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Testimony before the
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

on the
FY 1988 Appropriations for the World Health Organization

Statement of

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on behalf of

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Medical Students Association
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
Association of Schools of Public Health
Commissioned Officers Association of U.S.P.H.S.
National Council on International Health
American Association for World Health

May 13, 1987

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, GOOD MORNING. I AM DR. DONALD A. HENDERSON, DEAN OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH, AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THIS STATEMENT TODAY ON BEHALF OF EIGHT NATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS:

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Medical Students Association
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
Association of Schools of Public Health
Commissioned Officers Association of U.S.P.H.S.
National Council on International Health
American Association for World Health

THESE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND MEDICAL SPECIALISTS WHO HAVE FOLLOWED INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ISSUES THROUGHOUT THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREERS. I BELIEVE THAT THEIR VIEWS AND OPINIONS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COMMUNITY IN THIS COUNTRY, AND CAN OFFER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THIS COMMITTEE AS IT GRAPPLES WITH QUESTIONS OF U.S. POLICY AND PRIORITIES IN RELATION TO MULTINATIONAL AGENCIES AND TO INTERNATIONAL HEALTH POLICY.

WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE IMPORTANCE OR VALUE OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR QUESTIONING IN ANY WAY THEIR MANAGEMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT TWO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, DESERVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY THE UNITED STATES.

FIRST, WHO AND PAHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR VALUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH FOR MANY DECADES. SECOND, THEY BOTH HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR FUNDAMENTALLY TECHNICAL FOCUS, AIMED AT HELPING THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO PURSUE THE HEALTH OF THEIR PEOPLES.

AT THIS TIME, WHEN THE WORLD IS FINDING ITSELF FORCED TO ADD AIDS TO THE LIST OF WORLD HEALTH THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, THE WORK OF THESE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TAKES ON EVEN GREATER PRIORITY. FOR THESE ARE THE ONLY ORGANIZATIONS ABLE TO BRIDGE NATIONAL CONCERNS AND SUSPICIONS, TO COLLECT THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA NEEDED, TO ASSESS THE THREAT, AND TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH ALL NATIONS IN PLANNING WAYS FOR COPING WITH THIS GLOBAL THREAT.

THIRD, BOTH WHO AND PAHO HAVE CARVED OUT A RECORD OF PRUDENT, REALISTIC MANAGEMENT WITH SPECIAL SENSITIVITY TO THE CONCERNS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION AND ITS PREDECESSORS HAVE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE BUDGETS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS. IN RECENT YEARS, BOTH ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND SHOWED NO REAL GROWTH IN THEIR PROPOSED BUDGETS. OVER THE PAST DECADE, THEY HAVE HAD THE LOWEST LEVEL OF BUDGET GROWTH OF ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXTEND THE REACH OF THE U.S. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND ACROSS THE GLOBE.

FINALLY, THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS OFFER UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND CONTACT AMONG SCIENTISTS AND HEALTH SPECIALISTS OF THIS COUNTRY AND THOSE OF OTHER NATIONS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION NOW FACES A MAJOR THREAT TO ITS ACTIVITIES. SIMPLY STATED, THE PREVIOUS DEFERRALS OF PAYMENTS OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS, THE IMPACT OF THE KASSEBAUM-SOLOMON AMENDMENT PRODUCING A SHORTFALL IN U.S. PAYMENT, AND THE DEFERRAL UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1987 OF NEARLY 90% OF THE FY87 U.S. ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION HAVE YIELDED A SEVERE FINANCIAL CRISIS FOR THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THESE ARE TREATY OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE ARE BRINGING INTO QUESTION OUR COMMITMENT TO MEET INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS BY THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE U.S. ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS TO WHO.

PAHO ALSO FACES A DEFERRAL OF ONE-THIRD OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION AS A RESULT OF LAST YEAR'S CONTINUING RESOLUTION. THEREFORE, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE ARE SEEKING:

- THE REVERSAL OF THE DEFERRAL UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1987 OF THE \$36 MILLION IN FY87 APPROPRIATIONS FOR WHO AND \$12 MILLION FOR PAHO AS REQUESTED IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL FY87 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST;
- AN ADDITIONAL \$15.7 MILLION IN FY87 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO MAKE UP FOR THE SHORTFALL IN THE PAYMENT OF THE U.S. ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION TO WHO;
- THE REPEAL (OR AT LEAST MODIFICATION) OF THE KASSEBAUM-SOLOMON AMENDMENT IN ORDER TO PERMIT FULL FUNDING FOR WHO IN FY87 AND FY88 (I.E., TO THE LEVEL OF U.S. TREATY OBLIGATIONS); AND,
- FULL FUNDING FOR PAHO IN FY88.

