

- 3 JAN 2007 29.12.06

JR

Dear Senator Perchard,

I am writing to you with reference to your review of Overseas Aid. I have been to Africa seven times - five on overseas aid trips, so I feel I can usefully comment on some of the points you are looking into.

1) Policy for upgrading J.O.A. budget is fine with G.N.I. This has to be morally the correct line of action and should be implemented as soon as possible.

When visiting rural Africa we have always been very conscious of the lack of the basic amenity of clean, safe water. On all our aid trips - one to Zambia, one to the Gambia; two to Uganda and our recent trip to Kenya, we have witnessed

people drawing water from roadside puddles or ponds green with algae. The latter are often in a dip below long drop latrines with serious pollution consequences; we have frequently seen animals drinking from the same source and at times urinating or defecating there .... would you drink that water or take it home to the children?

Surely it is a basic, basic human right for a mother to be able to have a better water supply. Jersey is a rich island, I was born just after the war (née Mowant with a long Island ancestry on both my parents' side) and I greatly appreciate all that is on offer here. Jersey benefitted enormously from financial support after the occupation to help build up our now thriving economy.

I feel it is only right that we MUST upgrade the Island's overseas aid budget in line with G.N.I. to give the third world some assistance to lift their economies. It is surely only justice that we help these incredibly dignified, generous, poor people of Africa, & other developing countries, who do not even have clean, safe water. I could quote many instances of suffering we have witnessed through lack of basic health care too & show photographs to illustrate some of these deficiencies, but I feel very strongly that clean water is so important for the health of a family and Jersey, with so much to offer, should try even harder to help even out the injustices of the world, by at least increasing the aid budget to 0.7% G.N.I.

In the long term these countries will need

to work out ways to improve their development  
for themselves & to rid themselves of corruption,  
but while there is such poverty at a  
really basic level, we must help these people.

Any increase in aid should be carefully  
monitored and not just more money handed out.  
Hopefully this is done at present by careful  
prior assessment of requests with review by  
reports etc. after. linked to this v

"...measuring the effective utilisation of the J.O.A.C.  
aid budget" 1. It is important for all  
recipients of aid to provide an illustrated (if possible)  
report describing the work which has been done  
done whether training, new water sources,  
building, or otherwise. With regard to  
the O.A.C. trips, each team should provide  
a public report back meeting including questions  
& answer time, along with their writers.

illustrated report of <sup>3</sup> how the money was spent, to the commission. If the project is not finished since Jersey people are working on site, photos should be forwarded when the project is finished. Incidentally, but importantly, on every trip we have been on, many of the local people have commented on how "good" it is to have people coming to work WITH us and not just handing out money.

Hence I feel the way the J.O.A.C. distributes the money - some grants, some disaster and emergency relief and some community projects is excellent and should be continued with amounts raised to the 0.7% G.N.I.

Many thanks for taking time to read this. Very best wishes for

a happy and healthy 2007.  
Here's hoping the New Year will include  
an increase in the J.O. Aid budget!

Yours faithfully  
Betty Ellis.

(MRS. BETTY ELLIS)