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**Series:** I: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC FORM LETTERS SIGNED BY ANNE V. HIGGINS

Folder Title: YA-66 – World Hunger and

What We Are Doing About It

**Box:** 29

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Last Updated: 01/21/2025

#### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

June 24, 1987 (XXXY66)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President is always pleased to hear that young Americans are taking a personal interest in their country's response to the hardships and suffering endured by some of their brothers and sisters around the globe.

For years, the United States Government, through the Agency for International Development, has helped people in all parts of the world -- Latin America, Asia, the Near East and Africa. Our motto has always been "helping people help themselves," so that the people of all nations can make use of their own resources to achieve health and happiness. We do this by helping them improve their farms and businesses through schools and training programs. We also provide medical assistance and related services.

People in Africa, for instance, continue to need special aid because, for many reasons, including lack of rain, they are unable to consistently provide enough food for themselves. The United States Government has been helping to feed the people of African countries for more than 30 years through its Food for Peace program. In March of this year, the White House announced a series of steps that are being taken to make sure that U.S. policies focus on the long-term goal of encouraging sub-Saharan Africa to become self-sufficient in food. I am sending you a copy of this statement on hunger in Africa.

With the best wishes of the President,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President and Director of Correspondence

ne Higgins

(6/24/87)

Mr. Michael A. Ortega Evening Supervisor Correspondence Analysis Section Room 60 Old Executive Office Building Washington, DC 20500

Enclosure: 3/11/87 Statement by the Assistant to the President for Press Relations

AVH/CAD/AVH

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#### OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

#### REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE - COMMENTS



TO:			
George Van Eron/ Nat	ional Security Counc	cil	
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DATE DUE:	TYPE OF RESPONSE: Multiple N	lailing XX Form Reply	☐ One-Time Reply
June 19, 1987 SUBJECT:			
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World Hunger			Λ0.
REQUESTED BY/ADDRESSED TO:	è		
	al Public-young peo	nle	VA
	ar razzz jezzy	P10	
BACKGROUND:			,
Draft respond	ls to young people w	ho want to know	what our
government is doing to ease the problem of world hunger.			
White HOuse draft highlights the work of AID, the Food for			
Peace program and various Administration initiatives all aimed at improving agriculture and encouraging self-sufficiency.			
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SIGNATURE:		DATE: June	17, 1987
Robert V. Luck			11, 150,
Robert Luebke	Presidential Messo	•	
	Old Executive Office B Room 94	unaing	
	(202) 456-7610		
Your Recommendation/Comments:			
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Do not use Sor AUH466 pre May 1/87

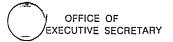
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With the best wishes of the President,

#### AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

LEOMACK



March 18, 1986

House

MEMORANDUM FOR: MS. SALLY KELLEY

Director of Agency Liaison Presidential Correspondence Room 91. The White House

SUBJECT:

Request for Draft Replies

Attached are proposed replies to letters from students concerning the African famine. We are also enclosing a supply of printed materials to accompany the responses.

In addition, we are sending you a copy of the standard letter that we send to routine inquiries from citizens.

