

Bereuter promotes development plan

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

President George Bush's administration is taking steps to implement its "kinder and gentler philosophy" by promoting a program that takes the debts of developing countries and uses them to promote worthwhile projects, Rep. Doug Bereuter said Friday.

Bereuter, R-Neb., said that under a new debt-for-development concept, host nations such as the United States are giving the debts of developing countries to charitable organizations.

The charitable organizations then use the loans from the host countries to promote economic development within the developing country, he said.

Bereuter, who spoke on U.S.

foreign policy to about 40 people at the Regency Suite of the Nebraska Union, said debt servicing obligations of underdeveloped countries absorb many of the resources available to debtor countries.

Because often times debtor countries default on their loans, Bereuter said, solutions are needed to assist developing countries with debt reduction.

For example, Bereuter said, the Bank of the Midlands in the United Kingdom loaned \$800,000 to Sudan. When the loan became due, Bereuter said, Sudan had "no chance" of repaying the debt.

Instead of writing the debt off, the Bank of the Midlands gave the loan to UNICEF, he said, and allowed Sudan to pay the debt off with its own currency instead of

silver.

UNICEF then used the money to drill water wells in Sudan, he said.

Bereuter said that under the debt-for-development concept, the U.S. government may forgive loans to such countries as Costa Rica, Ecuador and Brazil.

Those nations would be required to use the debt to set up such projects as national parks to protect rain forests, he said.

Bereuter said the Internal Revenue Service will give tax breaks to U.S. banks that give their loans to less developed countries for charitable works.

"It's getting a lot of attention now," he said.

During the Bush's first 100 days in office, Bereuter said, the

president has taken a "let's stop and look" foreign policy attitude, resulting in media criticism for lack of an overall policy goal.

But, Bereuter said, part of the problem has been that Bush's political appointments have been slowed by FBI checks and the review process on his nominations.

Bereuter said he personally is opposed to enacting economic sanctions against Panama and South Africa.

"Economic sanctions almost always end up hurting us (the U.S.)," he said.

If the United States were to eliminate its trade with South Africa, Bereuter said, West Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom would "pick up the slack" from such U.S. trade elimination.

Risk of infection from first case will end Thursday

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mass immunizations, he said.

After adding up the numbers of last week's disease control program, officials will decide whether more UNL students need immunizations.

Fleischli said 7,046 students were "processed" -- either received shots or provided dates of their immunizations -- during Wednesday and Thursday's mass immunization.

More than 160 students received shots Friday at the health center, he said. Many were classmates of the second measles victim, he said. The second victim, another Abel Hall resident, was diagnosed Wednesday.

Fleischli said risk of infection by the "index" or first victim diagnosed April 20 would be over by Thursday. Risk of infection by the second generation of the disease should be over by May 10, he said.

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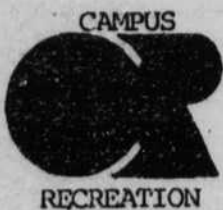
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