

Wrote to  
Brooks  
Bentley  
Jawer

MAR 30 1979

on repeal of  
Helms Amendment.

**For Your Information**  
**From**  
League Of Women Voters Of Galveston



OCT 27 1980

## Action Alert

SPOTMASTER ALERT: For latest developments on League issues, call Spotmaster (202) 296-0218 from 1 p.m. on Fridays until 3 p.m. on Mondays (EDT).

October 20, 1980

TO: State and Local League Presidents

FROM: Ruth Robbins, Action Chair and Edith L. Bornn, International Relations Chair

RE: The Fiscal Year 1981 Foreign Assistance Appropriations Bill, HR 7854, and the authorization bill for the International Development Association's Sixth Replenishment, HR 6811

When Congress reconvenes in mid-November for the lame duck session, both the House and Senate will be pressed to pass major legislation for the new fiscal year affecting bilateral and multilateral development assistance. At present, two critical bills are slated for House floor action. One is the FY '81 foreign assistance appropriations bill; the other is a bill to authorize United States participation in the Sixth Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), the soft-loan window of the World Bank.

All House members should be contacted immediately after the November 4 election and urged to support: (a) the fiscal 1981 foreign assistance appropriations bill, HR 7854 and (b) the fiscal 1981 authorization for the Sixth Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA VI), HR 6811. Call, write or mailgram your MCs as soon as possible. The House is scheduled to begin floor debate on HR 7854 on November 12, the first day of the lame duck session. Urge MCs to oppose any across the board funding cuts which would undermine US development assistance programs.

A date for floor debate on the IDA VI authorization has not been set, but the House Banking Committee has promised to make a concerted effort to bring the bill to the floor during the post-election session. Check SPOTMASTER for scheduling updates on HR 7854 and HR 6811.

### BACKGROUND

#### Foreign assistance appropriations

Because Congress failed to pass a foreign assistance appropriations bill for the 1980 fiscal year, which ended September 30, funding for development assistance in 1981 assumes considerably greater importance. Already the demise of the FY '80 foreign assistance bill has adversely affected US development efforts. US funding for the United Nations development programs, the US bilateral aid programs, and the multilateral development banks (including the IDA, see section below) was restricted for an entire year to fiscal year 1979 levels. This meant funding at approximately 30 percent below the Administration's request for FY '80. Some of the consequences



in fiscal year 1980:

- Funding for the bilateral agricultural, rural development and nutrition programs administered by the Agency for International Development (AID) was reduced by \$30 million.
- US contributions to the World Bank were slashed to \$163 million, or to a level which represented roughly 16 percent of the Administration's request.
- US contributions to the African Development Fund were cut from \$42 million to \$25 million, thus depriving the Fund (soft-loan window to the African Development Bank) of badly needed US support.

Failure to pass the FY '81 appropriations legislation, HR 7854, would mean that for the second year running, financing for US development assistance programs would be relegated to grossly inadequate levels. On October 1, Congress passed a continuing appropriations resolution which funds the federal government through December 15. Funding for development assistance under this stop-gap measure is somewhat higher than it was under '79 levels, but still falls far short of the amount needed for US bilateral and multilateral aid programs.

As reported by the House Appropriations Committee, HR 7854 provides a total foreign aid budget of \$7.2 billion. This figure represents a cut of approximately \$410 million from President Carter's fiscal year 1981 request. Funding for development assistance programs constitutes only a small portion--less than half--of the total FY '81 foreign assistance appropriations package. Out of the total \$7.2 billion appropriation, HR 7854 contains \$221.35 million for US voluntary contributions to the UN, \$10.7 million below the Administration's request; \$1.3 billion for bilateral development assistance (AID) programs, about \$73 million below the Administration's request; and \$1.4 billion for the multilateral development banks.

The lion's share of the foreign assistance appropriation consists of the economic support fund, the Export-Import Bank and foreign military aid, including arms loan guarantees. In 1979, for example, about 40 percent of all America's bilateral aid went to Egypt and Israel to further the Camp David agreements.

Over the past decade, US spending for development assistance has declined steadily in real terms. US Official Development Assistance has fallen from slightly more than 0.4 percent of gross national product (GNP) in the late 1960s to a record low of .19 percent of GNP in 1980. This places the US fifteenth among the 17 industrialized donor nations in proportion of GNP spent on development assistance and is in stark contrast to the generally accepted UN target of .7 percent of GNP.

