IUD's to men and women around the world. Without the devices, the Administration says, there will be a significant increase in unplanned pregnancies, abortions and maternal and infant deaths.

The spending measure is left over from a dispute when anti-abortion forces in the House tried to block money for international population-control groups that counsel on family planning and perform abortions.

Under a highly unusual and complicated compromise on last year's budget, Congress voted to reduce money for international family-planning programs by 35 percent and prevent any further spending until July 1, 1997. But it agreed that if the administration could prove that family programs were being hurt, it would reconsider the measure in February and allow earlier release of the money.

If the measure passes, it would allow family-planning money, appropriated last year, to be released by March 1; if it fails, the money would be released automatically July 1.

The amount of money varies, depending on when it is released. Congress appropriated \$385 million for the State Department's Agency for International Development for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, but put a "metering" system on it, allowing only a certain percentage of it to be spent each month.

If it starts flowing in March, family-planning programs would receive \$215 million between then and Sept. 30. If it is delayed until July, it would amount to \$92 million, meaning family-planning programs worldwide would get \$123 million less than if the money started flowing in March.

That four-month delay will hurt the family-planning efforts, say administration officials, who are to send their findings to Congress on Friday night to meet the Feb. 1 deadline set by the agreement.

The administration plans to make the case that the loss of \$123 million would mean that 50 million

condoms, 4.8 million cycles of birth-control pills and 500,000 IUDs would not be distributed worldwide, officials said.

In Russia alone, for example, the two largest organizations that provide family planning would run out of money and contraceptives in that four-month period and may have to shut down. The two programs provide 1.7 million couples with contraceptive devices.

The administration officials said the delay could also mean a loss of jobs in the United States among manufacturers of contraceptives.

The family-planning money has traditionally become locked in a battle among anti-abortion forces in the House, a divided Senate, and abortion-rights forces in the White House, and the stage is set for the same battle to be replayed this year.

Douglas Johnson, chief lobbyist for the National Right to Life Committee, said, "This is the first abortion vote of the new Congress, and if lawmakers who ran as pro-life vote to give the Clinton administration \$123 million for its overseas abortion crusade, many of their constituents will be pretty upset."

He said he expected the vote to be close in both houses, particularly the Senate, where family-planning measures are not always seen in strict abortion terms.

Rep. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., who has led fights against family-planning money, insisted that the money would be used to promote abortion, even though the administration has said that AID money could not and would not be used for this purpose.

"If we're going to give hundreds of millions of foreign aid to the abortion industry under the guise of family planning, it's a ruse I refuse to be a part of," he said.

Victoria Markell, political director for Population Action International, which supports speeding up the spending, said: "The Senate is reasonable, and we will win that vote. If the House leadership honors its agreement to keep this a clean vote and not mix it into the domestic abortion debate, we'll win that, too.

But she said there had been discussion that Smith may be allowed to introduce an alternative measure, which she said would insure that the measure becomes an abortion vote rather than a family-planning vote.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 31, 1997

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND THE
CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
AND SENATE COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS

January 31, 1997

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 518A(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208) (the "Act"), I hereby find that the July 1, 1997, limitation on obligations imposed by subsection (a) of section 518A is having a negative impact on the proper functioning of the population planning program. Subject to a joint resolution of approval by the Congress to be adopted no later than February 28, 1997, as specified in section 518A(d) of the Act, funds for these activities may be made available beginning March 1, 1997.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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White House Press Release

Statement by the President on Usaid Funds for International Family Planning

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 31, 1997

Statement by the President on Usaid Funds for International **Family Planning**

In the next few weeks, Congress will face an important vote about the United States' support for voluntary **family planning** in developing countries.

The funds to continue our support have already been approved, as part of our Fiscal Year '97 budget. At issue is whether the money will be released on March 1, or whether it will be further delayed by four months, until July.

It is my determination that a delay will cause serious, irreversible and avoidable harm. In the balance are the lives and well-being of many thousands of women and children and American credibility as the leader in **family planning** programs around the world.

