

A POPULATION COMMUNICATION REPORT

A SURVEY OF NATIONAL LEADERS' VIEWS ON POPULATION STABILIZATION IN SIXTEEN COUNTRIES

August 1983

Background

Population Communication prepared and distributed a questionnaire to a select group of cabinet ministers in sixteen developing countries. The purpose of the survey was to challenge leaders, to consider when and at what levels, populations should stabilize in their countries; and to give some indication of the policies and programs needed to achieve population stabilization.

The names and addresses for distribution of the survey were taken from the **Current World Leaders Directory** (International Institute of Santa Barbara). The questionnaire was sent to a random sample of ministers of state with the following letter:

"All nations must achieve population stabilization. We would like to have your opinion on when you believe the population should stabilize in (the country), at what level, and what population policies and programs are appropriate in (the country) to achieve stabilization."

In many countries, the questionnaire was forwarded to the Planning Ministry, Census Bureau or Population Policy Division for response.

Results of the survey indicate that only two countries, China and Singapore, have official population stabilization goals. As expected, most countries that have given some attention to their population problems, including China, have thought only in terms of the food needed to sustain the population. Little consideration is given to housing, jobs, security in old age, education, health facilities, and other services for the population.

Singapore

Dr. D.I. Paksong, Executive Secretary of the Singapore Family Planning and Population Board stated that the optimum population for Singapore would be 3.5 million, with a target date of 2030. This goal could be achieved with a net reproduction rate below one for the next 20 years.

In addition, Dr. Paksong described the incentive/disincentives policies currently in effect in Singapore:

1. Delivery fees in government hospitals increase with each additional child.

2. Delivery fees will be waived if sterilization is carried out after delivery.

3. Pregnant women who already have two or more living children will be charged \$10 per visit at the antenatal sessions of the Maternal and Child Health Centres.

4. No paid maternity leave will be given for delivery of the third and subsequent children if the woman already has two or more living children.

5. Female government servants with two or more living children are not eligible for paid maternity leave. With subsequent deliveries, they are eligible for paid medical leave, if they are sterilized after delivery.

6. For all government servants, seven days of medical leave given after sterilization will be considered as unrecorded full-pay leave.

7. No income tax relief will be given to the fourth and subsequent children born on or after 1 August 1973.

8. Higher priority for choice of primary school is given to children, whose parents have undergone sterilization after one or two children and before 40 years of age.

9. Priority is no longer given to large families in the allocation of subsidized housing.

10. Only families with no more than three children will be eligible to sublet rooms in their subsidized accommodations.

China

In China, the respondent stated that the ideal population would be 700 million, 300 million less than the current size. This eventual goal of 700 million would be reached by 2080, assuming that China became a one-child-per-family country by the turn of the century.

Professor J. Song, Vice President of China's Society of Demography also made some additional comments:

"It has been shown that China's 9.6 million square kilometer area, with its cultivated land (including grassland and water surfaces) would be able to feed only 700 million people with a high nutrition level. So the food supply would be one of the most important factors determining the tolerable level of population.

If each couple had only one child over the next 20 to 30 years, China's population would level out around 700 million, a century from now. However, if they each have two offspring, the population would reach 1.2 billion in 30 years.

China has the 'world's toughest' marriage laws, under which men cannot marry until they are 22 and women are 20, in the city. Married couples are also 'encouraged' to have only one child under a complex system of financial incentives and penalties."

Bangladesh

The responses from the Ministries of Manpower Development and Social Welfare, Informational Broadcasting, and Women's Affairs all emphasized beyond family planning measures in Bangladesh.

Ataaddin Khan of the Bangladesh Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare stated that the optimum population should be 175 million by the middle of the twenty-first century. Mr. Khan also commented:

"Vigorous family planning programmes providing a wide range of contraceptive services, with special emphasis on terminal methods are required. In addition, other social, economic, and legal measures are necessary to reduce the value of children and optimize the demand for family planning services."

Tofazzal Hossan, Population Programme Officer for the Ministry of Informational Broadcasting, was of the opinion that population would be stabilized in Bangladesh at a point of 129 million by the year 2000. Furthermore, Mr. Hossan stated:

"With the present growth of population at a rate of 25 percent, it would not be

possible to contain the size of the population within the optimum level of 121 million. To achieve such an ambitious target of limiting the population size within the optimum level, a drastic reduction of fertility, which is considered to be almost impossible, would have to be implemented."