#### IDA VI Authorization

House passage of HR 6811 is vitally important, especially following unprecedented cutbacks this year in US commitments to several international development banks.



LWVUS  
Page three

On June 30, 1980, IDA officially ran out of money to make further loans. Despite its part in a 33-member nation agreement pledging \$12 million to IDA for a three-year period, the US has been the single nation which has not been forthcoming in its commitment. The US-pledged share in the IDA VI replenishment represents 27% of the total--down from 31% for IDA V and 42% when IDA was sent up in 1961--evidence that other nations are assuming an ever greater proportion of the financial burden.

On June 16, the Senate passed the IDA VI authorization bill without much controversy. On the House side, however, the amount of the authorization is likely to be highly controversial and especially vulnerable to cuts in this period of budget slashing fever.





# memorandum

JUL 28 1980

June 30, 1980  
THIS IS GOING ON DPM

TO: State and Local League Presidents (attention IR chairs)

FROM: Edith L. Bornn, International Relations Chair

International Trade: Style and Substance summarizes the proceedings of the LWVEF conference on "The U.S. Stake in International Trade" held in April 1979. The conference was part of a year long citizen education project on the effects of trade on individual states.

Forty-four state Leagues took part in the project and the results have been marvelous. Several of the state League projects were outstanding: some of the state directors were particularly imaginative in shaping the form of their projects; others were impressive in their in-depth grasp of the issues; several were eminently successful in eliciting the participation of a range of decision makers; and still others stimulated a great deal of League involvement. The projects ranged from media productions for public television and radio, to poster contests, to distribution of placemats to restaurant chains and bookmarks to libraries and schools.

Leagues should continue to look for opportunities to involve local and state business, civic, and labor organizations in activities which highlight the importance of international trade to communities and states throughout the United States. We hope you'll find the conference summary report, International Trade: Style and Substance, (Pub. No. 389, \$1.25) a help in your efforts. And, don't forget the LWVEF's two earlier trade publications: MTN: Breaking the Nontariff Barrier (pub. No. 546, 30¢) and The Continuing Crisis in Trade (pub. No. 123, 50¢).



JOHN TOWER  
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 30, 1979

NOV 5 1979

STATE OFFICES:  
961 FEDERAL BUILDING  
AUSTIN 78701  
1100 COMMERCE STREET  
DALLAS 75242  
515 RUSK STREET  
HOUSTON 77002

Ms. Diana S. Clark  
1212 Guadalupe, Suite 109  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Clark:

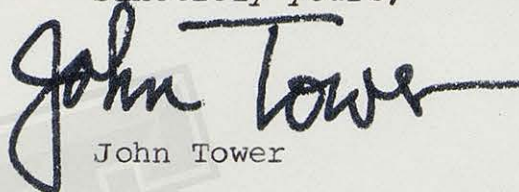
Thank you for your recent letter on the issue of bilateral trade relations between the United States and communist countries.

The non-discriminatory, or "most-favored nation" treatment which the U.S. generally extends to its trading partners has historically been denied by law to all communist nations, except Poland and Yugoslavia. When the Senate considered the Trade Act of 1974, I supported an amendment that prohibits the extension of MFN status to non-market economies with discriminatory emigration policies, an issue which continues to be of current interest to many communist countries.

It is uncertain whether legislation on the subject of East-West trade relations will be taken up by the full Senate this year. Several questions remain open, such as: (1) whether the U.S. should continue in principle its discriminatory treatment of trade with communist countries; (2) whether discrimination should be practiced on a country-by-country basis or should be applied to all communist countries without exception; (3) whether political, as well as economic criteria are appropriate in deciding whether discriminatory treatment is to continue; and (4) whether reciprocal MFN status should depend on additional concessions from communist countries.

In analyzing these issues, it is necessary to compare the benefits of a mutual trade relationship, such as the favorable effect on our balance of trade, with any objections that may exist on political grounds. The underlying questions are necessarily complex and may involve multiple, and sometimes conflicting, domestic and foreign policy goals.

Sincerely yours,

  
John Tower

JT/pc

DC  
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SD-



OCT 1 2 1979



## memorandum

This is going on DPM  
September 11, 1979

TO: State and Local League Presidents (Copy for IR Chairs)  
FROM: Ruth Robbins, IR Chair  
RE: The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development  
(WCARRD) July 12-20, 1979, Rome, Italy

I was invited to be a member of the U.S. delegation to WCARRD (pronounced WiCARRD), a conference called by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations to focus national and international attention on the problems of the rural poor. 160 nations were invited; 145 sent delegations.