Richard C. Meyer Executive Secretary

Attachments

Tab A - Letter to children

Tab B - Letter to young people

Tab C - Standard letter

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Clum T NSC

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OFFICE OF
HE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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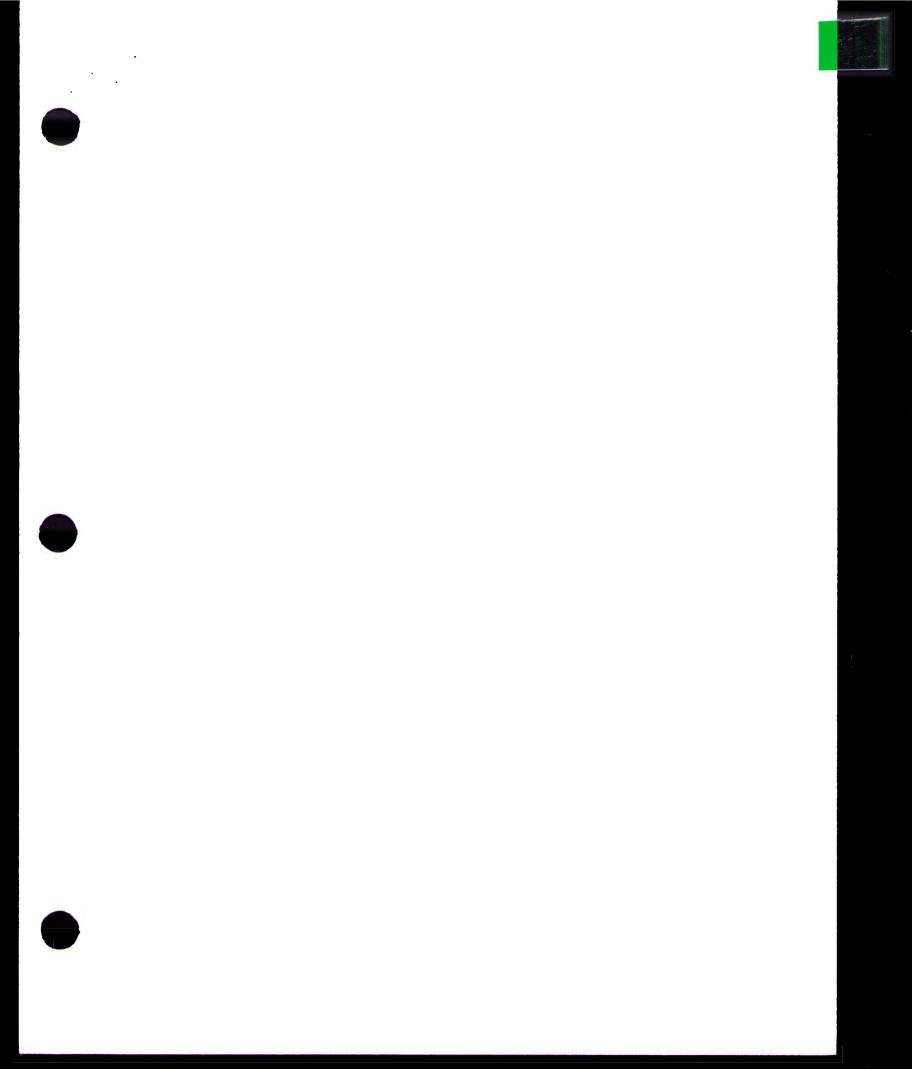
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People in Africa, for instance, continue to need special help because, for many reasons, including lack of rain, they are unable to consistently provide enough food for themselves. The United States Government has been helping to feed the people of Ethiopia and other African countries for more than 30 years through its Food for Peace program. In 1986 America gave more food to Africa than at any other time in history. Grains and other food supplies were sent to 26 African nations. America remains committed to these people until they are self-sufficient again through the provisions and experise we provide.

With the best wishes of the President,

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The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him about world hunger. He is especially moved that children your age have taken such an interest in needy people of other nations. Your desire to help has reinforced the President's belief in the inspiration America's youth provides young people the world over.

For years, the United States Government, through the Agency for International Development, has helped people in all parts of the world--Latin America, Asia, the Near East and Africa. Our motto has always been "helping people help themselves" so that the people of all nations can be healthy and happy. We do this by helping to make their farms and businesses better through schools and training programs. We also provide medical assistance.

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This year we are continuing to send emergency food as we did last year, but the amount required is less than last year. However, the United States remains committed to meeting half of the estimated emergency drought-induced food needs of Africa. We are also working to assist farmers and their families to become self-sufficient again through the provision of seeds and tools.

