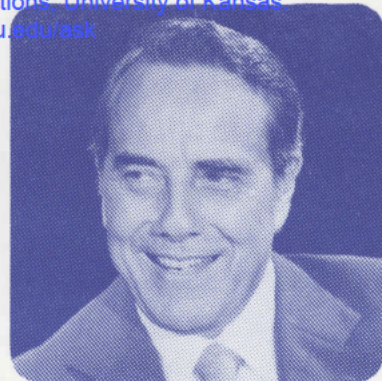


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1986

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

ANOTHER CRISIS IN AFRICA

A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND ENERGY HAS BEEN CONSUMED IN THE CONGRESS ON DEBATING THE SAD RACIAL PROBLEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THAT IS ALL TO THE GOOD, BECAUSE THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID IS ABHORRENT TO OUR PRINCIPLES; AND THE UNITED STATES WILL BE IN A POSITION TO EXERCISE POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN THE MATTER, IF CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION CAN FIND COMMON GROUND ON THE BEST APPROACH TO ENDING APARTHEID.

BUT ALL OF OUR DEBATES, AND VOTES, SHOULD NOT DELUDE US INTO THINKING THAT WE HAVE AT LAST FOCUSED NATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE MUCH NEGLECTED PROBLEMS OF AFRICA.

FOR I THINK IT IS UTTERLY ASTONISHING THAT, IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE CONCERN WE ARE RIGHTLY SHOWING ABOUT ONE PART OF AFRICA, WE ARE SAYING NOT A WORD ABOUT PROBLEMS IN ANOTHER AREA THAT ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN THEIR URGENCY AND HORROR.

I AM TALKING HERE ABOUT THE FORCED FAMINE -- YES, THE GENOCIDE -- WHICH IS AT THIS VERY MOMENT BEING IMPOSED BY THE MARXIST REBELS OF THE SUDAN UPON THE HELPLESS PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY.

IT IS HARD TO FIND NEWS ABOUT IT. ON TUESDAY, ONE HAD TO SEARCH UNTIL PAGE A23 IN THE WASHINGTON POST TO FIND A REPORT. THE NEW YORK TIMES DID BETTER, WITH COVERAGE ON PAGE A6. BUT THESE REPORTS ARE SKELETAL, AND NOWHERE DO THEY INDICATE ANY SERIOUS EFFORT BY THE UNITED STATES TO ADDRESS THIS DESPERATE SITUATION.

IT MAY BE THAT SOME PEOPLE THINK THE PROBLEMS OF THE STARVING WERE ADDRESSED MANY MONTHS AGO WHEN MUCH MONEY WAS RAISED TO PROVIDE FOOD AID TO AFRICA.

THAT EFFORT, IT TURNS OUT, WAS ONLY THE FIRST NEEDED STEP IN THE PROCESS.

THE PROBLEM NOW IS IN THE DELIVERY OF THAT FOOD TO THE HUNGRY WHO CRAVE IT.

The speech was given at the Robert L. Doherty and Special Collections, University of Kansas. Please direct all inquiries to the Special Collections, University of Kansas.

ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES, SOME TWO OR THREE MILLION PEOPLE ARE IMMEDIATELY THREATENED WITH STARVATION IN THE SUDAN, AND IT IS NOT DUE TO LACK OF FOOD.

IT IS DUE TO THE CRASS UNWILLINGNESS OF THE MARXIST REBELS TO PERMIT THE DELIVERY OF THAT FOOD.

RELIEF FLIGHTS TO THE SOUTH NO LONGER TAKE PLACE BECAUSE THE REBELS HAVE REFUSED TO SUSPEND THEIR PRACTICE OF SHOOTING THEM DOWN, AS THEY DID LAST AUGUST WHEN A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT, FERRYING FOOD SUPPLIES, WAS ATTACKED BY GROUND-FIRED MISSILES, KILLING THE 60 PASSENGERS ABOARD.

LET ME REPEAT THE GRUESOME STATISTICS, BECAUSE OTHERWISE MY LISTENERS MAY THINK THEY HAVE MISHEARD ME: TWO TO THREE MILLION PEOPLE ARE THREATENED WITH STARVATION.

AND THEY ARE THREATENED, TO BE PRECISE, BECAUSE THE SUDANESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY, WHICH CLAIMS TO BE FIGHTING FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE SUDANESE PEOPLE, IS INSTEAD REFUSING TO LET THEM GET THE FOOD THEY SO URGENTLY NEED.

THIS IS AT THE VERY TIME WHEN A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT IN KHARTHOUM HAS COME TO POWER IN THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTION THERE IN 17 YEARS. SUDAN SHOULD AT LAST BE GETTING MORE U.S. ATTENTION.

ONLY A FEW IN THIS BODY HAVE HAD THE VISION AND THE COURAGE TO SPEAK TO THIS UNFOLDING CRISIS: SENATOR KASSEBAUM STANDS OUT IN THIS REGARD, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION OWE HER A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

YET WE ARE FACED WITH A TRAGIC IRONY.

WHEN SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE CHARGE THE BLACK DEMONSTRATORS OF SOWETO, AND A DOZEN ARE KILLED, THERE IS AN UPROAR IN THIS COUNTRY, AS WELL THERE SHOULD BE. THOSE ACTIONS ARE DESPICABLE AND DESERVE WORLDWIDE CONDEMNATION.

BUT WHEN FOOD INSTEAD OF CLUBS IS USED AS THE WEAPON, AND MILLIONS RATHER THAN DOZENS ARE THREATENED, WE HEAR MAINLY SILENCE.

SOMETHING IS DEATHLY WRONG.

THE CONGRESS, THE ADMINISTRATION, THE PRESS, AND THE PUBLIC MUST PAY VASTLY MORE ATTENTION TO THIS UNPARALLELED HUMAN CRISIS, AND THEY MUST DO IT NOW.

OUR DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA MUST NOT DEFLECT OUR ATTENTION FROM THE REST OF AFRICA.

WE MUST NOT THINK THAT SANCTIONS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL SOLVE THE ENTIRE CONTINENT'S DIFFICULT PROBLEMS.

OUR DEBATE TODAY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SATISFY OUR CONSCIENCE THAT WE HAVE ADDRESSED AFRICA'S NEGLECTED SITUATION.

AS WE DEBATE SOUTH AFRICAN SANCTIONS, THE PLIGHT OF THE SUDAN DEMANDS THAT WE KEEP OUR PERSPECTIVE.

#