In the summer of 1974, there were approximately three and one-half billion people. Somewhere between then and the year 2000, we will most likely double our population. There will probably be about seven billion people. So the world got together, for the first time ever, to view with alarm; or to charge that those who speak of a population explosion are viewing with false alarm; to admit that they have a serious problem; or to state that the most serious problem they have was a lack of people. But they did meet, and they did talk about it...
NARRATOR:

India is one nation very much concerned about this matter. She has six hundred million today and is growing at the rate of more than a million a month. However serious her problems of underemployment and hunger are now, they will probably get a lot worse, more than six hundred million times worse, in the next twenty-five years. For the Indian Government predicts her population will more than double ... Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, most of the rest of Southeast Asia, find themselves in much the same predicament. They — together with China and Japan — account for some two-thirds of the present world population. What has happened in Japan, what is happening in China, and what will probably happen in India and the rest of Southeast Asia, is vital to the whole world, for they are now two-thirds of it, and counting ...
In India, which has 14 per cent of the world's population, every seventh person in the world is an Indian, we have been trying to reduce fertility for over two decades. Ours is the oldest and possibly the largest family planning programme in the world sponsored by a government.

The real problem in our country is poverty. And we feel that poverty is the main cause for overpopulation because it has been found all over the world that when living standards rise, population growth begins to fall automatically. 80 per cent of India still lives in the villages. So that's a large number of people in the villages.

And our new approach is to integrate family planning and health into the minimum needs programme and deliver an entire package to the rural communities. We feel that family planning can no longer be looked upon as simply an independent separate programme. It has got to become part of our assault on poverty.
NARRATOR:

In India, sterilization for both men and women is a practical form of birth control. But there is great difficulty overcoming superstitions and getting correct information to the people.

**FAMILY UNDER TREE IN VILLAGE**

This family lives under a tree. They are villagers who came to the city in search of work. They don't believe in family planning either. The family consists of a mother, four daughters, and a son. She had four other sons, but they all died. Now her surviving son is the sole supporter of the family.

**(SYNC interview with father.)**

He also has a family of his own, eight children, and he does not believe in family planning, because if he should die, his sons will take care of his wife. And besides, he explains, the children don't eat very much food, and by the time they are 10 years old, they can earn their keep.
When asked about school for his children, he says it is out of the question. He doesn't have enough money for school, and he also believes that once the children go to school they won't want to do hard work anymore.

Dr. Singh: (VO) Unless we can drastically reduce the morbidity and mortality rate of children in the rural areas, it will not be possible for us to persuade our villagers to take to family planning. It is not enough for us to say family plan because in the year 2000 it will be helpful, that's not good enough. (SYNC) We've got to be able to prove to the man that it is in his immediate interest to have less children. And that can only be done if we can assure him or give him reasonable assurance that the children that he does have will survive.

(VO) Otherwise, he'll simply say that... I need the children... even if I want only three children I must have six in order to insure that three survive. So... a basic aspect is the increase in the general health services, the general standards of nutrition, of immunization, and so on so that family planning becomes part of our efforts to build a better life for the people of India.

Narrator: The family planning programmes are generally successful in the urban areas, particularly in the large cities like Bombay where almost 90 per cent of the women have some sort of professional maternity and health care.

(pause)
But it is a different situation for the nearly 500 million people living in villages. Before the government can introduce health care, it must first fulfill basic needs like roads and safe drinking water.

DR. SINGH: (VO) And the "Minimum Needs Programme" is designed to attack the problems of poverty in the villages. In order to achieve this, we are gearing our entire resources. We are putting together the various workers that we had for malaria and smallpox and family planning and so on, and as it were merging them into a single, multi-purpose worker, male and female.

NARRATOR: In 1974 India's population of 600 million increases by about 13 million, what has become their normal rate of growth. This is mainly because improved health standards have cut the death rate dramatically. People live longer and they are having as many children as ever. Children are still considered a form of social security.
Only improved living conditions can change this traditional attitude. And for that economic development is essential. (Pause)

But there are many blocks to economic development. There are natural calamities like droughts or floods. There are economic calamities like oil shortage and worldwide inflation. And always there is the harsh problem of unequally shared resources.

Family planning is a lot of shit, you know. Because the people don't have any food to eat, how do you expect them to put on a condom before they have sex at night? I don't think your family planning has a chance of succeeding, especially in the underdeveloped countries.

How do you expect us to control our population when the West is not controlling its consumption? Do you know that America consumes 35 per cent of the world's resources?

Look at all these boys, sometimes when they grow up, they will help their parents earn a living. And...nobody could be bothered about what is going to happen 20 years hence, it's the moment, this moment...
I mean even those who don't really have to worry too much about a living. But, really, we are very tired, just fighting this climate, fighting so many problems — the bureaucracy, the state of the country, the railway strike, the government's apathy to everything, our apathy to everything ... And we are are combatting that, at that moment, think of family planning? Frankly, even as an educated man, family planning just does not cross my mind.