Thank you again for writing to express your concern for the people in Africa. Let me assure you that our government is helping them in every way it can. We appreciate your support for the emergency programs that are helping to save lives and for the longer-term programs that will give more hope to the people we save.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

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Our country's traditional readiness to help those less fortunate is demonstrated not only by official government actions such as these, but also by the heartfelt concern of our citizens, young and old alike. Thank you again for sharing your views with the President.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

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#### Dear:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President in which you express your concern about world hunger and United States relief efforts. Your desire to help those suffering from the famine in Africa is greatly appreciated.

In 1985, the President signed a supplemental appropriations bill to provide \$800 million for emergency relief and recovery in Africa. This legislation enabled the United States to continue to provide at least fifty percent of the emergency needs for those suffering in Africa.

Last year the United States Government, through the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.), used these supplemental funds along with the regular food aid programs to provide more than \$1.2 billion to the drought-stricken countries of Africa. This emergency assistance included food, medicines, technical assistance and shelter materials.

In addition to this monumental emergency effort, the United States Government provided Africa over \$770 million through A.I.D.'s regular development and economic assistance programs.

The President has also announced a comprehensive African hunger relief initiative. It is designed to address both the short-term emergency and the long-term measures needed so Africa can avoid a recurrence of this catastrophe. A copy of the President's statement is enclosed.

In fiscal year 1986 the United States Government is continuing its commitment to Africa's emergency relief. Wherever possible, America will also provide the economic assistance needed to aid in the long-term development process that will help Africa become self-reliant.

We appreciate your interest and support in this effort.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

#### Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 3, 1985

#### STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON AFRICAN HUNGER RELIEF INITIATIVE

Hunger and extreme malnutrition now threaten over 14 million people in Africa through the end of 1985. In response to this human catastrophe, America has responded as a government and as a people in a tremendous outpouring of aid. This fiscal year, the United States has already committed to Africa over 600,000 tons of emergency food, worth \$250 million—this is in addition to our regular food aid program of about one million tons. The U.S. response has been far larger and faster than that of any other donor nation or institution.

The American people have also responded selflessly to this crisis, from the U.S. grain company that recently donated enough food to provide over one million meals to Ethiopian children to an elderly woman who sent the Agency for International Development (AID) two dollars. Yet, even with all our country has already done to feed the starving, more—much more—must be accomplished by our nation in the morths ahead to meet this challenge.

I am thus announcing today a comprehensive African hunger relief initiative. It addresses Africa's immediate emergency food needs, its pressing refugee problems and its need to stimulate agricultural development on that continent.

Based on my discussions with African officials, congressional and private sector leaders, heads of voluntary organizations and members of my Administration, I am today directing that the U.S. Government's total commitment to Africa for fiscal year 1985 for emergency and regular food aid and disaster relief programs exceed \$1 billion. This aid will provide over 1.5 million tons of emergency food. This overall \$1 billion program will include resources already committed to Africa for the coming year, other AID resources, and a supplemental request on which I will ask the 99th Congress to take immediate action.

I have also today approved a \$25 million drawdown from the United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to finance urgent humanitarian assistance needs in Africa. This action is in response to appeals by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee for the Red Cross. This money will go to victims of the crises in Ethiopia, the Sudan and other countries.

On the economic development side, efforts will continue on three fronts: policy reform, agricultural research, and human resource development.

This past March. I directed a study to be undertaken to produce new, effective initiatives to address Third World hunger problems—emergency situations, such as the Ethiopian tragedy, and longer—term problems. In July, this food aid task force completed its work on emergency food crises. On July 10, the anniversary of the Food for Peace (P.L. 480) program, I announced an initiative to help cut down the response time to Third World life—threatening food emergencies. This is being done by the creation of a central forecasting capability for impending food emergencies; by prepositioning food for quick response; by helping poor countries pay for the sea and inland transportation of food; by increasing coordination among the donor countries; and by seeking increased private sector participation.

Today's food emergency in Africa reemphasizes the need to tackle the underlying structural problems of agricultural stagnation in the Third World. Poor countries must become more productive in agriculture if they are to grow the food so needed to feed their people.

