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John Neagle

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World Bank Criticized For Inadequate Family Planning Spending

by John Neagle
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In a report released Aug. 11, the Washington-based Population Crisis Committee (PCC) said the World Bank has allocated little money for family planning programs, despite rhetoric suggesting that overpopulation ranks as one of its major concerns. Last September, World Bank president Barber Conable told an audience at the World Resources Institute that overpopulation was "receiving insufficient attention," and that it needed to be "urgently addressed." In 1988, the Bank allocated $82 million of almost $20 billion in loans for population programs. Of the total, 73% went to India, Bangladesh and Indonesia. In comparison, said the PCC report, the US government and the United Nations Population Fund gave far more between 1980 and 1988 to halt the population explosion. The PCC is a private, non-profit organization, dedicated to encouraging greater use of voluntary family planning techniques to reduce demographic growth throughout the world. (Basic data from DPA, 08/11/89)

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