An additional opinion regarding population stabilization in Bangladesh was expressed by Mrs. Taslima Abed, Minister of State for Women's Affairs. Mrs. Abed believes that an optimum population size of 121 million should be achieved by the year 2000. Some of the policies and programs thought to be needed to stabilize the population follow.

"The Bangladesh comprehensive population policy (adopted June 1976) was directed towards influencing the demographic behavior through information, education, motivation activities, and family planning services. Some other important determinants of fertility such as employment, improved health, reduction of infant and maternal mortality, female employment, etc. have also been recognized as important components of the policy.

Programmes were established in various areas.

1. Service Delivery— This area includes family planning services, maternal and child health, nutrition and population education. Some basic components of service delivery would be:

(a) Sterilization services will be provided by the physicians, both government and non-government and by Paramedics under the supervision of doctors at their respective institutions.

(b) Outlets for clinical services including IUD, injectibles, and sterilization will be created by registering qualified private practitioners and providing them with training and credit facilities for equipping their clinics.

(c) Menstrual regulation facilities will be provided through the family planning clinics, family welfare centres, all health centres and hospitals, etc.

(d) Efforts to set up a contraceptive industry will be made.

(e) Service delivery will be provided through all labour welfare centres, port hospitals, railway hospitals, hospitals/clinics in organized industrial and plantation sectors, hospitals of the Armed Forces, Bangladesh Rifles and Police.

(f) A bond scheme for sterilization to couples having one-two children only will be introduced.

2. Information, Education and Motivation— These programmes will concentrate on interpersonal communication, group meetings with community leaders and target population by field workers.

In addition, various governmental ministries will provide multi-sectoral programmes such as: demographic studies, women's cooperative family planning programmes, family planning and nutrition education for agricultural extension projects, population information through radio, television, films, and other mass media, Mother's Clubs, as well as, population training for religious leaders and youth.

3. Social and Legal Measures—Various social reforms and legal measures have been proposed to support population control goals.

(a) A high social status of women is favorable towards family planning. Education and training are primarily responsible for enhancing women's social status. Therefore, existing programmes in the women's sector should be augmented through new educational and training opportunities, financial support for the education of female students from small families, vocational and skill training in rural areas, and job preferences for unmarried and trained women.

(b) Various social reformist movements should aim at raising the age of marriage for girls to 23 and 21 in urban and rural areas, respectively.

(c) Religious leaders, particularly from mosques, should be trained and involved in activities supportive of family planning.

(d) Programmes should ensure old-age security through bond insurance or pensions for the acceptors of permanent methods with age and parity limitations.

(e) A system of individual, group and community awards recognizing outstanding contributions towards population stabilization should be introduced. Field workers should be awarded in a generous way for their outstanding achievements.

(f) Minimum legal age of marriage should be raised for females from 16 to 18 and for males from 18 to 21. Measures would be included to enforce this rule.

Certain amendments should be made in the vital registration law including birth and death registration, and a requirement of a birth certificate or equivalent evidence of ascertaining age for marriage and for other public purposes, such as admission in school, appointment in government service, and issuance of passport, etc.

(g) Amend the law relating to maternity benefits, to limit them to a third child, if the earlier two are alive.

(h) Income tax should be amended to allow benefits for up to three children in case of children already born, and up to two children in case of those born after the amendment comes into force.

(i) A ration card may be limited to two children and to a maximum of five members in the family.

(j) Preference should be given in general to single candidates rather than married persons, for all appointments under the government and autonomous bodies.

(k) No consideration should be given to large families in the allocation of government housing.

(l) After the second child, graduated fees may be charged for the third and subsequent deliveries in government hospitals and maternity centres. Similarly, no paid maternity leave will be granted to government employees after the second child."

India

George Fernandes, a member of the Indian Parliament, responded to Population Communication's questionnaire with the following comment:

"I personally believe that unless there is an improvement in the standard of living of the large masses of the Indian people, who are today living the lives of destitutes, any talk of controlling population will not take us far. Currently, 420 million people live below the poverty line, surviving on less than 20 U.S. cents per day, with about a 100 million of those living on less than 50 U.S. cents per day. For the poor of India, children provide social security. Therefore, a massive social security programme which assures to urban and rural poor, care and relief after a certain age is a must."