Socialist economic systems, prevalent in underdeveloped countries, have failed to achieve economic growth and have weakened agricultural production by not paying farmers a living wage. As a result of this, coupled with the failure of the Soviet Union to fulfill its promises of economic assistance, an increasing number of Third World countries once dominated by the socialist model are experimenting with free market approaches.

The United States Government will thus implement a new food aid policy to be called "Food for Progress." This policy will emphasize use of America's agricultural abundance to support countries which have made commitments to agricultural policy reform during a period of economic hardship, including: (1) adequate price levels for agricultural production, based on market principles, and (2) improved rural infrastructure and private sector involvement.

Provisions of "Food for Progress" will be presented to Congress this year. We hope that this approach holds the promise to help prevent tragedies like Ethiopia from reoccurring in future years.

Last year, the Administration initiated a 5-year program intended to support economic reform and agricultural production. Important work in agricultural research is also going forward, research that shows great promise of breakthroughs in seed varieties that can usher in a new era of productivity for rain-short regions of Africa.

The underlying structures of policies, institutions, appropriate technology and human knowledge are being built. Progress is being made. We will not lose sight of the ultimate goal of strengthened economies, food self-sufficiency and human enlightenment for Africa. But, for the present, much of Sub-Saharan Africa suffers increasingly from severe hunger, malnutrition and starvation. A timely American response can save many lives. This is what the African hunger relief initiative is designed to do.

# The Washington Post

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1984

#### M. Peter McPherson

## The Famine

#### Ethiopia suffers now, but other nations are only months away.

There are no words to adequately describe the magnitude of the human tragedy that is occurring in much of Africa. A deadly combination of drought, civil war, misguided government policies and growing population pressures is resulting in a famine of historic proportions.

At the request of President Reagan, I recently went to Ethiopia for an on-the-spot assessment. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Peru and, in recent years, as administrator of the Agency for International Development, I have seen hunger, pain and despair in many places around the globe. Eat nothing in my experience matches the suffering or the complexity of the crisis that hangs over Ethiopia today.

I am still convinced however—if the world works together—hundreds of thousands of men, women and little children can be saved.

My trip to Ethiopia led me to several conclusions:

- In Ethiopia alone, at least 7 million people are at serious risk.
- During the next 12 months, the total food assistance donor nations need to provide for Ethiopia alone will be in the range of 1 million tons.
- A massive logistical problem exists as well: a plan for the delivery of food must be agreed upon. The United States has developed some ideas, but there must be a coordinated attack by donors.
- It is essential that a donor conference be convened within the next few weeks to coordinate activities.
- The United States is prepared to continue to provide substantial assistance.

The immediate emergency is our first priority. The United States has provided \$60 million in additional assistance in a little more than the past 30 days. This represents 130,000 tons of food and other supplies. The other Western donor nations have provided another 200,000 tons of food. Private individuals and businesses have committed valuable additional resources.

It should be noted that the United States provided more emergency food to Ethiopia during the past fiscal year than to any other African nation and was the largest emergency food donor to Ethiopia.

This outpouring of assistance has resulted in massive logistical problems. About 50,000 tons of food a month are being moved, and about twice that capacity is required.

Automatic unloading and bagging equipment is needed. Many more trucks must be allocated by the Ethiopians to move the food inland, which they have agreed to provide. I am hopeful that will be done promptly. The United States and a few other countries are providing cargo alreraft to fly food to remote camps.

It is critical that the donor conference be convened quickly. There is a pressing need to come together and take up our share of the burden. We would welcome the participation of the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries.

While a great deal of public focus has been centered on Ethiopia, the problem is wide-spread in Africa. There are at least seven countries only months behind the serious problems that we see today in Ethiopia. Other countries are headed toward serious difficulties.

It's important to understand that the present and increasing suffering is the result of a set of circumstances of which the drought is only one part. For example, in many countries of Africa, rural people have been discriminated against in the pricing of agricultural production. Farmers are frequently paid less than market prices in order to provide cheap food for urban consumers.