Opponents of this funding have tried to mischaracterize this upcoming vote and the work of United States Agency for International Development in **family planning**. So, let me be clear: The United States provides **family planning** support where it is wanted and needed. We are prohibited by law from ever funding abortion -- and we abide faithfully by that law. Indeed, the work we have funded in developing countries has been supportive of **families**, helping them to flourish. It has improved women's health and women's station in life. It has allowed generations of children to grow and be educated in safer and healthier environments. It has been instrumental in helping to prevent the spread of disease, including Aids. And, make no mistake: It has prevented untold numbers of abortions and maternal deaths. This much is clear: In preventing abortions, maternal and child deaths, **family planning** has been proven effective.

If we delay support for **family planning** by even four months, denying safe and effective contraception to couples who depend on these programs, we will see a rise in unintended pregnancies and maternal deaths and a tragic recourse to unsafe and unsanitary methods to terminate those pregnancies.

I want to emphasize this vote should have nothing to do with

partisan politics. In fact, right now, a bipartisan group of legislators in the House and the Senate are hard at work to pass this bill for the timely release of funds. And for a generation, through Administrations led by both parties, the United States has led the world in **family planning** programs. Studies show that our efforts, as part of an international strategy, have prevented more than 500 million unintended pregnancies.

Rapid population growth undermines economic and social development in poor countries. With our support for **family planning**, the scarce resources in developing countries -- from infrastructure and environment to nutrition and education -- can be better used to allow progress for their people.

Maintaining and building on this progress depends on our being consistent in our actions and adhering to our values.

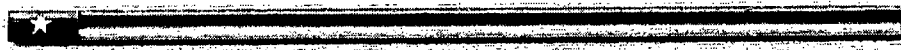
Cooperative international efforts to address rapid population growth serve American foreign policy interests in protecting the earth's environment, promoting human rights and improving basic standards of health. It enhances the social, economic and political status of women. It ensures global economic progress and strong markets for United States exports. It encourages international stability and it reduces pressures that lead to refugee flows and migration.

I appeal to the Members of Congress to examine the consequences of a delay, to weigh those against the benefits of fulfilling an urgent and continuing American commitment, and to vote for the March 1, 1997, unconditional release of these voluntary international **family planning** funds.

If Congress fails to take this simple action, we risk a cost to humanity that we will bear well into the next century.

Surely, we agree that we must do all we can to prevent unintended pregnancies and abortions. With passage of this bill, we can do that. The decision is now in the hands of the Congress.

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To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

Date: 01/31/97 Time: 16:50

CClinton asks Congress to speed up overseas family planning

WASHINGTON (AP) President Clinton urged lawmakers on Friday to speed up spending on overseas family planning programs, setting up the first test vote on abortion in the new Congress.

The president certified that a delay in spending ``is having a negative impact on the proper functioning of the population planning program.''

Detailing the consequences of the delay, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said, ``You create, among other things, unwanted pregnancies, the likelihood of abortion and a steep rise in maternal mortality rates.''

The State Department's Agency for International Development says the delay has denied men and women in 60 countries a total of 50 million condoms, 500,000 intrauterine devices and 4.8 million cycles of contraceptive pills.

House and Senate votes on the measure could come as early as Feb. 11.

Anti-abortion activists, led by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., forced last year's stalemate on the fiscal 1997 funds. The ultimate compromise was to cut funds by 35 percent to \$385 million, and delay spending until July 1 unless the Clinton administration could certify and Congress agreed that the programs were being hurt.

Family-planning advocates contend the vote has nothing to do with abortion because the law stipulates that none of the money is to be used for abortions.

But anti-abortion activists, who are seeking a stricter ban that would also bar U.S. money going to organizations that perform or advocate abortions with their own funds, view the vote as a test of their strength.

Clinton wants Congress to advance by four months the monthly installments for spending the \$385 million for global distribution of millions of condoms, IUD's and birth-control pills. House and Senate votes on the measure could come as early as Feb. 11.

``We're not talking about additional spending,''' McCurry said. ``This is funding that has been obligated but has been withheld under the agreement when the appropriation itself is passed.''

APNP-01-31-97 1657EST

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Bill 2 of 2

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**Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the House of Representatives and Senate approve the Presidential finding,...
(Placed in the Senate)**

SJ 14 PCS

Calendar No. 15

105th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. J. RES. 14

Affirming certain findings of the President of the United States with regard to programs concerning international family planning.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 4, 1997

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) (by request), introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations for not to exceed 5 calendar days pursuant to section 518A(a) of Public Law 104-208

February 10, 1997

Committee discharged pursuant to the order of February 4, 1997, placed on the calendar

JOINT RESOLUTION

Affirming certain findings of the President of the United States with regard to programs concerning international family planning.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the House of Representatives and Senate approve the Presidential finding, submitted to Congress on January 31, 1997, that the limitation on obligations imposed by section

518A(a) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997, is having a negative impact on the proper functioning of the population planning program.

