

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Otero, Maria <OteroM2@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 5:52 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Chris Smith/Washington Post

Hillary:

Per our conversation yesterday, please see Tim Wirth's response to Chris Smith's op-ed last Saturday in the WPost. Others from the Global Leaders Council on Reproductive Health chaired by Mary Robinson (I am an ex officio member) are also responding to the article.

Onward!
Maria

From: Elisa Travisono Lynch [redacted]
To: Otero, Maria
Sent: Tue Sep 21 16:57:34 2010
Subject: Chris Smith/Washington Post

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Maria: Per our discussion today, I sent the attached to the *Washington Post* on Monday. Now we just have to hope that they print it!

Good to see you and hope to see you again soon. T

In his Sunday op-ed, Chris Smith politicized the broadly-accepted Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Contrary to Smith's assertions, access to legal abortion will not be on the agenda of the MDG Summit this week in New York. The key UN document on this issue makes clear that nations have the right to set their own abortion laws. Instead, world leaders will focus on how to rid the world of extreme poverty and hunger and to make dramatic improvement to the health of women and children around the globe.

Ensuring access to health services, including modern family planning, can play a critically important role in saving the lives of women. In fact, it can reduce 40% of maternal deaths worldwide. More than two hundred million women in the developing world want access to family planning, but can't get it. This has a dramatic impact, increasing deaths during childbirth, leaving millions of newborns behind.

Listening to the voices of women in the developing world, not injecting American domestic politics into the MDG Summit, is the surest way to promote the goals on which we can all agree.

Timothy E. Wirth, Washington
The writer is president of the United Nations Foundation.