The 15 member US delegation consisted of persons from the State Department; Agency for International Development (AID); the Department of Agriculture; the US Mission to the UN; Action; and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It was headed by Ambassador Andrew Young, former Permanent US Representative to the UN.

Serving on this type of body has many rewards and many frustrations. One learns a great deal from face-to-face contact with people from other countries, not only from formal speeches, but also from informal meetings and conversations at receptions, in lounges, and over lunch. It was interesting to see the interplay among, and the contributions of, the various US government departments and agencies represented on the delegation.

It was fascinating to listen to the debate, watching the positions of the Group of 77, the Communist countries and the industrialized market-economy countries evolve. The presentation of arguments and then, in most cases, changing of words to accommodate consensus has developed into quite an art. One begins to recognize how "participate in and speedily conclude" becomes more or less acceptable if it's changed to "participate in and seek speedily to conclude" as well as the difference between the New International Economic Order and a New International Economic Order. One also quickly begins to distinguish rhetoric from serious debate.

Consensus, as in the LWV, does not mean unanimity or majority but substantial agreement. However, unlike the League, nations not agreeing with a consensus position record their reservations to it.

It is somewhat frustrating to be an NGO in this milieu. Our input was, of necessity, limited. We were not there to make or change US policy based on discussion--a new and more limited role for most of us. However, I imagine there were many frustrations for the government people who were restricted as well. Any statement made, or principle or action agreed to or opposed, had to be in conformity with policy set by past and present Administrations, in previous UN sessions and meetings and



legislation passed by the Congress. There was constant contact between the delegation and Washington, D.C.

The delegation was deluged with briefing and background materials before the Conference and we met each morning between 8:15 and 9:15 a.m. during the Conference. Although only a few of the government delegates were authorized to make official statements, all of us could speak unofficially on US positions.

Each of us had a role to play. If I were to assess mine, it is to acquaint the LWV constituency--both members and public--with the problems of agrarian reform and rural development and with what happened at WCARRD. This report is part of my assignment.

WCARRD was a signal by the countries of the world that they were ready to discuss agrarian reform and rural development. All recognize that agrarian reform and rural development are problems of major proportions and all recognize that actions to solve them will be difficult. Most will require a relinquishing of power and resources from the haves to the have-nots both within countries and between countries.

#### DEFINITIONS

There is a difference between agrarian reform and rural development. Agrarian reform is a prerequisite of rural development in that it attempts to modernize systems and social structures which block full participation by the less advantaged majority. It seeks a more equitable sharing of resources and opportunity through improved systems of land tenure, allocation of government services, terms of trade between rural and urban areas, etc. In many areas it will require land redistribution, tenancy and/or tenure reform, thus challenging the commitment of all concerned. No easy task!

Rural development, on the other hand, applies to the whole rural environment. It requires not just agrarian reform but many other changes such as increased infrastructure, more industry and job opportunities, better social services of health, education and full participation by rural people in the social, political and economic organizations of their lives. Simply put, agrarian reform aims at social justice, while rural development aims at growth.

#### BACKGROUND

Rural poverty is very pervasive. According to a WCARRD background paper, close to half of all people on earth live in rural areas of developing countries. More than half of these are "poor" (as measured by incomes of less than US \$200 per year) while more than a third, an estimated 700 million, are categorized as "destitute." The number of these poor and destitute increased by 162 million between 1962 and 1972. Despite migration to cities, in itself a huge social problem, the rural population of developing countries is expected to grow by another 900 million by the year 2000.



Rural poverty must be attacked in two ways: 1) nationally, by the developing countries themselves and 2) internationally, through bilateral channels and multi-national institutions and organizations.

President Julius K. Nyerere of Tanzania presented the challenge in his remarks to the Conference. If the objective of this Conference is the elimination of poverty, ignorance and disease, he said, then the past 15 years provide a lesson on how not to succeed. Fighting poverty is not just a question of production techniques and capital investment he continued, it is a highly political topic. This Conference if it is to succeed, must face up to hard questions such as land ownership, political power for the rural poor as well as the demand for a New International Economic Order. Nationally, President Nyerere contended, "rural development means development. It indicates an approach and the order of priorities. It involves every aspect of government and social activities. It means acting to reverse the traditional flow of wealth from the rural areas into the towns and forcing that wealth into channels which will benefit the workers who actually produce it with their hands and their brains. It means transferring to the poorer and rural areas some of the wealth produced in the richest economic sectors. In practically all developing countries these things require a revolution in the present patterns of government expenditure and of taxation. This will be done if, and only if, the people can organize their own power in their own interest."

