

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
STARVATION KNOWS NO POLITICS IN MOZAMBIQUE

HALF A LOAF, WHILE PEOPLE STARVE

A NEW FAMINE DISASTER IS UNFOLDING IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRY OF MOZAMBIQUE -- A COUNTRY ALREADY TORN BY WAR AND STRUGGLING UNDER THE DISASTROUS POLICIES OF A REPRESSIVE MARXIST REGIME.

THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY STARTED SENDING HELP, AND THE ADMINISTRATION DESERVES CREDIT FOR ITS QUICK RESPONSE. BUT WE'RE ONLY DEALING WITH HALF THE PROBLEM.

BECAUSE WE HAVE LIMITED OUR AID TO THE MARXIST REGIME IN CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL, MAPUTO; AND HAVE REFUSED TO EVEN TALK TO THE RESISTANCE FORCES OF RENAMO, ABOUT HELPING THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HUNGRY IN THE LARGE, WAR-TORN PARTS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, WHERE RENAMO HAS MUCH GREATER ACCESS.

A.I.D., WHICH IS IN CHARGE OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, HAS OFFERED THE LAME EXCUSE THAT THEY CAN'T LOCATE ANYONE FROM RENAMO TO TALK TO. IN FACT, THERE IS A RENAMO OFFICE HERE IN WASHINGTON, THAT IS PRACTICALLY BEATING DOWN THE DOOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO ASK FOR AID.

WHAT GIVES HERE? MILLIONS ARE STARVING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE POLITICAL LINES IN MOZAMBIQUE. THE MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, LITTLE BABIES -- THEY ARE IN EQUAL DESPERATION, REGARDLESS OF THE POLITICS OF THE AREA THEY LIVE IN.

PUT ASIDE POLITICS AND PICK UP THE PHONE

LET'S PUT ASIDE POLITICS -- IN THE INTEREST OF SIMPLE HUMANITY. LET'S SAVE LIVES FIRST; AND THEN WE CAN WORRY ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE PUT THEIR POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE.

I CALL ON BOTH SIDES IN THE CONFLICT TO CALL AND OBSERVE A LEGITIMATE, REAL CEASEFIRE; I CALL ON BOTH SIDES TO COOPERATE WITH US, WITH THE INVOLVED INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND WITH EACH OTHER -- TO GET FOOD TO STARVING PEOPLE.

AND I CALL ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND A.I.D. TO GET OFF THEIR DUFFS, PICK UP THE TELEPHONE, CALL THE LOCAL RENAMO OFFICE HERE IN WASHINGTON -- AND START THE FOOD FLOWING TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.

I ASK TO INCLUDE IN THE RECORD A LETTER I HAVE WRITTEN TODAY TO SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ AND A.I.D. ADMINISTRATOR MCPHERSON, URGING THESE STEPS. (Text of the letter is on back.)

The Honorable George P. Shultz  
Secretary of State  
The Honorable M. Peter McPherson  
Administrator, Agency for International Development  
Washington

Dear George and Peter:

Like all Americans, I am deeply concerned about the famine which is unfolding in the southern African country of Mozambique. I applaud you for the efforts that you have already undertaken to provide American assistance to help meet this crisis.

At the same time, I am disturbed by what appears to be a conscious decision not to seek the assistance of the RENAMO resistance -- which controls substantial portions of the countryside -- to facilitate delivery of relief.

As you know, there is a RENAMO office here in Washington. I am confident that it is willing and anxious to work with you, on a totally non-political basis, to facilitate the provision of assistance to people in the war-torn zones of the country.

I would therefore propose that our Government undertake a three part program: (1) urging a temporary ceasefire by both sides, for the sole purpose of permitting delivery of food to people in war-torn areas; (2) urgently establishing contact with RENAMO, to explore the possibility of facilitating the provision of food assistance, through its organization or through some other vehicle, to all needy people in Mozambique; and (3) offering the good offices of the United States to establish communications between the Maputo regime and RENAMO, for the sole and nonpolitical purpose of facilitating the delivery of relief supplies.

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