Another point of view on the population problem in India comes from H.M. Patel, former Minister of Finance. Mr. Patel believes that:

"It is essential for the government and the people to adopt and accept a much more ruthless population control programme, so that a population rate of 1% is achieved by the year 2000.

A two-pronged attack will have to be carried out. A programme of education designed to remove illiteracy altogether, within a period of ten years should be implemented. Simultaneously, a dynamic programme of family planning should be evolved that would include schemes of sterilization and economic disincentives."

Indonesia

One of three responses on population stabilization in Indonesia comes from the National Family Planning Coordinating Board. Dr. Suwaidjono, Chairman of the Board, made a series of comments.

"1. The Indonesian national socio-economic development is aimed at the improvement of the quality of life of the Indonesian people. We believe the present rate of population growth is more hazardous than conducive to our effort to achieve our goal of development.

The present demographic characteristics are causing problems in the socio-economic and environmental aspects of life of the nation, due to the imbalanced growth of the economy and that of the population. Limited resources, limited access to modern technology and limited capital are some of the constraints to the present effort in development.

2. In terms of population growth, efforts are being taken to curb the rate of growth through reducing the fertility rate. Organized migration has also intensified to neutralize the imbalanced distribution of population between Java-Bali and the other islands in the country, and to equalize the distribution of development among the islands.

3. If Indonesia succeeds in reducing the rate of population growth to the level of 1.3 percent a year in 1990, the population will be around 180 million. If this is the case, we will continue our efforts to reduce our rate of growth to the level of 0.6% in 2010, and by that time the population will be around 230 million.

My personal opinion is that the state of zero population growth could be achieved between 2050-2060, and the population would reach the number of approximately 300 million.

4. To achieve these projected goals, we still need organized family planning programmes. Beyond family planning, programmes include population education, nutrition, environmental-sanitation, maternal and child health, community incentives and disincentives, and improvement of family income, thus accelerating the process of acceptance of a small family norm. In the meantime, a comprehensive and integrated population policy is in the process of formation."

An additional response came from Dr. T. Atmadi, Minister of the Department of Social Services:

"Indonesia is now striving to cut its birth rate in half by the year 1990, which according to the 1971 census had an average growth rate of 2.4 percent per year.

From then on, Indonesia will attempt to control its population growth to a manageable proportion, for the achievement of population stabilization, which will benefit Indonesia's national development.

Thus, the key factor in Indonesia's

efforts to achieve population stabilization is the continuation of the family planning programme, which has already become part of Indonesia's Five-Year National Development Plan.

In addition, Indonesia's transmigration programme also plays an important role in the field of population stabilization. This programme attempts to further alleviate the severe problems of overcrowded areas such as Java, Madura, Bali and Lombok, and resettle them in sparsely-populated islands such as Sumatra, Sulawesi and Kalimantan."

Finally, His Excellency Wong Suwandi, Secretary General of the Indonesian Parliament stated:

"The Indonesian population policy is directed towards striking a balance between the population size and the available sources of development.

Quantitatively speaking, this effort is made with a view to bringing down the population growth to 1.3% by 1990. The Indonesian population will then be some 176.6 million, with the crude birth rate at 22 and crude death rate at 9 per 1,000 people.

If a zero population growth policy is to continue, it will take considerable time (40 years) and go on well into the year 2050 with the population then some 320 - 350 million.

A long term population policy should consider efforts to bring down the birth rate such as: human reproduction education and stronger marriage law enforcement. Policy should also include efforts to improve public welfare such as: the creation of employment opportunities and incentive/disincentive systems, strengthening cooperatives, improving the status of women, and developing assistance for the Institute for Population Education and Research."

