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FINAL

HABITAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MAY 17, 1976

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY THIS MORNING TO MEET WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE HABITAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTING SUCH A BROAD SPECTRUM OF AMERICAN LIFE -- AS WELL AS OBSERVERS FROM OTHER PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS.

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS HAS BEEN CALLED -- NOT BECAUSE THAT PROPOSITION IS SUDDENLY NEW, BUT BECAUSE THE INEXTRICABLE LINKAGE OF THE NATURAL AND MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENTS HAVE, FOR TOO LONG, BEEN IGNORED.

THIS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE HABITAT CONFERENCE FOR ONLY TEN MONTHS, BUT YOUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE - INDEED, TO PRESERVE THE VERY ELEMENTS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO LIFE -- DATE WELL PRIOR TO YOUR FORMATION AS A COMMITTEE.

TO MANY OF YOU, HABITAT IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAD COME A QUARTER-OF-A-CENTURY OR MORE, AGO. THAT PASSAGE OF TIME MAKES THE CHALLENGE OF OUR CONFERENCE EVEN MORE WORTHY OF OUR AMERICAN INGENUITY.



WE HAVE A WORLD-WIDE FORUM FOR OUR BEST THINKING - AT A TIME WHEN PROBLEMS, LONG FAMILIAR TO YOU, HAVE PENETRATED THE MINDS OF THE WORLD POPULATION.

YOUR OWN ORGANIZATIONS SHARE THE CREDIT FOR MUCH OF THAT WORLD-WIDE AWARENESS. HABITAT, ITSELF, IS A TRIBUTE TO YOUR DILIGENCE.

EACH OF YOU HAS ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY, DURING THIS PAST YEAR, OF MAKING SURE THAT THE CENTRAL INTERESTS OF THE CONSTITUENCIES YOU REPRESENT WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE OFFICIAL UNITED STATES POSITION AT THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE. AND THAT YOU HAVE DONE WITH CONSCIENCIOUS DEDICATION.

YOU WILL BE CALLED UPON TO CONTINUE IN THAT ROLE AS YOU WILL PROVIDE A FINAL VOICE IN THE ACTUAL POSITION PAPERS -- NOW IN DRAFT FORM -- WHICH OUR DELEGATION WILL PRESENT AT HABITAT.

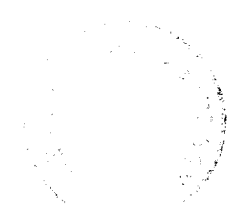
BUT, THE TASK NOW PRESENTS YOU WITH A NEW KIND OF CHALLENGE, FOR THE POSITIONS OUR NATION WILL TAKE MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST MANY COMPETING PRIORITIES, GROUP INTERESTS, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.



THAT MEANS YOU WILL BE ASKED TO JUDGE THESE PAPERS, NOT ONLY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF YOUR IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENCY, BUT IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF ALL THE COMPONENTS THAT COMPRISE MAN'S TOTAL HABITAT: POPULATION, OCCUPATION, SHELTER, AIR, WATER, LAND, DOMESTIC AND WILDLIFE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY -- AND THE OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITS OF RURAL, URBAN AND SUBURBAN SETTLEMENTS.

WE ARE LOOKING AT HUMAN SETTLEMENTS -- AT WHERE AND HOW PEOPLE LIVE -- THE WORLD OVER. AT HABITAT, WE STAND TO LEARN MUCH, AS A NATION, FROM THE PLANS AND SOLUTIONS OF OTHER NATIONS IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

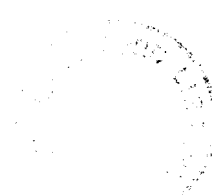
IN RECENT YEARS THE DEBATE BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY STRIDENT AND ANTAGONISTIC. CONFRONTATION TOO OFTEN HAS REPLACED COOPERATION. CONFRONTATION IS A LUXURY AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD CANNOT AFFORD. BEGINNING WITH THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS LAST FALL, THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN TRYING TO CREATE A RELATIONSHIP OF COOPERATION BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT. THAT EFFORT IS CONTINUING IN THE MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH JUST GOT UNDERWAY IN NAIROBI. HABITAT GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND MEANINGFUL COOPERATION INTO NEW AREAS.



BUT HABITAT, MORE THAN MOST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, HAS STRONG DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS BECAUSE HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROBLEMS ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. FOR US IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT AT ALL THREE LEVELS AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR, INTERRELATING AMONG ITS VARIOUS GROUPS TO SEEK AND SHAPE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS.

PROGRESS IN AMERICA, FROM ITS EARLIEST YEARS, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY. AND WE WILL GO TO THE CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WITH CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES FORMULATED, THROUGH YOU, BY THE VOICE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE PRESTIGE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN HABITAT, THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS OUR DELEGATION CARRIES TO VANCOUVER TWO WEEKS HENCE REFLECT THE WISHES OF ALL OUR CITIZENS, WHICH IN TURN REFLECT THE WISDOM OF OUR DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT.



BEFORE CLOSING, I SHOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION ALSO REFLECTS THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. AS AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, HABITAT CALLS FOR OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. AS A CONFERENCE ON SETTLEMENTS, IT OFFICIALLY INVOLVES THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. BY SUBJECT MATTER IT INCLUDES THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEW, AGRICULTURE, INTERIOR AND TRANSPORTATION -- AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

THUS, ⁷NINE FEDERAL AGENCIES ARE REPRESENTED IN OUR UNITED STATES DELEGATION.

WE ALSO HAVE REPRESENTATION AT THE STATE AND SUB-STATE LEVELS -- GOVERNOR, STATE LEGISLATURE, MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

BUT OUR LARGEST REPRESENTATION BY FAR IS IN DELEGATES WHO COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR - PUBLIC INTEREST AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO SPEAK FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA ON THE WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ISSUES OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

IN THE SENSE THAT OUR DELEGATES ALSO REPRESENT THE BACKGROUND AND LIFESTYLES OF OUR DIVERGENT POPULATION, I BELIEVE OUR DELEGATION IS EXTREMELY WELL BALANCED.

IN ADDITION TO OUR "OFFICIAL" DELEGATION, THERE WILL BE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WHO WILL BE IN VANCOUVER TO OBSERVE HABITAT AND WE PLAN TO INCLUDE THEM IN OUR ACTIVITIES AS PARTICIPANTS.

WE EXPECT TO HOLD A DAILY BRIEFING FOR ALL OUR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO WILL BE IN THE CITY TO TAKE PART IN THE HABITAT FORUM WHICH BEGINS ON MAY 27TH -- THREE DAYS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE.

THERE WILL BE ONE HUD OFFICIAL ASSIGNED FULL TIME TO NGO INTERESTS AND OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION WITH OUR NGO'S.

FINALLY, WE GO TO THE CONFERENCE BEARING IN MIND THAT HABITAT '76 IS ONLY A BEGINNING -- NOT AN END. IT IS MERELY AN EVENT -- THOUGH CERTAINLY A MAJOR ONE -- IN A CONTINUING SERIES OF EVENTS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AS WE PROCEED FROM
HERE TO HABITAT AND BEYOND.

AND I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE TO
BRING US, AND THE NATION, TO THIS PIVOTAL POINT IN THE
HISTORY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

