

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2003

Administrator Andrew Natsios
Agency for International Development
Ronald Reagan Building
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20523.

Dear Administrator Natsios:

On March 13, 2003, USAID announced a new \$50 million HIV/AIDS initiative "for community and faith-based groups." We are very concerned that among the five groups funded under this initiative are groups that promote abortion, promote the legalization of prostitution, and promote the legalization of needle-exchange programs for drug addicts.

The \$50 million has been awarded to a consortium including CARE, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Communication Programs (CCP), the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), and the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva. Dr. Anne Peterson, assistant administrator for global health at USAID said about these groups, "We cannot win this war against AIDS without much broader partnerships with faith and community-based organizations. These organizations know their community and are a part of their community."

CARE is a group that publicly criticized President Bush's decision to bar groups that perform or promote abortion from receiving international population control dollars. The International HIV/AIDS Alliance is working to change laws regarding prostitutes (whom it calls "sex workers") and needle-exchange programs for drug addicts, and ICRW is undertaking a major abortion study in India to change India's policies regarding abortion.

We ask that USAID provide our offices the following information so that we may better understand how these five groups have been awarded fifty million taxpayer dollars:

- 1) If there was a request for proposals (RFP) prior to the announcement of the \$50 million award, please provide us with:
 - A) a copy of the RFP;
 - B) details regarding whether the request was made public and when and where it was published or to whom it was announced;
 - C) a list of the names of any respondents to this RFP;
 - D) information on whether this was a competitive bidding process;
 - E) the list of organizations that applied for but were turned down for the new \$50 million initiative;

- F) the names and positions of the individuals at USAID who were involved with and oversaw this process.
 - G) confirmation of whether or not USAID personnel working on this CORE initiative knew about the controversial missions and activities (noted above) of any or all of these five organizations prior to the grant announcement in organization press releases dated March 7, 2003.
- 2) If there was not an RFP, please provide a detailed explanation of the process by which these five organizations were chosen to receive \$50 million, including:
- A) why there was not an RFP;
 - B) whether or not this was a competitive bidding process;
 - C) a list of any groups considered but not ultimately chosen as one of the recipients of the \$50 million award; and
 - D) the names and positions of the individuals at USAID who were involved with and oversaw this process.
 - E) confirmation of whether or not USAID personnel working on this CORE initiative knew about the controversial missions and activities (noted above) of any or all of these five organizations prior to the grant announcement in organization press releases dated March 7, 2003.
- 3) Please provide a copy of any written or electronic correspondence, since January 1, 2001, from personnel within the Global Health Bureau regarding this new \$50 million initiative with reference to or correspondence with any or all of the five groups in the consortium.
- 4) According to the USAID press release: "Faith and community-based groups from all over the world ... are encouraged to apply for this funding." Please provide an explanation of how this application process will occur, to whom applicants should apply, the deadlines for applications, what role, if any, the five groups in the consortium will have in determining who gets funding from the \$50 million initiative, and how USAID will monitor this grant process.
- 5) In addition, please provide a list of all the recipients of faith-based funding from USAID's Global Health Bureau, since January 1, 2001.

We would ask that you try to provide this information in a timely manner and for your reference we have attached additional sourced information regarding the activities and positions of some of those in the USAID-funded consortium.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact us or you may contact Cindy Diggs of Rep. Joseph Pitts' staff at 225-2411.

Sincerely,





Tom Tancres

Virgil Good

Marilyn Musgrave

W. Edelman

Robert P. Adcock

John Hattler

Bill Gutknecht

John Boyer

Ernest F. Cook

Jeff Flinn

Kent Stranks

Jim Hulse

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Bob Thi

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