The Philippines

Joy Solei-de Castro, Chief of the Philippine Planning Service and Edgar Callanta, Deputy Executive Director of the Commission on Population stated that the optimum population in the Philippines should be 70 million, to be reached by the year 2000. Furthermore, they felt that:

"A strong nationwide family planning program should be integrated with other development goals to bring about population stabilization. This goal is to be achieved partially through the family planning program which aims to attain population stabilization at the turn of the century, specifically through increasing

the number of protected couples from an estimated level of 27 percent prevalence rate in 1978 to a targeted level of 50 percent in 1987; increasing contraceptive effectiveness from 86 percent in 1978 to 90 percent in 1987; providing initial services to those not yet covered; improving the follow-up support of users; and giving more emphasis on the use of more effective and lasting methods.

The complexity of the population problem and the need to integrate family planning with other economic and social development programs is highlighted in the Five Year Development Plan - 1978 to 1982 (Special Committee to Review the Philippine Population Program, 1978, p. 9-11) as follows:

"Maintaining the desired health, nutritional and population levels depend, to a large extent, on the maintenance of a desirable balance of improvements in the various socio-economic programs. Oftentimes, the most effective tools to control population and to improve health and nutritional welfare are beyond the sector's ordinary range of activities. Among these are income generation and habits of the population which are influenced by economic, agricultural, religious, and educational activities. Thus cross-sectoral linkages are encouraged in plan formulation and implementation.

Specifically, close linkages are recognized and encouraged among the health, nutrition, and family planning sub-sectors. An improvement in the level of one subsector reinforces the other subsectors. A smaller family size leads to greater health/medical allocations for all members. On the other hand, there is direct mutual interaction between health and nutrition, and improvement in these areas apparently promotes the practice of family planning in the long run.

In the process of Plan formulation, efforts were taken to integrate population and development targets in the various Plans. Through Interagency Statistical and Planning Committees, the effective utilization of population data in national, regional, and local plans is being undertaken. Current projects like Population Development Planning and Research Projects are also aimed at bringing about a more meaningful integration of the population dimension in development planning."

These same comments were reiterated in the reply of Blas Ople, Minister of Labor and Employment.

A different opinion regarding population stabilization in the Philippines was expressed by Sylvia P. Montes, Deputy Minister of Social Services and Development. Ms. Montes stated that the optimum population for her country should be 120 million, with population stabilization achieved in 2070. This goal is based on:

"... a simple exercise wherein alternative population levels are matched with projected resource availability; assuming that self-sufficiency in basic needs is a major objective, it appears that the country could support a maximum population level of 94 to 120 million. The long-term Philippine Development Plan envisions that in the year 2000 the country shall have achieved higher economic growth, more employment opportunities, greater incomes with a more equitable income distribution, and greater access to education and other basic human services.

The attainment of a stationary population size is implicit in the population targets of the current Five-Year Philippine Development Plan and the Long-Term Plan for 2000. These plans target the attainment of a net reproduction rate of 1 in the year 2000, so that by that year, the population level would be about 70 million, growing at a rate of 1.6 percent per annum. Carried further, these figures imply a population level of about 120 million in 2070, the year in which a stationary population level is projected to be attained.

Considering the results of this simple exercise, it would seem that the population growth targets and the implied population levels in the current Five-, Ten and Long Term Development Plans may be considered realistic and acceptable.

Various policies have been adopted to enable the Philippines to achieve population stabilization:

1. The goal of the Nation Population Policy is to achieve that quality of life which will enable every Filipino to enjoy the fruits of economic and social progress. This would mean population control education efforts from primary school to adult education would be intensified. Strong motivation and acceptable incentives to smaller families should be developed. Improved techniques alone cannot be expected to produce the desired results. It has become increasingly clear that incentive

and motivation are as essential as contraceptive technology in achieving fertility reduction.

2. Provision of employment opportunities, special incentives such as priorities in housing, tax exemption and the like, to defer marriage.

3. Promote and develop greater opportunities and the higher awareness or knowledge of the people on the improvement of economic and social condition of potential growth areas, and develop effective communication models crucial to a program of regional dispersion."

Pakistan

Syed Jamil Haider Shah of the Planning Division of the Ministry for Planning and Development sent the following reply to Population Communication's survey:

"The optimum population for Pakistan should be 286 million, to be reached in 2095.

