

WORLD LEADERS DECLARATION ON POPULATION

Presented at the

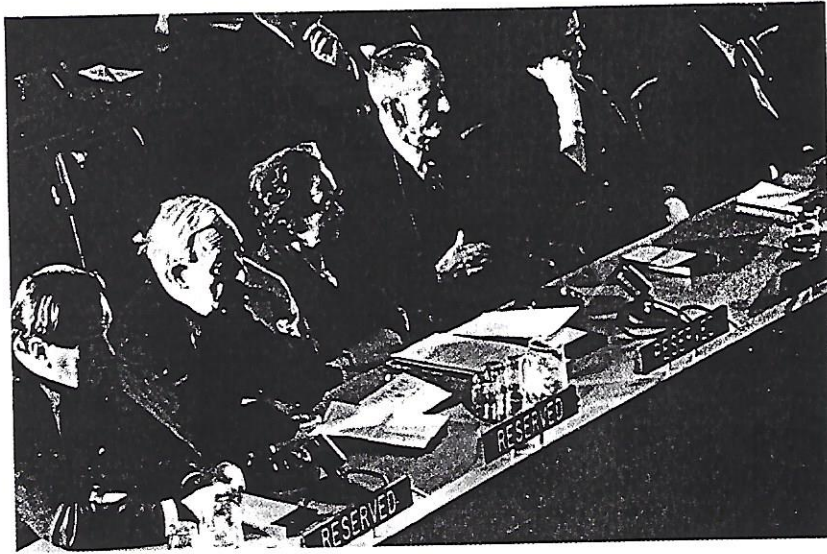
UNITED NATIONS



on

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

December 1967



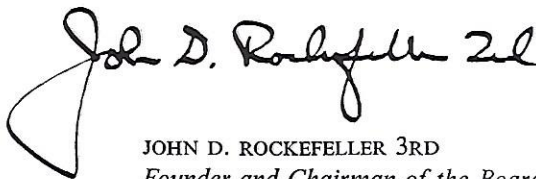
FOREWORD

For a number of years now there has been increasing recognition of and concern for the world population problem. A principal barrier to population stabilization has been the sensitivity that surrounds the subject—a fact that has inhibited most world leaders from taking meaningful action. This situation was the genesis of the statement on population and the effort to enlist leaders around the world to endorse it.

With the active support of Secretary-General U Thant, the first list of twelve signatories was announced at the United Nations on Human Rights Day, 1966. On Human Rights Day, 1967, the names of eighteen additional endorsers were announced.

These thirty leaders represent many political and religious beliefs, countries large and small, highly developed and lesser-developed. Their countries are to be found in all major regions of the world and represent more than a third of the world's population.

This is truly impressive testimony to the fact that population growth is the underlying social problem of our time and that it is losing its sensitivity. It is also a call to action. Secretary-General U Thant and these thirty heads of government have shown foresight and courage. Hopefully all leaders will heed their message.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John D. Rockefeller 3rd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER 3RD
*Founder and Chairman of the Board
The Population Council*

STATEMENT ON POPULATION BY WORLD LEADERS

The peace of the world is of paramount importance to the community of nations, and our governments are devoting their best efforts to improving the prospects for peace in this and succeeding generations. But another great problem threatens the world—a problem less visible but no less immediate. That is the problem of unplanned population growth.

It took mankind all of recorded time until the middle of the last century to achieve a population of one billion. Yet it took less than a hundred years to add the second billion, and only thirty years to add the third. At today's rate of increase, there will be four billion people by 1975 and nearly seven billion by the year 2000. This unprecedented increase presents us with a situation unique in human affairs and a problem that grows more urgent with each passing day.

The numbers themselves are striking, but their implications are of far greater significance. Too rapid population growth seriously hampers efforts to raise living standards, to further education, to improve health and sanitation, to provide better housing and transportation, to forward cultural and recreational opportunities—and even in some countries to assure sufficient food. In short, the human aspiration, common to men everywhere, to live a better life is being frustrated and jeopardized.

