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TO: DUNCAN, JOHN J

CHRON FILE

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 21 MAR 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: RUSSIA
CO

AGRICULTURE

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LTR ON AID TO RUSSIA

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 14 FEB 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BURNS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

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FOR ACTION

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NSC CHRON

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COMMENTS: _____

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**National Security Council
The White House**

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Lake			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk		<u>78K 3/22</u>	<u>D</u>
NSC Secretariat			

A = Action	I = Information	D = Dispatch	R = Retain	N = No Further Action
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cc: VP McLarty Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
 (Date/Time)

COMMENTS:

Date?

3-21-94

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

National Security Council
The White House

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Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>S</u>	<u>HA</u> 3/15	<u>X</u> TO BROPHY
NSC Secretariat			

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc: VP McLarty Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS:

cc: KK

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

E-4 Secs Office has desked

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1994

Dear Representative Duncan:

Thank you for your letter on the CABA
Agricultural Initiative for Russia and the NIS.

I applaud your efforts to promote agribusiness
contacts with the new independent states of the
former USSR. I am convinced that our efforts to
expand U.S. trade and investment in this sector
can have an immediate payoff in increased
efficiency of the food system in these
countries.

Since your letter, officials of the CABA
Initiative have held several additional meetings
with the U.S. Agency for International
Development to explore options for funding the
CABA projects. I am hopeful that these contacts
will result in CABA's contribution to this
partnership between government and the private
sector to promote a market-oriented agricultural
system in the NIS.

Thank you again for your interest in reinforcing
our efforts in this vital area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
2D DISTRICT TENNESSEE

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1065
COMMITTEES:

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

NATURAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4202
94 FEB 9 P4: 38

December 10, 1993

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to call your attention to the difficulties being experienced by the "CABA Agricultural Initiative for Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States" in its efforts to secure funding from USAID.

The CABA Initiative is important to the State of Tennessee, as The University of Tennessee and several private sector companies will participate in projects under this program.

Politically, the CABA Initiative is a winner, as it is inclusive in its organization and blends representatives of many communities of the United States. The CABA Initiative brings together the academic institutions, the private sector, minority institutions and majority schools.

The CABA Initiative is the only agricultural program to aid the former Soviet Union that includes the Land Grant colleges and universities of the United States. It is also the only program that includes the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Given the involvement of the HBCU's, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has given its enthusiastic support to the CABA Initiative.

On October 28, 1993 the CBC, represented by Congressman Alcie Hastings and Amelia Parker, CBC Executive Director, met with Brian Atwood, Administrator of USAID, to discuss the CABA Initiative and procedures for its funding via USAID. As a result of the October meeting, another meeting was held on November 15. At this meeting the Executive Director of CABA met with Malcolm Butler, USAID Director of NIS Programs, to further the discussions to effect funding of this important program. It appears that none of these meetings have convinced Mr. Butler and USAID of the value of the CABA Initiative and of the need for its expeditious implementation.

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By way of background, please allow me to share with you that the implementation of the CABA Initiative for Russia and the CIS has been requested by senior officials of the recipient nations, including Eduard Shevardnadze, President of the Republic of Georgia.

The CABA Initiative enjoys strong bi-partisan support in both the House and Senate. Several individual and joint letters of support for the CABA Initiative have been submitted to the Administration. Additionally, in the current Appropriations Report Language, specific provision has been made for the CABA Initiative.

Another meeting with Mr. Butler is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, at 4:30 p.m. At this meeting, the final decision will be made regarding funding and implementation of the CABA Initiative.

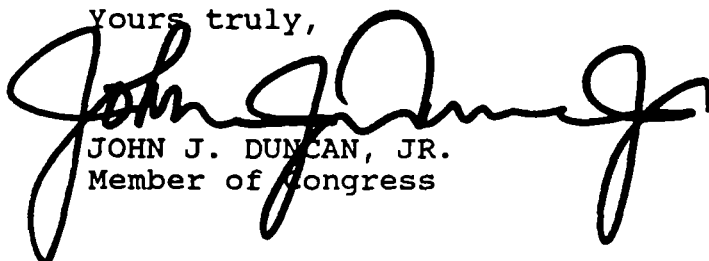
I believe it is critical that clear support from the Executive Branch be demonstrated for this project. Therefore, I request that an appropriate Executive level contact be made with USAID before this meeting. This contact would assure that the CABA Initiative is not discounted or only minimally funded by USAID.

Mr. President, I believe that the CABA Initiative for Russia and the CIS is a critically important and carefully designed program that will significantly aid the United States in our efforts to assist the people and governments of the republics of the former Soviet Union in their continued efforts to establish viable free-market economies.

Further, I believe that the expeditious implementation of the CABA Initiative will be of collateral benefit to the United States. I respectfully ask for your attention to this matter.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Duncan, Jr.", is written over the typed name and title.

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
Member of Congress

JJD:jc