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News from Senator



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DOLE COSPONSOR WORLD HUNGER BILL

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) joined with 17 of his Senate colleagues today in introducing the Hunger Elimination and Global Security Act, legislation designed to focus attention on the continuing crisis in world hunger.

"Our aim is to improve the condition of millions of starving people around the world by targeting the benefits of humanitarian assistance programs to those who are most in need," Dole said at a news conference today. "The bill also provides congressional approval for the central recommendation of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger. on which I have served as a commissioner, that the eradication of hunger and poverty be a primary objective of our nation's foreign policy.

"It is especially important to note that, in this era of budgetary consciousness, this legislation redirects and reforms present programs, and does not call for increased spending."

The bill as introduced today has six titles:

P.L. 480 -- Amends the program so that under Titles I and III of P.L. 480, recipient nations must show that assistance is being used to finance projects that otherwise would not have been funded.

<u>Multilateral Development Banks</u> -- Provides congressional support for the Inter-American Development Bank's target of 50 percent of its lending be of benefit to the poorest groups and urges the Administration to press all multilateral development banks in which the United States participates to specify that not less than one-half of their lending will benefit the needy.

<u>World Food Security</u> -- Prohibits embargoes, for other than national security reasons, which cause malnutrition.

Basic Human Needs Agreement -- Stipulates that U.S. bilateral assistance will only be available to those countries which enter into a basic human needs agreement. The agreement will express the commitment of the recipient country to equitable and self-reliant development and economic development measures toward meeting the basic human needs of its people.

Prevention and Relief of Starvation -- Requires that at least 50 percent of U.S. development assistance be used to finance productive facilities for the absolutely poor and increases from a minimum of 15 percent to a minimum of 25 percent of the value of P.L. 480 Title I food aid which must be committed to Food for Development programs authorized under Title III of P.L. 480.

"U.S. support and leadership of international development assistance efforts is essential if we are to eradicate world hunger," Dole said. "However, the commitment and involvement of other nations is equally important, as is the need for the recognition of the American role in preserving peace and freedom through the costly maintenance of our military and defense forces. Although this legislation may not be perfect, it does serve to focus our attention on the area of world hunger."