Mr. Nyerere claimed that if all developing countries adopted these reforms internally, it would do no more than distribute poverty more fairly. World economic practices must be changed as well. "At the international level the struggle for rural development is, in essence, what the demand for a New International Economic Order is all about....aid, trade, international credit and currency systems, shipping, the Law of the Sea--all these and many other major questions of international relations are involved in the evolution of a world rural development strategy."

He ended by saying, "Rural Development is a matter of investment and technology. But it is also a matter of politics. It is the very stuff of government. I hope this important Conference will help us in the struggle to make Rural Development strategies a reality as we advance into the 1980s."

#### THE CONFERENCE

The major objective of WCARRD was to discuss and approve a Declaration of Principles and a Programme of Action which highlight not only the crucial role played by agrarian reform and rural development in a country's overall development, but also the importance of attaining a high degree of popular participation in the political and economic decision-making process and of sharing equitably the benefits of growth.

The structure of WCARRD consisted of three sections: 1) a Plenary, for speeches of heads of delegations and for the final adoption of the Principles and Programme of Action; 2) Commission I, for national issues; 3) Commission II, for international issues. There were meetings every day and most nights, sometimes running as late as 12 midnight.



## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Principles, as refined by the group, were adopted "by acclamation" after a relatively small number of countries had made their reservations known on some parts. Argentina, Brazil and Chile worried that national sovereignty was being challenged on questions of land redistribution and tenure and people's participation in political and economic decision-making. Many of the industrialized market-economy countries, including the US, had reservations about the principle that gave "full" sovereignty to every state over its natural resources, believing this did not adequately protect foreign investors against expropriation in accordance with international law.

The Declaration of Principles emphasizes the need to make eradication of poverty in the world the essential objective of development. It stresses the need to focus on increasing equity in the distribution of productive rural assets, e.g. land and water, and on stimulating rural development as a means of improving the quality of life for the rural poor. It condemns past development efforts for not having reached the rural poor and in many cases contributing to urban-rural imbalance. It places primary responsibility for agrarian reform and rural development on individual governments but calls for strong political commitment and active cooperation from the international community.

Two concepts contained in the Principles represent a real step forward as it is the first time they have been agreed to in international fora. One is the recognition that agrarian reform (including land redistribution and tenancy reform) is a critical component of rural development. The other ties rural development to the NIEO admitting that the NIEO, to be successful, requires rural development. (The developing countries see the NIEO as the answer to their equitable participation in world economic activity.)

Guidelines were agreed to and the Conference adopted and recommended that governments, the Food and Agriculture Organization and other organizations and bodies of the UN system implement the following Programme of Action:

## PROGRAMME OF ACTION

### NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF ACTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

#### I. Objectives and Strategies:

The goal of agrarian reform and rural development is the transformation of rural life. This transformation should focus on the eradication of poverty and be governed by policies for attaining growth with equity, redistribution of economic and political power, and people's participation in decisions that affect them. Targets include increased self-reliance, especially in food production; expanded employment opportunities; elimination of under-nutrition; minimum income; improved levels of public utilities and services such as safe drinking water, family planning, primary health care, housing, education, access to roads, communications and electric power.



## II. Access to Land, Water and Other Natural Resources

The systems of ownership and use of lands, access to water and other natural resources constitute the key determinants of general conditions of rural life. Where they are judged to be constraints on rural development, governments should consider changes, such as:

- reorganizing land tenure and land distribution to include landless peasants and smallholders
- enforcing security of tenants, including sharecroppers, improving their access to credit and services
- enacting and enforcing rural labor legislation, including minimum wages
- intensifying efforts to consolidate fragmented and dispersed holdings
- encouraging group farming, state-owned farms, cooperatives, etc.

## III. People's Participation

Participation of people in the institutions and systems which govern their lives is a basic human right and also essential before any agrarian reform and rural development can take place. Governments should consider action to:

- remove all barriers to the free association of rural people
- strengthen local government by decentralizing institutions of government and decision-making
- encourage formation of organizations to work for and implement agrarian reform.

