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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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B-161470

May 14, 1979

The Honorable Abraham A. Ribicoff,
Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

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Ser 06680

Dear Mr. Chairman: *Comments*

I appreciated the opportunity, in your hearings on May 1, 1979, to give you our *Views* on the President's Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1979 to establish in the executive branch an independent agency to be known as the United States International Development Cooperation Agency (IDCA). *Ident*

As I said at that time, we consider effective coordination of development assistance an important function. However, we believe that a stronger reorganization proposal is essential.

I believe your request for the issuance of an Executive order which would incorporate the assurances given to you by the Administration witnesses in their testimony, will require the Administration to significantly strengthen the Plan. Issuance of an Executive order as you envisioned will significantly strengthen the overall capability of IDCA to coordinate our development assistance programs with those of the international financial institutions and other international organizations. It will also go a long way toward overcoming many of the problems, weaknesses, and deficiencies in the Reorganization Plan which I outlined in my testimony such as

- making IDCA more independent, thereby permitting IDCA to exercise a more effective coordinating role as a neutral "honest broker;"
- giving IDCA more status and authority to exercise the role of principal development advisor to the President and the Secretary of State, both in the U.S. Government and in international fora; and
- strengthening the hand of IDCA to more effectively coordinate bilateral and multilateral assistance programs.

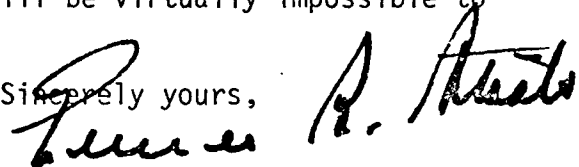
In summary, I believe the Reorganization Plan coupled with an effective Executive order incorporating the assurances you requested will be a significant improvement over the present system for administering the resources

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made available by the United States through various channels to the developing world. In the absence of an effective Executive order the desired development coordination improvements sought will be virtually impossible to attain.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Beardsley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Comptroller General
of the United States