THIS COMMITTEE KNOWS THE DETAILS OF THE OVERALL SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE KASSEBAUM-SOLOMON AMENDMENT'S IMPACT ON U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER, LET ME RE-EMPHASIZE THAT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, ONE OF THE U.N. FAMILY OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, RECEIVED ONLY \$10 MILLION OF WHICH SOME \$3 MILION WERE APPLIED TO ARREARS FOR 1985, LEAVING ONLY \$7 MILLION TO BE APPLIED TO THE 1986 ASSESSMENT OF \$61.7 MILLION. THUS, THE U.S. HAS PAID ONLY 11% OF ITS 1986 ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION TO WHO. OUR NATION IS NEARLY 90% IN ARREARS WHILE THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE ALL PAID IN FULL.

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND WHY U.S. SUPPORT HAS BEEN WITHHELD FROM THE ORGANIZATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AT WHO GOVERNING BODIES HAVE ALWAYS PRAISED WHO FOR ITS REALISTIC BUDGETS, ITS PRUDENT MANAGEMENT AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS WORLD HEALTH PROGRAMS.

LET ME JUST NOTE THE FOLLOWING: IN 1983 AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY WHEN THE 1984-85 BUDGET WAS ADOPTED (FOR WHICH THE U.S. VOTED) THE U.S. DELEGATION STATED THAT:

"(THIS) DELEGATION WAS PLEASED THAT THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET DID NOT PROVIDE FOR ANY PROGRAMME GROWTH, A REALISTIC PROPOSAL IN TERMS OF EXISTING ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES...THE OVERALL PICTURE THAT HAD EMERGED OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS OF DEBATE WAS THAT WHO WAS A VERY IMPRESSIVE ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS DOING HIGHLY USEFUL WORK TO COMPLEMENT THE EFFORTS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS. (THIS) DELEGATION'S DECISION TO VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET SHOULD BE SEEN AS A REFLECTION OF SPECIFIC APPRECIATION OF THAT WORK, AND OF WHO'S SUCCESS IN PROPOSING A REALISTIC LEVEL OF PROGRAMME GROWTH..."
(WHA36/1983/REL/3, pp. 221 and 215).

AT THE 1985 WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, THE U.S. AGAIN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE FY1986-87 BUDGET AND STATED:

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WAS PLEASED THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL HAD BEEN ABLE TO COPE EFFECTIVELY WITH PRESSURE FROM OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS; BY HOLDING THE OVERALL BUDGET TO ZERO REAL GROWTH AND BY SHIFTING RESOURCES WITHIN THE BUDGET TO PROVIDE ABOUT 4% GROWTH IN COUNTRY PROGRAMMES, HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PLEASE EVERYBODY...THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WAS PLEASED WITH THE PROPOSAL PUT BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, AND MORE PARTICULARLY SO WITH THE PHILOSOPHY EXPRESSED IN THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET AND THE CONSERVATIVE AND CAREFUL APPROACHES TO THE FINANCING. FOR THOSE REASONS, (THIS) COUNTRY WOULD VOTE IN FAVOUR OF ADOPTION OF THE APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION AS PROPOSED, HOPING THAT THE DECISION OF THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY WOULD BE UNANIMOUS." (WHA/38/1985/REL/3, pp. 198).

I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS VOTED FOR THE WHO BUDGET. TO APPROVE A BUDGET AND A RATE OF ASSESSMENT, AS THE U.S. HAD DONE IN THE CASE OF WHO, AND THEN TO FAIL TO MEET ITS OBLIGATION Ex Post Facto DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR AMERICAN CREDIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UNDERMINES U.S. INTERESTS WHICH ARE REFLECTED BY THE PROGRAM AND POLICIES OF WHO.

THE SEVERE SHORTFALL IN 1986 CONTRIBUTIONS NOW HAS HAD A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THE ORGANIZATION. EVEN PROGRAMS FUNDED FROM EXTRA BUDGETARY GRANTS DEPEND ON WHO'S INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH IS COMPLETELY FUNDED FROM ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS. THUS, WEAKENING THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ORGANIZATION BY WITHHOLDING THE INCOME IT NEEDS FOR ITS DAILY FUNCTIONING HAMPERS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTRA-BUDGETARY PROGRAMS WHICH FIGHT DISEASE -- AIDS, DIARRHEAL DISEASE AND CHILDHOOD DISEASES COVERED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN -- AND MAKES WHO'S GOAL OF HEALTH FOR ALL EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO REACH.

WITH RESPECT TO THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, THE DEFERRAL OF \$12 MILLION OF THE \$33 MILLION ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION FOR 1987 OBVIOUSLY CREATES MANAGEMENT DIFFICULTIES. AS AN INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY, DEFERRING THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION HAS ALMOST THREE TIMES GREATER IMPACT THAN IN THE CASE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ANY DEFERRAL OBVIOUSLY CREATES IMMENSE CONCERN. HOWEVER, THE CONGRESS HAS SOUGHT IN THE PAST TO RECOGNIZE THIS SPECIAL SITUATION. THE CONGRESS ALSO HAS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANT LINKAGES OF PAHO WITH THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IN MONITORING AND PREVENTING THE TRANSMISSION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INTO THE UNITED STATES. WITH NEARLY 13 MILLION INDIVIDUAL ENTRANCES AND DEPARTURE FROM THE U.S. TO AND FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR TRADE, TOURISM AND OTHER PURPOSES, THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCY TO THE U.S. IS EVIDENT.