## IV. Integration of Women in Rural Development

Rural development based on growth with equity will require full integration of women, including equitable access to land, water and other natural resources, inputs and services and equal opportunity to develop and employ their skills. Governments should:

- ensure equality of legal status by repealing laws which discriminate against women in respect of right of inheritance, ownership and control of property
- expand women's access to rural services including agricultural training extension services
- promote collective action and organization by rural women
- establish and strengthen day care centers and other programs to ease the burden of women's household work to permit their greater participation in economic, educational and political activities
- promote understanding of men's responsibilities to share household duties
- improve educational and employment opportunities

## V. Access to Inputs, Markets and Services

Policies and strategies are needed to develop and promote technologies, better utilization of labor, improved distribution of inputs and services to smallholders and peasant cooperatives, stable markets and fair prices, critical infrastructure, adequate public utilities. Governments should:

- encourage use of improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other technological inputs
- establish and strengthen market towns, common facilities and rural service centers
- increase and encourage research on rural problems.



## VI. Development of Non-Farm Rural Activities

Viable rural development requires industrialization: many industries can be located in rural areas creating employment opportunities. These measures would reduce rural exodus and slow the growth of urban slums. Governments should consider action to:

- increase fiscal incentives for small and medium industry
- promote industrial entrepreneurship including cottage industries and cooperatives
- promote local processing of raw materials

## VII. Education, Training and Extension

Basic literacy, a fundamental need for human development, deserves the highest priority. No less essential is the creation and expansion of training and extension networks for both men and women to develop and improve skills and to increase productivity and income-generating capabilities. Governments should consider action to:

- give high priority to universal primary education and functional literacy
- relate the curricula and syllabi to daily life and work
- strengthen non-formal education--such as courses in health, nutrition, family planning, home economics, agrarian law, legal services, farm management, skills required for rural industry, construction, equipment maintenance
- recruit male and female educators and extension and research workers from rural communities and encourage them to return to work within their own communities.

## INTERNATIONAL POLICIES FOR AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### VIII. International Trade

International trading systems which improve access to industrialized markets for raw and processed agricultural commodities are important to rural development. International trading systems should be based on principles of equality, sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. (The United States, along with 17 other industrialized countries, reserved on this point since it singled out industrialized country markets.) Developed countries should take action to:

- implement past commitments aimed at liberalizing trade with renewed determination to resist protectionism
- expand the General System of Preferences
- conclude commodity agreements and support the funding of the Common Fund, including its second window. (U.S. policy is not to contribute to the second window. Rather than reserving on this point, the United States submitted a statement of interpretation to the effect that all second window contributions are understood to be voluntary.)

Developing countries should take action to:

- ensure that benefits from favorable price changes accrue to small farmers and are not preempted by governments and transnationals
- provide knowledge about foreign market opportunities
- promote direct contact between producers and buyers in consuming countries
- establish support prices to protect incomes of small farmers.



## IX. Economic and Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in activities affecting rural development should be expanded. Joint measures should be taken to expand trade among developing countries and to exchange knowledge and experience in agricultural technology, institutional reform and rural development planning.

## X. Foreign Investment

Each country must determine its own policies and priorities, and foreign investment, especially by transnational agro-industry corporations, must be consistent with overall economic and social development objectives. Action should be taken to:

- reaffirm the right of each state to exercise full sovereignty over ownership, use and disposal of its resources, including right to nationalize property with compensation consistent with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. (CERDS sets compensation according to national policies.) (The United States as well as a number of other industrialized countries reserved on this point, since the language does not mention "prompt, adequate and effective compensation" consistent with international law.)
- support UN efforts to establish an international code of conduct.

## XI. Development Assistance

Both donor and recipient countries should seek to expand the amount and proportion of resources for agricultural and rural development, and in particular consider direct support for programmes of agrarian reform.

- developed countries should take urgent steps to reach the Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) established for the Second Development Decade. (The U.S. reserved on this point, since the U.S. has never accepted the 0.7% target.)
- consider external financing of major infrastructure works such as large-scale irrigation and transportation projects
- allocate aid to those countries which have demonstrated a strong and continuing commitment to rural development
- channel more aid to programs which promote self-reliance and employment for unemployed and underemployed
- ensure that food aid received on a regular basis, is not a disincentive to domestic production and self-reliance.

