

**TESTIMONY OF  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION  
ARTHUR E. DEWEY**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2002**

**BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS  
AND TERRORISM**

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2:15 PM, FEBRUARY 27, 2002

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to be here today to represent the Administration in discussing the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and to reaffirm the Administration's commitment to international family planning.

Throughout its more than 30-year history, the U.S. international family planning program has had strong support from the American public as well as Congress. This program is recognized worldwide as an important component of our foreign assistance. The United States remains the largest bilateral donor of population assistance in the world, with programs in nearly 60 countries. We have also been the largest bilateral donor to UNFPA, providing more than \$610 million since UNFPA was founded in 1968. American generosity over the past three decades has enabled couples to choose when and how many children to have, enhanced maternal and child health, and enabled parents to better provide for their children. As President Bush has said, "One of the best ways to prevent abortion is to provide quality voluntary family planning services." And we know that reproductive health care and family planning saves lives by reducing pregnancy-related deaths around the world.

The Administration's commitment to international family planning remains strong, as reflected in the President's FY 2003 budget request of \$425 million for USAID's population program.

When President Bush signed into law H.R. 2506, the 'Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002,' (Public Law 107-115, January 10, 2002) he stated:

"The Act does not interfere with our policies regarding bilateral international family planning assistance, and ensures that U.S. funds are not made available to organizations supporting or participating in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. The Act provides additional discretion to determine the appropriate level of funding for the United Nations Population Fund."

In particular, because the Act stated that 'not more than \$34 million for fiscal year 2002 shall be made available for the United Nations Population Fund,' the Administration has substantial discretion in determining any appropriate level of UNFPA funding, within the \$34 million cap.

I know that Secretary Powell has testified before you and your colleagues on the good work UNFPA has done in so many areas around the world. We support the work UNFPA is doing worldwide to provide safe and voluntary family planning, enhance maternal and infant health, and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Yet, at the same time, we remain mindful of our important obligations under the Kemp-Kasten amendment to the annual Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, which provides that no U.S. funds can go to an organization that supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

We are particularly attentive to periodic reports of abuse and coercion in China's family planning program, and have frequently dispatched officers from our embassy or consulates in China to investigate the credibility of these reports. Since 1998, when the UNFPA Executive Board - of which the U.S. is a member - approved a new four-year pilot project in 32 Chinese counties, the U.S. Mission to China has continued to monitor UNFPA's work closely.

Allegations of UNFPA's complicity in coercive family planning practices in China have been recently brought to our attention and to Congress' attention. And while we are aware of UNFPA's response that it is not involved in coercive practices and is, in fact, supporting a program that stresses the importance of voluntarism and non-coercion, it is incumbent upon us to look further into this matter.

In closing, let me reiterate this Administration's strong commitment to international family planning. As I mentioned, we are, and continue to be, the largest bilateral provider of voluntary family planning and related primary health care. The President's FY 2003 budget supports our position as the leading donor.

Thank you.