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Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
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MINORITY CHIEF OF STAFF

November 15, 1990

Messrs. Doug and Steve Hellinger
The Development Gap
1400 I Street NW, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Doug and Steve:

I am writing to thank you and your staff personally for your important contribution to the recent enactment of landmark legislation concerning U.S. foreign assistance to Africa.

As you will recall, in early 1987, the Subcommittee on Africa embarked upon a major effort to reform and expand U.S. development assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa. Although legislation subsequently passed the House three times as part of the overall foreign aid authorizations, it was stymied when the Senate was unable to pass its authorization bills. However this year, with the cooperation of the Appropriations Committees (including strong leadership by our colleagues Dave Obey and Bill Gray and, in the Senate, Bob Kasten and Pat Leahy) as well as Senator Paul Simon, legislation was finally enacted as part of the Foreign Operations Act of 1991.

The legislation provides \$800 million in FY 1991 for development assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa, an increase of \$240 million over the current level of aid. In addition, new, permanent authorization language for the Development Fund for Africa seeks to ensure the effective use of AID funds for equitable, environmentally sustainable, participatory, and self-reliant economic growth. It includes:

- requirements for close consultation with the poor, largely through non-governmental organizations, in the development of aid programs
- provisions that programs significantly expand the participation of women in development
- provisions for fostering economic policy reforms to increase productivity and the role of the private sector while protecting the vulnerable poor and long-term environmental interests from negative consequences of the reforms
- definitions of critical sectorial priorities for long-term development, including agricultural production and natural resources, voluntary family planning, health, education and income-generating opportunities, with targets of 10% of total funds to go


for natural resources, health and family planning

- provisions for periodic and independent evaluation of whether AID programs are fulfilling Congress's statement of purpose.

At the same time, the legislation endows AID with new flexibility to fulfill its mandate by: permitting funds to be largely spent outside of the restrictive categories of traditional earmarked "functional" accounts, eliminating burdensome reporting requirements, and allowing up to 5% of funds to be used for organizational changes in AID to further development objectives.

Again, I greatly appreciated your participation in this important effort to provide more meaningful and generous assistance to the poorest continent. I hope we can continue to work together closely in overseeing the implementation of the new law and framing future responses to Africa's ongoing efforts to pursue both economic development and democratization.

With best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard Wolpe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HOWARD WOLPE
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Africa