

International Health— Commitment to a Partnership

□ People everywhere—no matter what their nation's political structure—share certain basic needs and aspirations. These include freedom from hunger, from physical suffering, from war, disease, and pollution of the environment, and servitude to others; adequate shelter; the desire to see their children grow and have better opportunities than their parents; the ability to improve their lot in society through merit and hard work; the opportunity to learn, to travel freely, to enjoy the benefits of technology and civilization; and the time to appreciate life lived to the fullest. We can realize our humanity through these common aims irrespective of the political ideologies that divide us.

□ The United States, with both human and material resources, can indeed respond to calls for collaboration and assistance which come from people throughout the world, people who hope to end deprivation and fulfill their aspirations.

□ One-fourth of the world's population, or 1 billion people, live in absolute poverty, on the edge of starvation, and without even the simplest form of health care. In his inaugural message, President Carter pledged support to "guarantee the basic right of

every human being to be free from poverty and hunger and disease and political repression." His commitment to these problems remains a constant theme of his Administration.

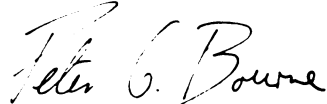
□ The term "international health" refers to a broad range of often poorly defined activities. Among these activities the interests of the United States are primarily: the elimination of the remaining major infectious diseases afflicting mankind (those diseases deriving principally from poor sanitation and malnutrition and found mainly in the developing world); better access worldwide to a basic minimum level of health care, including nutrition and family planning services; the pooling of knowledge and fostering of collaborative research activities to advance medical science; the use of medicine as a medium to improve relations among nations, apart from traditional political channels; and the development of appropriate overseas uses for products and services of the U.S. health industry.

□ To achieve the goal of eliminating the major cripples and killers of the world and to provide a basic minimum standard of health care by the year 2000 requires not dramatic new scientific breakthroughs, but a commitment of will. Only when we place a high enough priority on the health of people everywhere, organizing and coordinating our existing resources adequately and setting clear objectives and policies, can we make these goals a reality.

□ The U.S. Government can lead, but it cannot achieve these goals. The Government must seek greater partnership with the U.S.

private sector, which already commits resources to international health that exceed those of the Federal Government. At the same time, our role must be complementary to and supportive of the work of the World Health Organization, the World Bank, other multilateral institutions, and other nations addressing problems related to international health.

□ The success of the world community in eradicating smallpox should be an important harbinger of what we can achieve in our lifetime: the elimination of so much human suffering that has been taken for granted in human existence—suffering that no longer needs to exist.



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Cover: As a worker goes from house to house searching for smallpox, he shows a picture of a smallpox patient, announces a reward for reports of suspected cases, and collects such reports (as described in a paper beginning on page 147). Efforts like these by people throughout the world have made the global eradication of smallpox imminent. Many other achievements in international health are also reported in this issue.

