



Trump's ill advised cessation of USAID

By Jack Laun

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When Donald Trump was elected President of the United States, defeating the candidate I supported, Kamala Harris, I expected that some of the institutions in this country I most respected would have their funding reduced or be entirely terminated.

And of course that is exactly what has happened. I am especially distressed by the Trump Administration's ending funding for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This is an organization which has done a lot of good in the world and earned the respect of leaders of a large number of countries.

My own experience with USAID was in the Republic of Panama, where as a Peace Corps Volunteer, I lived in a small town named La Soledad de Sona in Veraguas Province for 22 months. During the time I lived in La Soledad I witnessed development projects funded at least in part by USAID, including funding construction of a school building the community very much needed. In this project parents of students contributed their labor to construction of the school. Food and other assistance in collaboration with the Panamanian Government helped to boost the living standards of residents in rural areas of Panama.

In my time in Panama, I lived in a small thatch-roofed hut among members of a campesino family. These folks and the community

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President Donald J. Trump, United States of American

in general appreciated the assistance provided by USAID to their community and my presence in the community.

Why should Elon Musk, who has not been elected to any position of authority by a vote of the people of the United States, be allowed to decide the fate of the U.S. Agency for International Development? The answer: He should not! Mr. Musk, tell us what is wrong with USAID's support for programs that provide food for the poor in other countries? Instead of wrong, these programs are right for the U.S. and for recipient countries.

I call for Congress to order the removal of Elon Musk from the office to which President Trump appointed him. He has not been elected to the office he occupies by voters, and has no right to occupy that office.

Donald Trump has suggested-in his idiocy that the United States Government should take away from the Panamanian Government the Panama Canal. Trump has falsely stated that Panama has traded the Canal to the Chinese Government. The Panamanian government owns and controls the Canal. Fund paid by Canal users go to the Panamanian Government, not to China or any Chinese Government,

The dishonesty of Donald Trump in discussing the programs of the U.S, Agency for International Development and of the status and operation of the Panama Canal suggest to me that he is morally and intellectually unfit to occupy the office of President of the United States.