The development of high yield seeds and other technology is needed for dryland farming in Africa as well as the development of human resources through training and education. Our agency is devoting a great deal of attention and money to these and other goals.

In summary, there are three stages to the ultimate solution. There is the present emergency stage. The second stage will extend over the next six to 12 months. Donors must allocate the million tons of food needed for Ethiopia, plus additional resources for the other sub-Saharan nations in the grips of drought and potential widespread famine. The third stage is for African countries and donors to continue to work for long-term development so that disaster does not haunt Africa forever.

And we must not lose the momentum of public interest and concern that has attended the crisis in Ethiopia. Above all, we must not lose hope. I am firmly convinced that despite the magnitude of the problem, it can be addressed. We need only to look to the examples of the recent past. Twenty-five or 30 years ago India was the recurring scene of famine that took millions of lives. Today, because of improved policies, technology, training and determination, India is virtually grain independent, and massive starvation is only a bitter memory.

While we respond to emergencies today, we must help create the circumstances in which people can help themselves climb out of poverty and misery. All of the short-term help of all the industrialized countries cannot be seen as a solution. Ultimately, the developing nations themselves must provide a policy climate that creates the conditions under which their own people can prosper and be fed.

The writer is administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5, 1984

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

THE SUN

#### By M. Peter McPherson

# Africa: Is There Hope?

Washington.

OVER the past few weeks the press and television have brought home the horror of thousands upon thousands of shriveled, hollow-eyed Ethiopians in the throes of starvation. The enormity of the tragedy has shocked the Western world, and set off an explosion of human compassion.

What is even more shocking is what the pictures have not yet revealed. Hundreds of thousands of people are malnourished and on the verge of starvation in Kenya, Niger, Mozambique, Sudan, Chad, Mali and other African countries.

I have received hundreds of calls and letters from concerned Americans. They all ask the same questions?: What caused this tragedy. What can we do about it? Is there hope?

The food shortages in Africa are caused by a number of factors:

☐ The effects of prolonged drought have been exacerbated by explosive population growth;

□ Over the last decade, Africa's food production has risen by only about 1.9 percent a year while the population has grown by 3 percent a year. Africa is the only continent in the world to experience a per capita decline of food production;

[] Environmental degradation has taken place as increased use of fuel wood for energy has contributed to deforestation, devegetation, declining water tables, soil erosion, silting, desertification and flooding.

[3] Many of Africa's governments have pursued economic policies which have in fact depressed agricultural production by keeping food prices' low, paying farmers less than market prices to satisfy politically powerful urbanites. Predictably, these policies act as disincentives for poor farmers to grow more:

7 Lack of education impedes



management of public and private resources and prevents the creation or adoption of appropriate technology;

☐ The lack of roads inhibits transport of food;

☐ In many African countries civil war has depleted resources and disrupted agricultural production. Millions have lost all their worldly possessions. Agricultural productivity has been lost as they have been forced to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

What are we doing about it?

Americans should know that the president has been aware of, and has directed us to respond to, the emergency for several months.

The United Stans was the largest emergency food donor in Africa in the past year, contributing about 505,000 metric tons of food worth \$173 million. The United States provided about half

of the food delivered for drought in Africa last year.

Because of the early severity of drought, the United States provided more emergency assistance to Ethiopia last year than to any other African country.

In past two months, we have signed agreements to provide African nations emergency food with an approximate value of \$200 million, more than the value of food delivered to Africa in the preceding 12 months.

About 200,000 metric tons of this U.S. donation are bound for Ethiopia; this is roughly equal to the food provided Ethiopia from all other donors.

I estimate that Ethiopia alone will require 1 million metric tons of emergency food assistance in the next 12 months from all donors.

Once at dockside, however, the

actual delivery of food to the hungry is complicated in Ethiopia by massive logistical problems. They include: Inadequate port facilities, uneven food shipment arrivals, insufficient trucks available to transport food, lack of roads, extremely difficult terrain and civil war — all of which impede food from reaching the hungry.