Calendar No. 15

105th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. J. RES. 14

JOINT RESOLUTION

Affirming certain findings of the President of the United States with regard to programs concerning international family planning.

February 10, 1997

Committee discharged pursuant to the order of February 4, 1997, placed on the calendar

The New York Times



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February 12, 1997

Family Planning and Foreign Policy Are Linked, Albright Tells House Panel

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON -- In her first public appearance on Capitol Hill as secretary of state, Madeleine Albright on Tuesday asserted that family planning was an important component of the United States' foreign policy and urged Congress to support an administration-backed measure that would speed up the release of money for family-planning programs overseas.

The House is to vote Thursday on such a measure, as well as on an alternative that would bar aid from the United States to groups that perform abortions, even if they use private money for that purpose.

Albright, making the administration's strongest statement yet on family planning, called it an important tool by which the United States could demonstrate world leadership.

"One of the most important ways we contribute to sustainable development is through our support for international family planning," Albright told a packed hearing of the House International Relations Committee as she sought an increase in the State Department's budget.

"By stabilizing population growth rates, developing nations can devote more of their scarce resources to meet the basic needs of their citizens," she said. "Moreover, our voluntary family-planning programs serve our broader interests by elevating the status of women, reducing the flow of refugees, protecting the environment and promoting economic growth."

The family-planning programs have come under fire from anti-abortion forces, who contend that they are actually conduits for what many of them call Clinton's worldwide "abortion crusade."

In addition, some opponents of the administration's measure, like Steven W. Mosher of the conservative Population Research Institute, which opposes contraception, accuse the United States of a "contraceptive imperialism." At a news conference on Monday that featured Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., and Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., Mosher contended that overpopulation of the world is a "myth" and that money from the United States is used disproportionately for family planning at the expense of basic health and hygiene.

The administration-backed resolution would speed up the release of money allocated last year but withheld until July 1997. If released March 1, as the administration wants, the money available between then and Sept. 30, the end of the 1997 fiscal year, would amount to \$215 million. If delayed until July, the sum would amount to \$92 million, a loss of \$123 million.

sum would amount to \$92 million, a loss of \$123 million.

An alternative measure, offered by Smith, would provide \$385 million for family planning, but only on the condition that none of the money go to any organization that performs abortions, even if it finances them with money from other sources.

While both measures could conceivably pass the House, the Smith bill would face a tougher time in the Senate and would be vetoed by President Clinton.

At Tuesday's hearing, Smith pointedly questioned Albright as he asserted that the administration was bent on undermining anti-abortion laws in many of the countries where it sends family-planning money through the Agency for International Development, also known as AID.

"I believe the real consensus is with providing family planning funds but not, however unwittingly, empowering the pro-abortion movement overseas to bring down the right-to-life laws as they exist in approximately 100 countries of the world," Smith said.

Albright responded: "The U.S. does not fund the performance or promotion of abortion anywhere in the world. And what we are concerned about is that the restrictions that are envisioned in your language would preclude U.S. AID from working with organizations that provide effective, voluntary family planning and women's health services in countries where abortion is legal."

She added: "I think the issue here, sir, is that we desperately need the money in order to try to get women out of the terrible poverty that has existed."

In pressing its case, Planned Parenthood brought two Russian pediatricians to brief Congress on what they described as the benefits of the U.S.-backed family-planning efforts. The Russians said that since contraceptives were more available, abortions in Russia had dropped from 4.4 million in 1989 to 2.7 million in 1995.

Dr. Inga I. Grebesheva, director general of the Russian Association of Family Planning in Moscow, said that as a result of post-abortion complications that left women infertile, Russia's birth rate had dwindled. Unlike other countries, where family planning was aimed partly at checking overpopulation, she said Russia hoped it would help rebuild the population by preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and curbing the need for abortions, which are often performed in unsanitary conditions.

Smith and his supporters have characterized Thursday's vote as the first abortion-related vote of the new Congress, a characterization that may help pressure some anti-abortion House members into voting with them.

