

News from Senator

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

U.S. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA

GENEVA, MARCH 11, 1985

THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY OF DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA CHALLENGES ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLE TO RESPOND GENEROUSLY. THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING TODAY IN GENEVA. THAT IS THE INTENT OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION HERE, HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT BUSH.

THE NEED IS ENORMOUS. TWENTY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT AND FAMINE. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY DIED OF STARVATION OR DISEASES CAUSED BY MALNUTRITION AND LACK OF PROPER MEDICAL ATTENTION. MILLIONS MORE FACE STARVATION UNLESS THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE CONTINUES.

I AM PROUD OF WHAT MY COUNTRY HAS DONE TO HELP. PRIOR TO TODAY'S PLEDGE, THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY EARMARKED MORE THAN \$450 MILLION THIS YEAR FOR AFRICAN FOOD AID AND OTHER RELATED ASSISTANCE. THIS REPRESENTS MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AID SENT TO AFRICA TO COMBAT THIS TERRIBLE TRAGEDY. AS PART OF A PRIVATE EFFORT, UNITED STATES CITIZENS HAVE CONTRIBUTED ABOUT \$100 MILLION IN PRIVATE DONATIONS. WE IN THE CONGRESS WILL BE TAKING UP MEASURES TO PROVIDE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF THIS YEAR, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND AS THE FAMINE SPREADS FROM ETHIOPIA INTO OTHER SUB-SAHARAN COUNTRIES, LIKE THE SUDAN. AS THE VICE PRESIDENT INDICATED TODAY, WE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDING GENEROUS AMOUNTS OF AID FOR THE COMING YEAR AS WELL.

THE FAMINE IN AFRICA IS TRULY AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM, REQUIRING AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE. I JOIN WITH OUR VICE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHER DELEGATES HERE IN CALLING UPON GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO JOIN IN RESPONDING GENEROUSLY IN EFFORTS TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES IN AFRICA.