We believe it to be a healthy tendency that a substantial share of the Bank's resources are coming from some of our Asian neighbors.

Involvement is the key to interest and support, and this degree of involvement is assurance of new vitality and concern for what the Asian Development Bank is undertaking to do.

The League has commended the President, the Agency for International Development, and the instrumentalities (such as the Asian Development Bank) through which our country implements its purpose of helping with the economic development of lesser developed countries. Naturally any step to increase the capital available to make the Bank's program more effective has the support of the Cooperative League.

Our interest derives logically from the Cooperative League's international program which began in India in the early 1950's and has also included projects and programs in Thailand, Korea, Vietnam and elsewhere.

Currently we are involved in developing a cooperative fertilizer program for India which parallels in its objectives of increased productivity for India the purposes of the Asian Development Bank.

This first hand experience in the area of the Bank's concern highlights for the 18 million member families of the League's constituent members the need for such special funds as are now proposed on more lenient repayment terms than would obtain in the Bank's ordinary operations. Those of our citizens who have solved some of their own economic problems through use of the cooperative technique are understandably eager to share with the peoples of Southeast Asia and the remainder of the underdeveloped world the benefits implicit in cooperative methods.

We believe our vigorous participation in the Bank's support will directly influence the wider participation by such countries as Japan, The Netherlands, Canada, and Australia in this part of the Bank's activities. Adequate provision of these special funds will enable the Bank to carry on its conventional operations without pressure upon its normal operations of hard money loans while remaining flexible enough to respond to projects with great economic persuasiveness which are nevertheless ineligible for the Bank's loans. It is important that the Bank be empowered to extend technical assistance on a non-reimbursable basis.

We note with pleasure that when President Eugene Black of the World Bank testified before your subcommittee he noted specifically that the proposed agricultural development fund would stress projects promising quick pay out in terms of higher agricultural output, examples being farmers' organization of credit cooperatives and marketing facilities. It would be presumptuous of us to applaud the opinion of so distinguished and qualified a public servant as Mr. Black, but we do most enthusiastically second from our own experience in India his perceptive observation of the credit needs in this part of the world and the key role the Asian Development Bank can play in meeting them.

We hope and believe you and your Subcommittee will give early, sympathetic attention to this request by the Asian Development Bank.

Sincerely yours,

SHELBY EDWARD SOUTHARD.

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MRS. ROBERT STUART, PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

The League of Women Voters supports H.R. 13217, the bill to authorize a U.S. contribution to new Special Funds of the Asian Development Bank. We believe the creation of this operation by the Asian Bank is a logical next step in the Bank's development. Long-range, low-interest loans are to be provided through the Special Funds for regional transportation, communication, and agricultural projects as well as the Mekong River basin program. Thus the Special Funds will provide an essential ingredient for the economic development of the region. As a supplement to the "ordinary capital" of the Bank, the Special Funds can finance priority projects that will undergird economic gains made by regular ADB loans. The experience of the World Bank and of regional institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank show that "hard" and "soft" loans must go hand in hand if viable economies are to fostered in the less developed nations.

Within a short period of time the Asian Bank has become a reality. Its management is essentially Asian. Thirty-two nations are now members, 19 of them from the region (including the affluent countries of Australia, Japan, New Zealand); 11 Western European nations (including Switzerland, which joined the Bank in late 1967); and Canada and the United States. It is truly a multilateral effort