

The Director,  
Corporate Services Panel,  
Recruiting Office  
Mariner House,  
St Helier JE1 1DD

19 JAN 2007

New Director,

I wish to oppose any increase in the funding review of Jersey's Overseas Direct donations from the recent contribution to the £16,000,000 as suggested by certain individuals and groups.

I oppose the suggested funding on the following grounds:-

Other countries, mainly the western hemisphere receive "trading" benefits from these countries supported by aid - Jersey does not fall into that category.

Having travelled to various under developed countries and experienced seeing poverty, I have learnt that the parents deliberately produce extra large families in order to provide a need for help, be it physical or economic, by their offspring in their old age, as the countries concerned do not have a financial or social services to meet needs. If such services do exist they are inadequate. This over population naturally creates a self-perpetuating poverty trap cycle!

The argument - 'our Christian duty' - to help would find much more acceptable if the Churches, whatever persuasion, sold off their assets in order to raise funds. I well remember the Church of England

believing about the fact that their property assets were devalued by over £800,000,000 back in the property recession in the late '80's/early 90's. Fundamentally, how a Liberal's devout Roman Catholic from Eire was agitated and sickened on seeing the church treasures and sheer splendour of Rome, so much so that it turned him against his faith. To me any faith should lead by example; despite having heard the alternative argument made by the church as to why this 'business' is necessary.

Despite the figures showing Jersey's inhabitants' apparent wealth, I believe it to be far from the truth - figures can be manipulated to produce whatever picture you may wish to hear. Most of the inhabitants of the Island are ordinary people, earning a sum of money that is well below the figure one would expect from the gross capita claimed.

I believe charity begins at home. The Island lacks needy medical equipment yet we have to go to the United Kingdom for treatment.

I do not believe that 90,000 residents can put right the immense injustices of the world, despite the pull on the heart strings from viewing its less fortunate inhabitants.

I feel the present limit should be maintained and our own needs put first before increasing any future benevolence abroad.

I feel that the present proposed increase and any other ones should be advised by an all Island public ballot, especially when we are constantly informed of the need to tighten our belts because of the impending financial deficit.

Yours faithfully,  
 A. McMillan (A. McMillan) M.R.