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Initiative for Global
Development

December 9, 2009

General James L. Jones
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear General Jones,

As members of the board and Leadership Council of the Initiative for Global Development (IGD), we are following up on the invitation you extended at our National Summit in May to engage with the Obama Administration on its global development strategy. We strongly support the objectives of the Presidential Study of U.S. global development policy and encourage you, as one of its co-chairs, to seize the opportunity to think strategically about how U.S. policies can most effectively promote economic development around the world.

IGD is a national network of business leaders that champions effective solutions to global poverty. We believe that global poverty is at the root of many of the world's greatest challenges and fostering sustainable growth in developing countries should be a high priority for U.S. policy and for U.S. business.

As business and civic leaders, we see great need for a comprehensive U.S. development strategy that effectively leverages all of the government's policy tools to combat global poverty. This will require improvements to trade, aid and investment policies and strengthening the links among them. The study you are leading is a crucial first step toward achieving these goals.

The need for this work is especially vital now. The World Bank estimates that an additional 250-290 million people have been pushed into poverty as a result of higher food prices and the slowdown in the global economy over the last two years. For the first time in history, more than one billion people are suffering from chronic hunger. In addition, the success of our development efforts in conflict zones like Afghanistan and Pakistan has enormous implications for our national security. Responding to these challenges requires a comprehensive development strategy based on a clear understanding of our unique strengths in catalyzing economic growth and poverty reduction.

We are confident that with your leadership, the study will result in concrete recommendations that will bring new coherence to U.S. development policy when implemented. We look forward to the conclusion of your work and commend your commitment to promoting development around the world as a key component of U.S. foreign policy.

Sincerely,



Madeleine K. Albright
Former U.S. Secretary of State



Colin L. Powell
Former U.S. Secretary of State



Richard H. Beahrs
Senior Advisor
Revolution Foods



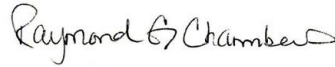
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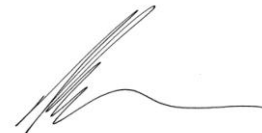
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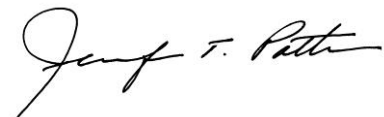
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