## XII. Programme of Action for FAO and Other Organizations of the United Nations System

To help implement this program of action, the appropriate international organizations, with FAO as lead agency, consider the following measures in the field of agrarian reform and rural development:

- sensitize the people of member countries to the realities of rural poverty
- collect and analyze data to monitor progress
- develop improved criteria and methods for monitoring and evaluating rural development



- expand technical assistance activities in developing countries
- FAO should act as catalytic agent for the stimulation of development projects.

Reading the Programme of Action as adopted does not give the flavor of the discussion that preceded it. As expected, the Group of 77 (as the over 100 developing countries are called) spoke, for the most part, with one voice and with the support of the Communist countries. Together, they represented an automatic consensus. They made clear they would accept no substantial weakening of the document. It was the strategy of the industrialized market-economy countries (as the developed non-communist countries refer to themselves) to keep their reservations to a minimum and enter them only on matters of extreme importance. On less crucial points, they withdrew their reservations but submitted statements explaining their disagreement with the final wording.

So, while the Programme of Action was adopted with few reservations attached by the countries attending WCARRD, there were several points of contention:

- \*pledging compliance with international law (rather than just national law) with respect to expropriation of private property;
- \*struggling over the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) controversy regarding application of selective safeguards, a point over which the European Community, which supports selective safeguards, felt compelled to reserve;
- \*disagreeing about the United States' unwillingness to accept the UN-mandated 0.7% of GNP as a numerical target for granting Official Development Assistance;
- \*designating the FAO as the lead UN agency in implementing the Programme of Action; other UN bodies had expressed concern about usurpation and duplication of functions, but FAO was successful in its attempt to be designated the "lead agency."

The Conference ended on an optimistic but cautious note. Mr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of the FAO, called it a remarkable Conference, establishing, with so little controversy, "a Charter of the Peasants." LDCs have agreed to set targets for themselves, he continued, and a new approach to global problems has been found. If the international community doesn't rise to the challenge, it is setting the stage for its own destruction, he warned. The world community must achieve a NIEO--not only internationally but nationally, he concluded.

The Chairman of the Group of 77 congratulated everyone on all the accomplishments--though he had earlier chastised the developed countries for their reaction to the ODA 0.7% target.

The USSR, speaking for the Communist countries, expressed solidarity with the LDCs, stressed the importance of liquidating large landholdings, and called for an end to exploitation of the peasantry.

Belgium, speaking for the industrialized countries with market economies, commented on the good will prevalent throughout the Conference, which the delegate said, brought about a broader and deeper understanding of agrarian reform and rural



development. The Belgian delegate did note that many of the issues under discussion, such as levels of ODA and trade issues, were not issues on which industrialized countries could readily amend previously-established positions. WCARRD, in essence, was not the time or place to change substantially such long-standing positions. Other issues, such as a code of conduct for multinational corporations could not be discussed either, since they are under negotiation in other UN bodies.

#### CONCLUSION

"We will be judged by our actions, not our words." These words were uttered by speaker after speaker during the nine day conference and were ringing in my ears as the Conference ended. The Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action will be mere platitudes if steps are not taken to implement them.

If rural poverty is to be eliminated, it will take concerted effort on the part of both LDCs and developed countries. There is much merit in the demands of LDCs for a NIEO--there is an inequitable and unjust sharing of the world's resources. But, a NIEO will not, by itself, solve the problems of the rural poor. The LDCs must have the political will to make the hard choices for meaningful agrarian reform and rural development.

Listening to the statements at the Plenary sessions by the heads of delegations, I remember vividly the words of the speaker from Lesotho who called WCARRD a hoax. He pointed out that rural people were not represented; only government representatives--the elite--were present. They, he said, will make no commitments nor give up their power. There will be no rural development unless the rural poor have the political power to will it.

I also remember the reservations of the developed countries. And, while they all had merit, I keep thinking that the developed countries, with a quarter of the world's population, have 80% of the world's income, and that the gap between rich and poor countries widens almost daily.

Rural development is a long and arduous process; it will be a long time coming. But, this Conference, while long overdue, can signal the beginning of the process.



LK  
DC  
LAD  
SO-

OCT 5 1979

*Same letter to  
Sen. John Tower*

October 1, 1979

The Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges your support for the foreign assistance appropriations for Fiscal Year 1980, as contained in H. R. 4473.

Amendments that would make further reductions in contributions to the multilateral development banks and international organizations would only serve to shrink U. S. influence among friendly developing countries. Even worse would be Senate agreement with the House-passed restriction on use of U.S. funds for aid to a number of small, powerless countries of whose political activities we disapprove.

