

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FLOOR STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE URGENT SUPPLEMENTAL FOR AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF

MR. DOLE. MR. PRESIDENT, THIS URGENT SUPPLEMENTAL TO PROVIDE FOOD AID AND NON-FOOD AID TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUFFERING FROM EXTREME DROUGHT AND FAMINE CONDITIONS IS VERY MUCH NEEDED IN ORDER FOR THE UNITED STATES TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE 50 PERCENT OF THE EMERGENCY FOOD AID NEEDS FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

PROVISIONS OF URGENT SUPPLEMENTAL

THIS APPROPRIATIONS MEASURE WHICH WE ARE CONSIDERING REPRESENTS A CONSTRUCTIVE COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE HOUSE-PASSED SUPPLEMENTAL AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISTINGUISHED AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR. COCHRAN, FOR \$201 MILLION IN P.L.-480 FUNDS. THIS COMPROMISE WAS OFFERED BY THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MR. HATFIELD, AND IT PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY FUNDING PACKAGE OF FOOD AND NON-FOOD AID TOTTALLING \$685 MILLION. THIS INCLUDES \$285 MILLION FOR P.L.-480 TITLE II (INCLUDING SUCH SUMS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR INLAND TRANSPORTATION); \$225 MILLION FOR AN EMERGENCY RESERVE; AND \$175 MILLION IN NON-FOOD AID. THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS \$175 MILLION FOR DISASTER RELIEF AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE WAS CONSIDERED AND PASSED YESTERDAY.

MR. PRESIDENT, THERE ARE TWO VERY POSITIVE FEATURES IN THIS SUPPLEMENTAL: THE RESERVE AND NON-FOOD AID FUNDS CAN BE CARRIED OVER INTO FY 1986, IF NOT UTILIZED THIS FISCAL YEAR. THE SENATOR FROM KANSAS BELIEVES THAT THIS REPRESENTS A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO PROVIDING FUNDS FOR AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF, BECAUSE IT DOES NOT FORCE A.I.D. TO PROGRAM FUNDS IN A WAY THAT MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE INEFFICIENT JUST TO UTILIZE THE EXISTING FUNDS. THIS TYPE OF APPROACH PROVIDES ESSENTIAL FLEXIBILITY IN ALLOWING THE ADMINISTRATION TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS WITHOUT PROGRAMMING MONEY PERHAPS UNWISELY JUST TO SPEND IT.

HOUSE-PASSED APPROPRIATIONS

MR. PRESIDENT, THE HOUSE HAS PASSED A SUPPLEMENTAL CONTAINING OVER \$1 BILLION IN AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE OTHER BODY IS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SENATE VERSION OF THIS URGENT SUPPLEMENTAL FOR AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF AS A COMPROMISE, IN LIEU OF GOING TO CONFERENCE. THIS WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN EXPEDITING PASSAGE OF THIS ESSENTIAL FUNDING, SO THAT IT WILL BE IN PLACE BEFORE A.I.D. RUNS OUT OF MONEY. IF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS PASS THIS APPROPRIATIONS BILL TODAY, WE WILL BE THAT MUCH CLOSER TO ASSURING THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING FOOD AND NON-FOOD AID TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION

THUS FAR, THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 51 PERCENT OF THE EMERGENCY FOOD-AID TO ETHIOPIA. AMERICANS ARE, BY THEIR NATURE, A VERY GENEROUS PEOPLE, WHO WISH TO SHARE THEIR BOUNTY WITH LESS FORTUNATE NATIONS IN TIMES OF NEED. ALREADY, U.S. CITIZENS HAVE CONTRIBUTED ABOUT \$100 MILLION DOLLARS FROM PRIVATE DONATIONS ALONE, THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE \$450 MILLION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS SENT TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD IN THE FORM OF DIRECT FOOD AID. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR PART AS THE FAMINE CONTINUES AND SPREADS INTO OTHER SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES, LIKE THE SUDAN.