In the light of projected fertility and mortality schedules, it is expected that the country would attain replacement levels by the year 2030 indicating that the Net Reproductive Rate will reach one; this will mean that one female will be replaced by one female during the time she passes her reproductive span. Thus, the average family would have two children. But the younger population which has broadened the overall base of the population pyramid, will tend to grow even if the Net Reproductive Rate of one has been achieved. The population will grow for two-three generations to stabilize. In Pakistan, the stabilization process would take 60-75 years before the population stopped growing.

The decline in fertility levels as envisaged in these projections will no doubt depend on the uninterrupted, efficient services of population welfare programmes aimed at the elimination of excess and unwanted births in the coming years."

Additional replies reflecting this view were received from I.S. Rehmani, Secretary to the Advisor to the President and Mahmoud A. Haroon, Minister for the Interior.

Malaysia

The following response was received from Jamaludin Job of the Economic Division for the Secretary-General of the Treasury in Malaysia.

"The population of Malaysia has been growing fairly rapidly although the rate of growth has shown a steady decline over the last decade, and this trend is expected to continue in the future. In 1970, the population was estimated at 10.8 million and in 1980 it is estimated to be around 14.3 million, growing at an average annual rate of 2.8% during the period. This growth rate is lower compared with that experienced during the sixties, which was about 3% per annum. With expected further declines in fertility, the population is projected to grow at a rate of 2.6% per annum during the next decade. By 1990, the population is estimated to be around 18.1 million.

With rapid population growth in the sixties, there was an urgent need to reduce the high growth rate in order to achieve better per capita income and higher standards of living. In 1966, the Government established the National Family Planning Board to formulate population policies and programmes and to implement projects aimed at reducing fertility and improving the maternal and child health. This was achieved through the provision of family planning services and maternal child health services, in public and private health clinics in both urban and rural areas. Although in the past, the approach was basically health-oriented and clinic based, in the more recent years this approach has been broadened to incorporate programmes and activities aimed at improving maternal and child health, family planning, nutrition and family development. This wider concept of family planning has been used as a basis in formulating two Population Projects which have been financed by the World Bank."

An additional response was recorded from Abdullah Malim Baginda for the Secretary General, Ministry of Welfare Service. Mr. Baginda commented that an optimum population for Malaysia would be 50 million, with population stabilization expected in 2500.

Columbia

In response to the questionnaire, Virgilio Barco reported on the National Planning Department population policies.

"The calculations for an optimal population vary between 40 and 80 million and will average out at 60 million by the year 2050.

The National Planning Department, with its data on the historical trends in mortality, fertility, and migration, has manufactured a set of population projections to assist in the formulation of political boundaries for services such as health, education, housing, employment, etc.

The following are estimates for the Colombian population for the years 1980 - 2000 (in millions): 1980 - 25,940; 1990 - 31,219, and 2000 - 36,583.

I do not foresee a stabilization of the Colombian population by the end of the century. If fertility declines are to be achieved, it is estimated that a decline from four children for each woman in the five-year period from 1975 to 1980 to 2.6 children in the five-year period from 1995 to 2000 will be necessary. The population growth rates are estimated at 20% for the first five-year period and 14.9% for the second five-year period."

Alfonso Juamillo Salazar, Minister of Health, also offered his opinion concerning population stabilization in Columbia. Mr. Salazar commented that an optimum population of 48 million would be attained by 2035. It was added that:

"The last 15 years have seen a rapid change in reproductive behavior. The National Fertility Survey in 1976 showed that the birth rate was 31. In 1980 the Health Sector, using data from the National Home Survey (Institute of Statistics), found that the birth rate had dropped to 29.

The population calculations were based on the hypothesis that birth rates would continue their recent decline and that mortality rates would remain constant. At these rates, we should have a zero growth rate in the year 2035.

Family planning programs offered by the Ministry of Health's Maternal Infant Program were established in Colombia in 1965. These programs should be continued and intensified as they have contributed substantially and effectively to the reduction of fertility.

Also, sex education should be established as a formal component of primary and secondary education."

Nigeria

Responses from Nigeria on the population questionnaire include a reply from F.J. Falodun, Director of the National Population Commission. Mr. Falodun stated:

"On the question of population stabilization in Nigeria, I have to point out that the country is a young and growing nation with a high birth rate and a rapidly declining mortality in view of improvements in medical health care. Family planning, which is handled by an independent body, is voluntary and its emphasis is on child spacing. The Government has not yet evolved a policy on the reduction of fertility. A recent attempt to pass a bill legalizing abortion was overwhelmingly opposed and has been laid to rest."