PAHO ALSO OPERATES THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER HEALTH PROGRAM WHICH LINKS SOUTHWESTERN STATES IN THIS COUNTRY WITH THEIR COUNTERPART IN MEXICO. IN ADDITION TO ITS COUNTRY OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE, NINE RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION CENTERS WHICH SPECIALIZE IN DIFFERENT SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE NUTRITION INSTITUTE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA, THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE CENTER IN RIO, AND THE EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTER IN TRINIDAD OFFER THE AMERICANS UNIQUE BENEFITS. LIKE WHO, PAHO HAS SHOWN RESPONSIVENESS TO U.S. CONCERNS BY MAINTAINING ZERO REAL GROWTH OVER RECENT BUDGETS AND HAS REDUCED ITS STAFF POSTS BY ONE-THIRD SINCE 1980. IN TESTIMONY, THE U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS VOTED THAT PAHO ALSO HAD ACHIEVED A NEARLY 20% REDUCTION IN HEADQUARTERS COSTS IN WASHINGTON OVER

RECENT YEARS WITH THOSE RESOURCES BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. PAHO ALSO HAS ASSURED U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DURING BUDGET YEARS AND THE U.S. DELEGATION HAS VOTED FOR EACH PAHO BUDGET.

PAHO'S DIRECTOR, WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAS, RECENTLY ANNOUNCED CAMPAIGNS TO ERADICATE POLIO IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AS PART OF THE EXTENDED IMMUNIZATION EFFORT, A CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS DRAWN THE SUPPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, UNICEF, AND AID.

PAHO AND WHO TOGETHER REPRESENT THE BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. LOOKING IN MORE DETAIL AT THE WORK OF WHO, ONE FINDS, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THIS ORGANIZATION PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN COMMUNICATING AND ENERGIZING THE WORLD TO ACT ON HEALTH CONCERNS. THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO THE U.S. AND THE WORLD.

- WHO'S ERADICATION OF SMALLPOX SAVES THE U.S. \$300 MILLION (IN CURRENT DOLLARS) ANNUALLY BY OBTAINING THE NEED FOR SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS.
- WHO, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE GLOBAL EXPANDED IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, MANAGES THE UNIVERSAL CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN, TOGETHER WITH UNICEF, INTENDED TO HELP EVERY COUNTRY ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF COMPLETE ACCESS TO IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN BY 1990.
- WHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED ORAL REHYDRATION THERAPY -- AN INEXPENSIVE AND VERY EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT DEATH IN CHILDREN FROM DIARRHEAL DISEASES.

- WHO HAS BEGUN A MAJOR PROGRAM IN AIDS SURVEILLANCE, RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PREVENTION. ONLY WHO CAN OVERCOME POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND SUSPICIONS AND SERVE AS AN INTERNATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR THE FACTS ON AIDS.
- WHO SUPPORTS RESEARCH TO DEVELOP NEW VACCINES. INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE BY THE WHO NETWORK HELPS DEVELOP VACCINES AGAINST EACH NEW STRAIN THAT EMERGES.
- WHO'S DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM PROVIDES INFORMATION FOR TRAVELERS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE U.S.'S ABILITY TO PROTECT U.S. CITIZENS AROUND THE WORLD.
- WHO SURVEILLANCE FOLLOWING THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER HELPED PROTECT EUROPE, AND CONTRIBUTED INFORMATION ON HOW TO DEAL WITH FUTURE ACCIDENTS.
- WHO SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF COST-EFFECTIVE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY. THE AVAILABILITY OF A \$35,000 BASIC RADIOLOGIC SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY WHO HAS MADE GOOD X-RAY SERVICES POSSIBLE AT A REASONABLE PRICE.
- WHO HELPS MEMBER COUNTRIES WITH A WIDE RANGE OF HEALTH PROGRAMS, INCLUDING: ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION; DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION; CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PREVENTION; CANCER RESEARCH, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT; AND FAMILY PLANNING.

ONCE AGAIN, MR. CHAIRMAN, LET ME REPEAT THAT WE HOPE THIS COMMITTEE AND THE CONGRESS THIS YEAR CAN ACHIEVE:

- THE REVERSAL OF THE DEFERRAL UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1987 OF THE \$36 MILLION IN FY87 APPROPRIATIONS FOR WHO AND \$12 MILLION FOR PAHO AS REQUESTED IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL FY87 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST;
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- THE REPEAL (OR AT LEAST MODIFICATION) OF THE KASSEBAUM-SOLOMON AMENDMENT IN ORDER TO PERMIT FULL FUNDING FOR WHO FY FY87 AND FY88, TO THE LEVEL OF U.S. TREATY OBLIGATIONS; AND,
- FULL FUNDING FOR PAHO IN FY88.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY. I WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.