Such unilateral restrictions are prohibited by the charters of the multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, as you know. They would therefore be unable to accept the U.S. contributions. The consequences of loss of U.S. funds would be dire, indeed.

Your efforts in support of H.R. 4473 would carry great influence in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Diana S. Clark  
President

Pearl L. Wincorn  
Chairman, International  
Relations



OCT 19 1979

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 12, 1979

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LK  
PW  
SO ✓

Diana S. Clark  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe Suite 109  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your communication urging me to support the Foreign Assistance Appropriations legislation as reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

I sincerely believe that you will find my votes on this controversial legislation consistent with your position, and I am pleased that we agree on the importance of the multilateral approach to foreign assistance.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Bentsen



AUG 27 1979

also to  
Sen Tower

SD

July 9, 1979

The Honorable Jim Mattox  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Mattox:

We have learned that the Multilateral Trade Agreements will be brought to the House floor for debate during July. Members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas are keenly interested in Congressional approval of this MTN legislation.

In 1976, the Dallas-Fort Worth SMSA's share of total Texas exports amounted to 18 1/2 percent. Aircraft, food products, electric and electronic equipment, non-electric machinery, fabricated metal products, chemicals, and apparel and textile products were the most important of these. The growth of these industries has undoubtedly continued into 1979.

The League believes that passage and implementation of the MTN agreements will eliminate many troublesome non-tariff barriers for all trading nations. This will benefit both producers and consumers, nationally and in Texas.

The League of Women Voters of Dallas urges your support for the Multilateral Trade Agreements.

Sincerely,

Lucy S. Polter  
President

LPZjd

Letters also sent to: Phil Gramm  
Martin Frost  
James M. Collins



JOHN TOWER  
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

DC  
PW  
L/K  
-SD

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
August 6, 1979

Ms. Diana Clark  
1212 Guadalupe, Suite 109  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you very much for contacting me.

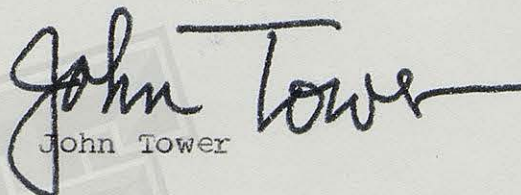
As approved by Congress, the multilateral trade agreement represents a great stride forward in setting the proper climate for international trade. The agreements provide the tools to build a fair and open trading system to remove obstacles which have impeded entry of American products into foreign markets, and to improve substantially our competitive trading position internationally.

The diligence and commitment of our negotiators, after many long and painstaking hours in the final months of negotiation, resulted in substantial tariff reductions by our trading partners for many products important to both the Texas and national economies. In addition, a new system of trading codes was formulated to restore order to what has too often been an unbalanced and discriminatory trading relationship with other countries.

While I certainly support the tremendous achievements that these agreements represent, I am also cognizant of the fact that it is the implementation and enforcement of the provisions that will determine the success of the trade package in dealing with tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. On the whole, I strongly feel that the agreements are a positive step, though not necessarily a final one, in alleviating trade distortions arising from barriers to international commerce.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

  
John Tower

JT/pc



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 23, 1979

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DC

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PW

SD

Ms. Diana Clark  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, Suite 109  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you for your recent correspondence urging my support for the implementing legislation for the MTN.

You will be pleased to know that I am a cosponsor of S. 1376, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979. I appreciate knowing of your support for the trade package.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Lloyd Bentsen*

Lloyd Bentsen



July 11, 1979

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

League of Women Voters members are keenly antereasted in Congressional approval of the Multilateral Trade Agreements (MTN). The implementation of these "Codes of Conduct" is essential for the future development and expansion of U.S. trade with the rest of the world.

Texas' agricultural, chemical, and aircraft industries could benefit substantially from elimination of many non-tariff barriers to international trade. We are proud of Robert Strauss's role in these negotiations.

The League of Women Voters of Texas enthusiastically urges your support for passage of the implementing legislation for Multilateral Trade Agreements,

Sincerely yours,

Diana Clark  
President

DC:jl

Similar letter to Sen. Tower

LETTER RETYPED TO OMIT ERRORS & IMPROVE SPACING.

copy of retyped letter sent to LAD

bcc: D. Clark  
L. Keevert  
P. Wincorn  
LWVUS-LAD  
SO ✓

J.L.