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**USAID INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN GUILTY PLEA
TO CHARGES OF CONVERSION OF
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced today that as a result of an investigation by the Office of Inspector General, Dudley Patrick Conneely, 57, of San Francisco, California, entered a one count guilty plea to violating 18 U.S.C. 641, conversion of money from the United States.

Conneely entered his guilty plea on Friday, August 3, 2001, before United States Magistrate Alan Kay in the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

USAID initiated its investigation of Conneely in 1999. At that time, Conneely was an employee of Project Concern International (PCI), a non-profit organization headquartered in San Diego, California. He was serving as the country director for PCI, living and working in La Paz, Bolivia, while he managed its USAID-financed food aid program.

PCI had received a grant from USAID for \$326,130 to cover program cost during the period of October 1996 through September 2001. The USAID grant funds were for providing support for specific administrative and personnel costs associated with carrying out the food aid program in Bolivia.

PCI had issued Conneely a company VISA credit card, which was to be used for official business purposes. The investigation found that, on several occasions, without approval from PCI or USAID, Conneely used the credit card to purchase personal

items. He submitted the personal credit card charges to PCI knowing that PCI would then submit a voucher to USAID for reimbursement for the expenses incurred, including his personal charges.

Conneely is scheduled to be sentenced on October 17, 2001. He faces a statutory maximum of one-year imprisonment, a potential criminal fine, or both.

USAID Inspector General Everett L. Mosley commended the joint effort led by OIG Special Agent Marvin Burgos and Assistant United States Attorney Richard R. Chapman in bringing this matter to justice.

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