AFRICAN FAMINE SITUATION

FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE ATTENTION OF THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THE CONTINUING TRAGEDY OF THE FAMINE IN DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. TV NEWS REPORTS HAVE BROUGHT THIS TRAGIC SITUATION INTO AMERICAN LIVING ROOMS WITH AN IMMEDIACY AND VIVIDNESS THAT IS MORE THAN HAUNTING.

AT LEAST 20 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN NATIONS ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES, AND THOUSANDS OF LIVES ARE AT RISK AS A RESULT. THOUSANDS HAVE ALREADY PERISHED, BECAUSE OF THIS DROUGHT AND ACCOMPANYING FAMINE. THOUSANDS MORE SUFFER FROM SEVERE MALNUTRITION AND RELATED DISEASES. MORE THAN FOOD AID IS NEEDED -- MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CLOTHING AND SHELTER ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY AS WELL.

LONG-RANGE SOLUTION

MR. PRESIDENT, OBVIOUSLY WHAT ULTIMATELY NEEDS TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO AVERT THIS TYPE OF FAMINE CRISIS FROM RECURRING IN UNDERDEVELOPED PARTS OF THE WORLD INVOLVES LONG-RANGE AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED IN THIS DIRECTION IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, DUE TO MANY COMPLEX INTERACTING FACTORS.

IT IS WELL-KNOWN THAT IN ETHIOPIA, POLITICAL AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS, ALONG WITH A CIVIL WAR, HAVE HINDERED EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE STARVING PEOPLE THERE. NONETHELESS, WESTERN NATIONS HAVE COME TO THE AID OF THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO DIE DAILY FROM LACK OF ADEQUATE FOOD AND MEDICAL ATTENTION. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, ALONG WITH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, ARE COMMITTED TO SHARING THEIR FOOD RESOURCES WITH THESE LESS FORTUNATE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN TIMES OF CRISIS, BUT IT IS DESIRABLE TO PREVENT THESE CRISES FROM OCCURRING AT THE OUTSET. THESE NATIONS HAVE COORDINATED THEIR EFFORTS IN THE CURRENT AFRICAN FAMINE CRISIS TO FULFILL THE REQUISITE FOOD AID NEED, ALONG WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF MEDICAL AND SHELTER SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORTATION.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

MR. PRESIDENT, BOTH THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM MISSOURI, MR. DANFORTH, AND THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS, MR. KENNEDY, HAVE PERSONALLY VISITED SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO WITNESS THE ONGOING TRAGEDY OF THE FAMINE. THEIR FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS AND PHOTOS OF TRAGEDY AFTER TRAGEDY, AND THE TOLL IN HUMAN LIVES, MAKE US ALL A LITTLE MORE AWARE OF THE DESPERATE SITUATION FACING THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

THIS URGENT SUPPLEMENTAL FOR AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF IS NEEDED RIGHT NOW IN ETHIOPIA, THE SUDAN AND MANY OTHER SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES. WE MUST PROVIDE THIS FOOD AND NON-FOOD AID AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW THE UNITED STATES TO LIVE UP TO ITS HUMANITARIAN COMMITMENTS IN AFRICA.

MR. PRESIDENT. IT WAS THE HOPE OF THE LEADERSHIP ON THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE THAT WE COULD HAVE PASSED THIS URGENT SUPPLEMENTAL TWO WEEKS AGO BEFORE THE RECESS FOR THE GENEVA ARMS CONTROL TALKS. HOWEVER, WE COULD NOT GET AN AGREEMENT FROM THE DEMOCRATS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE TO BRING THE BILL TO THE FLOOR FOR CONSIDERATION WITHOUT AMENDMENTS BEING ADDED. THEREFORE, WE WERE FORCED TO POSTPONE ACTION ON THIS EMERGENCY MEASURE UNTIL NOW. IT IS OUR HOPE AT THIS TIME, THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PASS A NEARLY CLEAN BILL WITH ONLY GERMANE AMENDMENTS. I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO ACT ON THIS MEASURE TODAY AND SEND A BILL CLEAR OF AMENDMENTS ON TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE SO THAT THIS GREATLY NEEDED FUNDING FOR AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF CAN BE PROGRAMMED AND ON ITS WAY TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN SUCH DESPERATE NEED.