Isaac Shaahu, the Honorable Minister of Communications also submitted his opinion of the population issue in Nigeria. Mr. Shaahu felt that the optimum population should be 150 million, and that population stabilization would occur by 2023. Of the policies/programs necessary to bring about this stabilization goal, Mr. Shaahu commented:

"Family planning is the best method. However, it should be done so that the population of the aged should be no more than the young ones."

An additional reply was received from A.A. Sowammi for the Honorable Minister of Agriculture. Although no estimates for optimum population were given, the following comments were made regarding policies and programs to achieve population stabilization.

"Policies and programmes that are needed to achieve population stabilization in Nigeria are:

1. Improvement in public health and sanitation through the building of more and better equipped hospitals particularly in the rural areas, and through the training of more medical and paramedical staff to man these hospitals.

2. Eradication of poverty and illiteracy and raising the standard of living of Nigerians, particularly those who live in the rural areas.

3. Family planning.

4. Improved transportation system which will go a long way to reducing the number of accidents on our roads.

5. Prevention or complete eradication of civil and/or tribal wars.

6. Industrialization and urbanization of the rural areas, because it has been found that industrial countries/societies and urban districts usually have lower birth rates than agricultural nations and rural districts.

7. Stepping up food production and yields to eliminate the problem of people dying of hunger.

8. Educating the masses of the people particularly in the areas of health, sanitation, family planning, the negative effects of civil or tribal wars, and road safety."

Kenya

Y.F.O. Masakhalia, Secretary for the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development sent the following reply to Population Communication's questionnaire.

"Naturally, we know that Kenya's population would stabilize at some future point in time.

Currently, our population rate of growth is high. Our objective is to achieve a population rate of growth that is compatible with our country's economic and social development. For that purpose, we are in the process of implementing a number of different projects that aim at increasing production and output, as well as providing our people with better and improved services and higher incomes. Our population programme is based on the necessity to slow down the rate of population growth, through provision of information and education possibilities and access to relevant family planning services."

Brazil

Coordinator of the Brazilian Ministry of Industry and Commerce's International Department, Rogerio Saboia responded to the population stabilization questions as follows:

"Brazil has not yet given priority to the study of a level of population stabilization because of its territorial size, abundance of natural resources, economic potentialities, and large areas for exploitation.

The present Administration, however, has been promoting intensive studies, aiming at the establishment of a national policy designed to favor a rate of demographic growth compatible with the

aspirations and real possibilities of the Brazilian people, both at the government and family level. The target is to provide the new generations with every facility required for their satisfactory physical and mental development in terms of health, education, housing, transportation, and job opportunities.

The problem of family planning has come particularly urgent, in the case of Brazil, because of its lack of resources to adequately assist the new generations as required. The problem of income inequity also affects population growth. In addition, the annual demographic growth rate is fairly high.

This Ministry contributes to the solution of the problem, in particular through its policy of deconcentrating the economic growth, designed to minimize regional imbalances by means of incentives for the establishment of new industries willing to use local raw materials and labor. On providing new employment opportunities and especially, higher wage levels in these destitute areas, a contribution is made for the improvement of the education level of such communities and, consequently, for their greater awareness as regards family planning."

Additional comments from the Office of the President Banco do Brasil were noted.

"The ideal population for Brazil, according to the data available to us, would be about 200 million inhabitants, capable of permitting a certain population balance and the most reasonable occupation of our total inhabited area. This 'optimal' population would be reached by the year 2000.

At the present time there is no need to develop policies and programs to achieve population stabilization, because our country is lightly populated given the vastness of our territory.

Brazil has reaffirmed its position regarding the issue of birth control, respecting the decision of each family. The Government provides information

and means to enable such a decision to be made to the advantage of the family unit and the persons involved, from a medical and social point of view.

As a matter of fact, a decline in the rate of our population is already noted, without the obvious participation of the government, but rather as a result of the spontaneous actions and reactions of individuals and married couples.

Our big problem continues to be the territorial distribution of the population and the low standard of living of the Brazilian people in some regions."

