



198 Broadway • New York, N.Y. 10038 • (212) 962-1210

Tilden J. LeMelle, *Chairman*  
Jennifer Davis, *Executive Director*

**Act Now to Save U.S. Aid for Africa**  
**Clinton Administration Eliminates Specific Funding for Africa**

To: Africa Fund Supporters

From: Jennifer Davis  
Date: December 9, 1993

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The Clinton administration proposed a foreign aid bill this week that does not include any specific funds set aside for the Development Fund for Africa. This almost \$800 million a year appropriation has been critical to maintaining funding for health, education and economic development projects in Africa.

Although dramatic revisions in the U.S. Foreign Aid Program are urgently needed, eliminating the specific funding for Africa is not a good place to start. We understand that it may still be possible to restore the special set-aside, or "earmarked" funds for Africa in the foreign aid legislation, but we need to act quickly.

**Urge your Senators and Representative to support restoration of the special earmarked funds for Africa in the new Foreign Aid Bill.**

Your Senators  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Your Representative  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515



## **Clinton Administration Draft Foreign Aid Legislation Does Not Include Funds Explicitly Set-Aside for Africa**

The Clinton administration submitted its proposals for overhauling the U.S. Foreign Aid Program to Congress this week. The new legislation eliminates most so-called "earmarked" funds, including funds for Africa. The administration has re-stated its commitment to continuing funding for Africa, and the draft bill does include general language authorizing a "Development Fund for Africa," but without any special funding. The elimination of special funds reserved for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa is a dangerous signal.

### **Background on the Development Fund for Africa**

The Development Fund for Africa was first proposed in the mid-1980s in an attempt to block Reagan administration efforts to divert several hundred million dollars away from Africa programs. The initial Development Fund for Africa appropriation or earmark in Fiscal Year 1988 was \$500 million, a figure which rose to \$800 million by FY 1991.

The Foreign Aid Bill approved this year for Fiscal Year 1994 includes \$784 million set-aside for the Development Fund for Africa out of a total foreign aid budget of about \$13 billion. Congressional experts on USAID assert that total resources flowing to Africa this year, including aid through multilateral agencies and other programs, is close to \$2 billion.

### **Current Situation**

Most foreign aid funding is now under attack. This year's \$13 billion total is down almost \$1 billion from last year and the Africa budget was cut by \$16 million to free up funds for the countries of the former Soviet Union. Even the heavily protected funding for Israel and Egypt was reduced slightly, although Israel and Egypt still account for between \$4 and \$5 billion of the total foreign aid budget. The Clinton administration wants the ability to shift foreign aid priorities away from country-by-country funding toward supporting broader policy objectives such as promoting democracy, supporting the environment, encouraging free markets and combating terrorism.

But funds for Israel, Egypt and Russia are explicitly written in to the new bill, while the special funding for Africa program has been eliminated. Without specific protections for Africa there is a growing danger that in a decade of shrinking resources for foreign aid, the Africa budget will be further cut and Africa further marginalized.

While the Clinton administration promises that Africa programs will remain a priority in the new foreign aid program, Congressional supporters of specific guidelines and earmarks for Africa believe that only grassroots pressure can ensure Africa remains a priority. Already The Washington Post has editorialized in favor of greater clarity on Africa funding, and a number of non-governmental organizations have begun to organize letter writing campaigns to press for specific funding for Africa, by far the poorest and least developed continent in the world. All of these sources argue that now is the time to press Congress to act to protect funding for Africa.