

REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
AT THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
FAMINE PREVENTION, DECEMBER 19TH, 1977

FIRST, I SHOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LAND GRANT UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER UNIVERSITIES OF THIS NATION WHO HAVE BEEN SO EFFECTIVE IN WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH LEADERS IN DEVELOPING LEGISLATION AND PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS IN A MORE ADEQUATE MANNER THE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN DEVELOPING NATIONS.

I WAS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE CALLED BY PRESIDENT FORD IN 1974. I SUPPORT THE BOLD OBJECTIVE ENUNCIATED AT THAT CONFERENCE BY HENRY KISSINGER "THAT WITHIN A DECADE NO CHILD WILL GO TO BED HUNGRY, THAT NO FAMILY WILL FEAR FOR ITS NEXT DAY'S BREAD, AND THAT NO HUMAN BEING'S FUTURE AND CAPACITIES WILL BE STUNTED BY MALNUTRITION."

I CONGRATULATE ALL WHO HAVE PLAYED A PART IN BRINGING TITLE XII INTO BEING AND IN IMPLEMENTING ITS PROVISIONS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF WORLD HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

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THE TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION WHICH HAVE HELPED MAKE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE SO ABUNDANT CAN, IF PROPERLY ADAPTED, BE USED TO ALLEVIATE THE FOOD PROBLEMS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS.

PARADOX OF HUNGER & ABUNDANCE

WE ARE FACED TODAY, HOWEVER, WITH THE PARADOX OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHILE THE AMERICAN FARMER IS FACED WITH A CRISIS CAUSED BY THE ABUNDANCE OF HIS PRODUCTIVITY. THUS, THERE IS A "DISTRIBUTION" PROBLEM, WHICH IS MOST DIFFICULT TO HANDLE. WHILE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE STRUGGLING TO INCREASE THEIR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO FEED THEIR HUNGRY, WE NEED TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WITH ^{OUT}~~OUT~~ FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. WE NEED TO SEE THAT THE FLOW OF THIS ASSISTANCE IS NOT UNNECESSARILY IMPEDED. HUNGRY PEOPLE NEED THE FOOD AND OUR FARMERS NEED THESE EXPORT OUTLETS.

I AM CONCERNED WITH THE PUZZLING PARADOX FACING US. I BELIEVE WE MUST LOOK AT THE CRISIS FACING THE AMERICAN FARMER AND WHAT IT MIGHT DO TO HIS ABILITY TO HELP FEED THE WORLD SHOULD DISASTER STRIKE. TWO OR THREE CONSECUTIVE GOOD CROPS, AS WE HAVE HAD SINCE 1975, IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SOME REGIONS OF THE WORLD MAY NOT HAVE CATASTROPHIC FOOD SHORTFALLS IN THE FUTURE.

THE EFFICIENT AMERICAN FARMER FACES CRISIS

THE AMERICAN FARMER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO DISASTER IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD IF HE HAS GONE BANKRUPT.

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I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION MUST NOW FACE UP TO THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE AMERICAN FARMERS IN AN ANGRY MOOD AS EXPRESSED IN THEIR "TRACTORCADES" IN STATE CAPITOLS AND HERE IN WASHINGTON. THE AMERICAN FARMER MUST REMAIN IN BUSINESS. HE MUST MAKE A DECENT LIVING. HIS SURVIVAL AND PROSPERITY ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION, BUT ALSO TO THE ENTIRE WORLD. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR THE HUNGRY AND MALNOURISHED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO OVER THE PAST 23 YEARS HAVE RECEIVED OVER \$30 BILLION IN FOOD ASSISTANCE UNDER THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM. IN THE NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE FOCUS MORE ADEQUATELY ON THESE PROBLEMS.