The Brazilian Ministries of Health, Communication, and Mines/Engineering, also sent letters acknowledging survey, but no specific comments were noted.

Ghana

The single reply from Ghana was from E.O. Tawiah, Census Coordinator of the Census Office. Although Mr. Tawiah had no specific figures for an optimum population level in Ghana, he did make the following remarks.

"In an attempt to slow down rapid population growth, the Government of Ghana published in 1969 a population policy paper with the specific objective of reducing fertility. In spite of the publication and formal adoption of a population policy and official blessing to implement a national family programme, the impact on high fertility levels has to date been minimal.

It is appropriate to list a few of the principal elements of the population policy:

1. A national population policy and programmes are to be developed as organic parts of social and economic planning and development activity.

2. The vigorous pursuit of further means to reduce the still high rates of morbidity and mortality will be an important aspect of population policy and programmes.

3. Specific and quantitative population goals will be established on the basis of reliable demographic data and the determination of demographic trends.

4. Ways will be sought to encourage and promote wider productive and gainful employment for women; to increase the proportion of girls entering and completing school, to develop a wider range of non-domestic roles for women; and to examine the structure of Government perquisites and benefits,

and if necessary to change them in such ways as to minimize their anti-natalist influences and maximize their anti-natalist effects.

As already indicated, it has not been possible to assess the impact of these measures geared towards effecting reduction in fertility."

Egypt

As noted by Doctor M. Gabr, State Minister of Health,

"Egypt aims to reduce the birth rate by 20 percent by the end of the century, when it is hoped to reach a stable population of 64-70 million people."

A more extensive response was received by Michel Fouad, President of the General Organization for Physical Planning. Mr. Fouad stated that the optimum population for Egypt should be 70 million, to be achieved about 2015. Furthermore, Mr. Fouad commented:

"Population growth is the main deterrent challenge to economic and social development in Egypt, at present and during the near future as well.

The control of rapid population growth can be mediated as follows.

1. Reducing fertility levels by promoting family planning and encouraging late marriages.

2. Reduction of morbidity and mortality, in general, and infant mortality, in particular, through health measures and adequate sanitation which may positively affect fertility.

3. Encouraging the recent trends of emigration to a feasible extent for Egypt as well as the other receiving countries.

A plan should be encouraged promoting women's education, social security, agricultural modernization, the foundation of new settlements in desert areas, and mass media presentations of the small sized family."

Mexico

Mexico's response to Population Communication's survey came from the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C. Florencio Acosta, Minister at the Embassy stated:

"Mexico's population growth five years ago was 3.5%. After a vigorous campaign, the present rate has diminished to 2.8% with a trend to continue going down.

Mexico's Global Plan of Development contemplates continued reduction of population growth rate: 2.5% by 1985,

1% by year 2000, which is the established goal. Total population should be about 130 million at that time."

Paraguay

Replies from Paraguay on the questionnaire include statements from the Technical Planning Department of the Office of the President.

"The projections of the Technical Planning Department foresee a decrease in the average population rate of growth from 3.0% for the five year period 1980/1985 to 1.5% for the five year period 2020/2025. If it is assumed that the rate of growth will remain constant at 1.5% per year starting with the year 2025, it is estimated that the population of the country would reach 15 million by the year 2063.

At the present time, it is estimated that there are some 7.5 million hectares of land within Paraguay that potentially can be cultivated. Assuming that technological advances will permit an increase of 50 percent of this land availability, it would amount to some 11.5 hectares.

Assuming that significant improvements will be developed concerning the productivity per hectare, the maintenance capacity would be held at the rate of one person per hectare, that is to say, the agricultural production of the country would permit a population of 11.5 million inhabitants.

A moderate industrial development would allow the additional maintenance of some 2.5 million persons. In addition, the service sector could easily maintain one million persons.

Thus, the total estimate is 15 million persons.

Experience has shown that mere investment, as massive as it may be, by state or private organizations in Family Planning Programs does not automatically lead to a decrease in the population rate of growth.

If a decrease in the level of fertility is desired, changes should be made leading to an improvement in education, especially of women; an increase in women's participation in the work force; decreases in infant mortality; and an improvement in the farming lifestyle."