**BILLBOARD PRO-**
**FAMILY PLANNING**

**MOBILE HEALTH**
**SERVICES VAN**
**PASSING THROUGH**

**HEALTH SERVICES**
**VAN ARRIVING AT**
**DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

**DELEGATES AT WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, LISTENING**

**DR. HUANG SHI-ZZE**
**VICE-MINISTER OF HEALTH**
**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**DELEGATES AT WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, LISTENING**

**DR. SINGH: (VO)**
As a result of the depression of economic standards for many centuries, the population has grown. And we feel that the tremendous growth in population has been the result of poverty, and of course, in turn it begins to affect poverty most of all ... so it's sort of a vicious circle. But the circle has got to be broken at the poverty level. What we are fighting is poverty; not the people.

**NARRATOR:**
India's lesson: fight poverty first, then the people can afford to think about birth control. China learned this more than 20 years ago. She fought poverty first.

**DR. HUANG: (VO)**
In the 20-odd years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China's population has increased nearly 60 per cent from about 500 million to nearly 900 million. Yet, in the same period, annual grain output has more than doubled, rising from 110 million to over
FARMERS FLOWING FIELDS

DR. HUANG, CoÜ

250 million tons, and the output of textiles and other industrial products has increased manyfold.

FARMERS WORKING IN RICE FIELDS

VEGETABLE PEDESTERS CARRYING GOODS ON THEIR SHOULDERS

NARRATOR:

At present, the area under cultivation is only slightly more than 10 per cent of her total territory. There are enormous potentialities untapped since there remain vast areas to be reclaimed and the per hectare yield can still be greatly raised.

STREET CLEANER

At present the living standards of our people are still rather low, yet everyone is ensured of employment, food and clothing and the livelihood of the people is steadily improving.

FACTORY WORKER

On the basis of energetically developing production and raising the living standards of the people, China has developed medical and health services throughout the cities and countryside, strengthened the work of maternity and child care, and, while reducing mortality on the one hand, practised birth planning on the other to regulate the birth rate.

MOTHER NURSING BABY
Our birth planning is not merely birth control as some people understand it to be, but comprises different measures for different circumstances. In densely populated areas, late marriage and birth control are encouraged on the basis of voluntariness, while active treatment is given in cases of sterility. In national minority areas and other sparsely populated areas, appropriate measures are taken to facilitate population growth, while birth control advice and help are given to those parents who have too many children and desire birth control. Of course, these are but initial achievements. We have not yet acquired adequate experience in the work of birth planning and we must continue our efforts.

China's lesson: No more poverty and as few or as many people as she plans. Japan's population success story is told in very different and almost totally economic terms.

In the course of Japan's economic development since World War II, some of our nation's biggest problems - an inadequate food supply, lack of full employment and a disproportionate number of women - have shown such a remarkable improvement that foreign observers might have the impression that in Japan the population problem doesn't exist anymore. However, as time passes and new developments occur, we have new problems to face. First of all, due to Japan's rapid economic development, the younger generation is moving to the cities to find jobs; and that has brought on a manpower shortage in farming...
And the young generation finds labour and environmental problems in the big cities too. Secondly, during World War II, the death rate increased considerably, and after that the birth rate dropped drastically.

NARRATOR:

It was not right after World II that the birth rate dropped. First there was a baby boom fathered by veterans of the Pacific fighting such as these. Then in 1949, there was legalized abortion. The combination of that and the Japanese economic miracle of the fifties and the sixties was what caused the birth rate to drop so drastically.

Because what the country had failed to win by force of arms — sources for raw materials and markets for manufactured goods — she legitimately acquired as byproducts of her booming post-war economy.

Though her heavy industries had been shattered by strategic bombing, her work force was largely intact . . . And her work force was not only literate and well trained — it had the energies fostered by life in a moderate climate, the necessary wills to survive a cold winter, a hot summer, and the seasonal
changes in between. Japan also had two other major things going for her: no modern history of colonial domination by anybody, and a work ethic that could and did put it all together.

By October 1973 her people enjoyed the highest standard of living in Asia — as well as one of the highest standards of living in the world. There was virtually no unemployment, and the people were so rapidly approaching zero population growth that many businessmen were not only voicing concern about where the future workforce for an expanding economy would come from, they were actively lobbying against abortion.

Though she may no longer have a population problem as such, her people face virtually every other major problem known to the rest of the industrially developed world plus a few uniquely their own.

Along with their fringe benefits are free lunch at the company cafeteria and free medical care at the company clinic, comes setting up exercises to begin the day .....
And the responses of reading sessions design to assure devotion to duty as a manager reminds his section to "let us always think of industrial development" ... and the employees repeat "let us always think of industrial development" ...