As heads of governments actively concerned with the population problem, we share these convictions:

We believe that the population problem must be recognized as a principal element in long-range national planning if governments are to achieve their economic goals and fulfill the aspirations of their people.

We believe that the great majority of parents desire to have the knowledge and the means to plan their families; that the opportunity to decide the number and spacing of children is a basic human right.

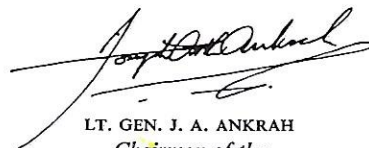
We believe that lasting and meaningful peace will depend to a considerable measure upon how the challenge of population growth is met.

We believe that the objective of family planning is the enrichment of human life, not its restriction; that family planning, by assuring greater opportunity to each person, frees man to attain his individual dignity and reach his full potential.

Recognizing that family planning is in the vital interest of both the nation and the family, we, the undersigned, earnestly hope that leaders around the world will share our views and join with us in this great challenge for the well being and happiness of people everywhere.



HAROLD HOLT
Prime Minister of Australia



LT. GEN. J. A. ANKRAH
Chairman of the
National Liberation Council of Ghana



ERROL W. BARROW
Prime Minister of Barbados



MME. INDIRA GANDHI
Prime Minister of India



DR. CARLOS LLERAS RESTREPO
President of Colombia



GENERAL SUHARTO
Acting President of Indonesia



JENS OTTO KRAG
Prime Minister of Denmark



SHAH MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI
Emperor of Iran



DR. JOAQUÍN BALAGUER
President of Dominican Republic



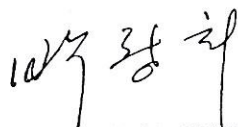
EISAKO SATO
Prime Minister of Japan



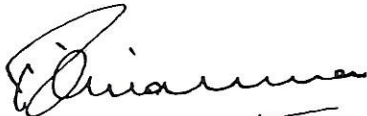
DR. D. URHO KEKKONEN
President of Finland



HIS MAJESTY HUSSEIN
King of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan


GENERAL CHUNG HEE PARK
President of Republic of Korea



LEE KWAN YEW
Prime Minister of Singapore



TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
Prime Minister of Malaysia



TAGE ERLANDER
Prime Minister of Sweden

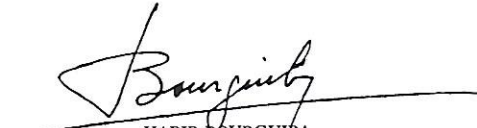

HIS MAJESTY HASSAN II
King of Morocco


THANOM KITTIKACHORN
Prime Minister of Thailand

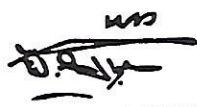

HIS MAJESTY MAHENDRA
King of Nepal


ERIC WILLIAMS
Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago

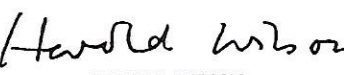

DR. J. ZIJLSTRA
Prime Minister of The Netherlands

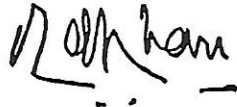

HABIB BOURGUIBA
President of Tunisia

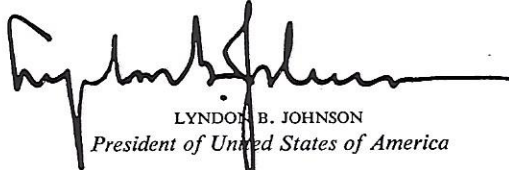

KEITH HOLYOAKE
Prime Minister of New Zealand



GAMAL ABDEL NASSER
President of UAR



PER BORTEN
Prime Minister of Norway


HAROLD WILSON
Prime Minister of United Kingdom


FIELD MARSHAL MOHAMMED AYUB KHAN
President of Pakistan


LYNDON B. JOHNSON
President of United States of America


FERDINAND E. MARCOS
President of Republic of the Philippines


MARSHAL JOSIP BROZ-TITO
President of Yugoslavia