Additional comments from Paraguay came from Major General Mascial Samaniego, Minister of National Defense. Major General Samaniego expects the optimum population

to be 15 million by 2063. Of the problems in relation to population, there is a great concern for:

" . . . the distribution of population, spacewise, not the demographic stabilization. Rather, it is believed that the growth in this direction will contribute to expand the basis of the domestic market, which will contribute to invigorating the development of the country."

Summary

Table 1 has been prepared to compare the various reported estimates of optimum population and the year of stabilization with current recorded population levels in each of the survey countries.

TABLE 1

Country	Reported Optimum Population Estimate (Millions)	Population Year of Stabilization	Estimate Mid-1983* (Millions)
Singapore	3.5	2030	2.5
China	700	2080	1023.3
Bangladesh	175 129 121	2050 2000 2000	96.5
India	-	-	730.0
Indonesia	300 335	2050 2050	155.6
Philippines	70 120	2000 2070	52.8
Pakistan	286	2095	95.7
Malaysia	50	2500	15.0
Columbia	60 48	2050 2035	27.7
Nigeria	150	2023	84.2
Kenya	-	-	18.6
Brazil	200	2000	131.3
Ghana	-	-	13.9
Egypt	67 70	2000 2015	45.9
Mexico	130	2000	75.7
Paraguay	15	2063	3.5

*Source: 1983 World Population Data Sheet of the Population Reference Bureau, Inc.

Population Communication Planned Activities

Population Communication plans to urge government officials to concentrate on population stabilization goals. Every country will achieve population stabilization at some point. The purpose of surveying national leaders' views is to help them to focus on the concept of population stabilization and to formulate their own views on what actions are needed to achieve stabilization, including incentives and disincentives for small families.

To this end, contracts have been negotiated in India, Columbia, the Philippines, and Mexico to conduct personal interviews with national leaders on the issue of population stabilization.

In addition a revised global population stabilization survey will be sent by direct mail firms to 2,000 national leaders in each of the ten most populous countries. In each country, a Population Study Center will act as the coordinator for adapting the survey to local needs and reporting on the findings.

Finally, Population Communication plans to request national leaders to sign the following statement:

"Mankind has many challenges: to obtain a lasting peace between nations; to preserve the quality of the environment; to conserve natural resources at a sustainable level; to advance the economic and social progress of the less developed nations; and to stabilize population growth.

At present, there are 76 million more births than deaths on our planet each year. If present birth rates continue, by the year 2000, there will be 1000 million more births than deaths. A billion people have been added in the last 13 years and the next billion will be added in 12 years.

Degradation of the world's environment, income inequality, and the potential for conflict exist today because of over-consumption and over-population. If this unprecedented population growth continues, future generations of children will not have adequate food, housing, medical care, education, earth resources,

and employment opportunities.

We believe that the time has come now, to recognize the world-wide necessity to stop population growth within the near future and for each country to adopt the necessary policies and programs to do so, consistent with its own culture and aspirations.

To that end, we call upon all nations and their people to undertake national efforts to reduce the size of families to a maximum of two children, and to obtain this goal by the end of the century. Measures for this purpose should be voluntary and should maintain individual human rights and beliefs.

To enhance the integrity of the individual and the quality of life for all, we believe that all nations should participate in setting goals and programs for population stabilization.

We urge national leaders to take an active personal role in promoting effective policies and programs. Attention should be given to setting realistic goals and timetables; encouraging active participation of communities in designing and implementing their own programs; and developing appropriate economic and social policies of incentives and disincentives.

We call upon donor nations and institutions, to be more generous in their support of population programs in those developing nations requesting such assistance.

Recognizing that early population stabilization is in the interest of all nations, we earnestly hope that leaders around the world will share our views and join with us in this great undertaking for the well-being and happiness of people everywhere."

The signatures of the national leaders supporting this statement will be collected and distributed at the World Population Conference in Mexico in 1984. The findings of the personal interviews and revised surveys from national leaders will also be available at the Conference.

The following materials are available upon request:

1. Reprints of this report: **A Survey of National Leaders' Views on Population Stabilization in Sixteen Countries** — \$1.00
2. Reprints of the report: **Fertility Incentives and Disincentives** — \$1.00
3. **The Statement on Population Stabilization by World Leaders** — 30¢

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