There are also extra-curricular activities to reinforce the employee's identity with the company: Outings to a shrine ... And an annual company picnic complete with a tug of war ... The notion being that in the company that plays together, nobody ever goes on strike.

To any of the world's half billion who are at or near the starvation level, it would be irrelevant -- if not insulting to say "that man does not live by bread alone"; but the boredom of an assembly line is just as real, whether it be Detroit, Moscow or Tokyo.

Well, what we thought originally and what we originally are doing now there is a great -- because what he is doing now is quite monotonous assembly work. Especially middle age and old people appreciate their loving care by the big bosses of the company.
But many young people are —— their interests are varied. They don't want to take a summer trip with the company people, with the whole family out together, they don't like this kind of system.

NARRATOR:

Others complain about pollution ...

"It is already killing the Japanese people, I mean the sewage and dust are building up in the concentration of industry. Many are killed. You have heard about Minamata ... the gas mercury pollution in which many, many persons killed. And in Kawasaki, people are dying of asthma.

NARRATOR:

Or the role of women ... this is one of only ten girls enrolled in Tokyo University's Freshman Law class of 600 ... For example ... marriage itself is something else that many Japanese women are beginning to resent ...

BOUTIQUE LADY:

If I marry one of those programme little businessmen, the big thing of my life will be my marriage ceremony and my honeymoon. And when I come back, I will probably be pregnant. And I will have my first baby and my husband will keep going out. He won't change his bachelor's way of life. He will stay late every night and I will have to get home and wait the children. And once a week, we will all go out to do something and it is just a completely uninspired life.
OLD MAN WITH GRAVES

NARRATOR:

Or being uprooted by industrial growth ...

OLD MAN:
The biggest reason is that they want to stay ... they want to stick to their land ... what their ancestors have given them and they have been living here for several hundred years. They don't want to be drifting around with their ancestors' grave in their hands. They don't want to be the refugees.

OFFICE SCENES

NARRATOR:

And when they do have a labour dispute, it is both colourful and loud ... But the work ethic is strong enough in some to overcome any demonstration -- even when it is right inside the office ...

JAPANESE IN SUBWAY STATION

There is serious overcrowding ... Japan has one of the highest population densities in the world, in those areas where her people are concentrated. Over half of Japan's 108 million lives on less than 5 per cent of her land. Not as surprising as it sounds because only about 10 per cent of her total area is not mountainous or uninhabitable.
And there is a problem in rationalizing the national identity where "Shinto" shrines can be found not too far from the largest MacDonald's hamburger shop in the world ... But it is a modern consumer economy ... And that is both its major strength and major weakness ...

Diet Member: We have very special problem in urban life and the poverty spirits in the midst of plenty. Japan is now facing the turning point not only on the domestic but also internationally, part of what we are losing in the national potential, What's Japan is doing, what we are looking for, that's what we are losing. So this we have to find out from here.

Narrator: Since the oil embargo of October 1973 and the subsequent quadrupling of petroleum prices, the search for a "national direction" and the other very real problems that were by-products of the Japanese success story have been superceded by other matters of much more immediate concern.
You are now watching a Japanese television commercial for a Japanese automobile — and you may very well be watching it on a Japanese television set. Many of the people who made the commercial, the automobile and the television set are probably out of a job. For by October 1974, the Japanese unemployment rate of less than one per cent had already grown to more than 3 per cent ...... Inflation had risen to 23 per cent, and their much-respected Vice-Minister of International Trade and Industry was predicting an imminent full scale depression.

Japan's lesson: a very high standard of living just as in the rest of the developed world has brought her people to near zero population growth. Japan's future: somehow she will cope with her two major sets of problems.

All of the environmental and social questions raised by industrialization and her almost unique necessity to import virtually all of her raw materials, rails and petroleum, and at least, half of her food. In this period of economic insufficiency, she may have some hard times ahead.
China today is nearly self-sufficient. She has almost have all the raw materials she wants to make and the literate, healthy population to make them. She also have enough oil of his own to meet her own needs. As her standard of living is rising, the population is levelling off.

Many Indians literally mortgage away much of their expected life time earnings to pay for their wedding day... A sign of incurably human optimism. For even if her minimum needs programme were to be totally effective today, it would take at least one healthy well-fed generation with much reduced infant mortality for her people to see any scenes at all in population planning. India's problems are not unique. They are the reasons why people of this part of the world are today two-thirds of it and counting.
China
Cameraman                  - JOE KONNO

Special
Acknowledgements

KHET-TV
Honolulu

and

Romanian Television

Japan
Director                  - AL LEVIN
Cameraman                 - CHUCK LEVEY
Sound Recordist           - CHARLES HECK

Producer                  - EDWARD MAGRUDER JONES

Executive Producer        - GILBERT LAUZUN

A UNITED NATIONS
PRODUCTION

In co-operation with

THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

and

THE U.N. Fund FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

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