For that same reason, supporters of family planning strongly reject such a characterization. If the vote is cast in terms of abortion instead of family planning, they would probably lose votes in the House, where a majority of members oppose abortion. As a matter of policy and law, the federal money cannot be used for abortions, even though Smith argues that because money is interchangeable, the federal money frees up other money to be used for this purpose.

Kate Bunting, a spokeswoman for CARE, one of the international relief and development organizations that receives federal money for family planning overseas, said, "We do not pay for abortions with our private money, we don't

even have an organizational position on abortion." She said the success of the administration's resolution on Thursday would rest on "pro-life members' making the distinction and understanding that providing family-planning services will in fact reduce abortion."

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

February 13, 1997
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES.)

H.J.Res. 36 - Authorization for Release of International Population Funds
(Armey (R) TX and Gephardt (D) MO)

The Administration strongly supports enactment of H.J.Res. 36, which would allow funds appropriated for international population programs for fiscal year 1997 to be obligated and expended beginning March 1, 1997, instead of July 1, 1997. The President determined that a delay in the release of these funds until July "will cause serious, irreversible and avoidable harm [and in] the balance are the lives and well-being of many thousands of women and children and American credibility as the leader in family planning programs around the world."

The attached January 31st "Statement by the President on USAID Funds for International Family Planning" addresses more fully the important reasons why these funds should be released beginning on March 1, 1997.

Date: 02/13/97 Time: 13:46

AHouse Approves Funding For Family Planning

WASHINGTON (AP) Overcoming opposition from anti-abortion lawmakers, the House today approved the release of funds for international family planning programs.

In the first abortion test vote of the new Congress, the House by a 220-209 margin approved a resolution to begin providing \$385 million in overseas family planning funds on March 1. The Senate is to take up the measure soon.

Supporters of the bill won over many moderate Republicans by stressing that increased family planning aid could prevent millions of abortions.

''Indeed, the delay undermines U.S. efforts to promote child survival and actually increases the number of abortions worldwide,'' said Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Anti-abortion forces were to get another shot later in the day when the House takes up a separate bill that ties the release of the funds to tighter restrictions on abortion.

That bill, sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., has little chance of surviving the Senate if it passes the House and would face a presidential veto.

Smith would restore the policy, in effect during the Reagan and Bush administrations, that bars money for groups that perform or promote abortion. It was revoked early in President Clinton's first term.

Lawmakers suspicious of the abortion-related activities of population control groups led efforts to slash family planning funding from \$547 million in fiscal 1995 to \$356 million in fiscal 1996.

Last fall, negotiations between the White House and GOP leaders over the fiscal 1997 budget nearly collapsed at the last moment when Clinton threatened to veto the package over language that restored the funding ban.

In a complicated compromise, anti-abortion language in a \$385 million budget was removed but the money was not made available until July 1, nine months into the fiscal year, and then was doled out month to month.

It also allowed Clinton to request that the funds be released on March 1 if he certified that the delay was having a negative effect on programs. Earlier this month he did so, saying that the delay risked ''a cost to humanity that we will bear well into the next century.'' Thursday's vote was to confirm that finding.

Smith, the House's leading opponent of abortion, offered a version that released all the money without the month-by-month restrictions but restored earlier anti-abortion language.

''We need to show the world we are ready to support education and other family practices but not at the expense of the innocent unborn,'' said Rep. Jim Bunning, R-Ky.

The United States is prohibited by a 1973 law from directly funding abortions overseas, but the Reagan administration at a 1984 international meeting in Mexico City took that a step beyond. It banned aid to family planning groups that perform abortions or promote abortions in foreign countries.

APNP-02-13-97 1353EST

Date: 02/13/97 Time: 15:26

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Supporters of the bill won over many moderate Republicans by stressing that increased family planning aid could prevent millions of abortions.

"Indeed, the delay undermines U.S. efforts to promote child survival and actually increases the number of abortions worldwide," said Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Anti-abortion forces fought back later in the day when the House passed, by 231-194, a separate bill that ties the release of the funds to tighter restrictions on abortion.

But that bill, sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., has little chance of surviving the Senate and would face a presidential veto.

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The United States is prohibited by a 1973 law from directly funding abortions overseas, but the Reagan administration at a 1984 international meeting in Mexico City took that a step beyond. It banned aid to family planning groups that perform abortions or promote abortions in foreign countries.

APNP-02-13-97 1533EST