When I returned from Ethiopia November 7 from a four-day visit, I suggested that a world conference of donors be called to coordinate both the food donation commitments and their delivery. On November 26, the secretary general of the United Nations called for two such conferences, one for Ethiopia and one for Africa as a whole. The magnitude of the problem is so huge that only the whole world working together can hope to solve it.

While dealing with the emer-

gency is our first commitment we cannot lose sight of the larger problem — food self-sufficiency for the African people.

The Agency for International Development (AID) has long-term economic assistance programs in 35 African countries. Our policy is based on four policy principles: helping recipient governments adopt policies that will create growth economies; providing incentives to the private sector, especially small rural farmers; fostering research and technology transfers which will, among other things, produce high-yield seeds for dry-land agriculture; and helping build grass roots institutions such as extension services and marketing cooperatives.

Is there hope?

Yes. Extensive disaster relief measures are saving lives currently at risk. Long-term economic development programs will help to prevent future emergencies. U.S. assistance is supporting international research on miracle seeds for dry-land agriculture that could have the same effect for Africa as the Green Revolution miracle rice had for India in the 1960s and 1970s. African governments have begun to show a readiness to change their agricultural policies. Educational programs will significantly increase literacy.

We have a long way to go. There must be a full commitment of both donor and recipient countries to achieve food self-sufficiency for Africa.

While the American people focus on hunger in Africa, I hope they will focus on the cause of hunger there. Conditions such as those in Ethiopia today did not occur overnight. They will not be solved quickly.

Our attention and compassion today must be followed by planning and action that will prevent a recurrence of similar disasters in the years to come.

Mr. McPherson is administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

#### INTERACTION American Council for Voluntary International Action

Ethiopian Hunger Relief Hot line 1-800-982-1400

#### INTERACTION MEMBER AGENCIES ASSISTING IN THE ETHIOPIAN RELIEF EFFORT

INTERACTION is a broadly based, participatory association of 121 American private and voluntary organizations which have joined together to promote their common interests relating to international development, relief, reconstruction, migration, refugee assistance, public policy/federal relations, and development education. It exists to complement and enhance the effectiveness of its individual member organizations and the private and voluntary agency community as a whole. All its programs are conducted whithout consideration of race, sex, religious belief, or political ideology.

1. ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF AGENCY 6840 Eastern Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20012 (202) 722-6770

Relief & development arm of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Involvement: Operation of feeding centers & medicine distribution

2. AFRICARE
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009
(202) 462-3614

Private, nonprofit development agency working to improve the quality of life in rural Africa

Involvement: Provision of farming tools, tents, cooking utensils

3. AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE Ethiopia Relief, 60 East 42 Street, Rm. 1914, NY, NY 10165 (212) 687-6200

Overseas relief arm of the American Jewish Community Involvement: Provision of medicines, medical services and clothing

4. CARE 660 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016 (212) 686-3110

Private, nonprofit, nonsectarian agency for international aid and development
Involvement: Food distribution

5. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

P.O. Box 2045, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008
(212) 838-4700

Official overseas relief and development organization of the American and Catholic Community
Involvement: Food distribution and relief coordination

6. CHURCH WORLD SERVICE Ethiopian Relief, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 (800) 223-1310

Relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ Involvement: Provision of food supplies

7. DIRECT RELIEF INTERNATIONAL P.O. Box 30820, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-0820 (805) 687-3694

Private, nonprofit voluntary agency procuring and distributing medical and hospital supplies worldwide Involvement: Provision of medicine and medical equipment

8. GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL
720 Massachusetts Avenue, P.O. Box 312, Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 497-9180

Nonprofit, nonsectarian international development agency Involvement: Provision of medicine and seed

9. INTERCHURCH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE P.O. Box 429, New Windsor, MD 21776 (301) 635-6474

Private, nonprofit voluntary agency working for the procurement and distribution of medical and hospital supplies for overseas health care ministries of Protestant churches and relief organizations Involvement: Provision of medical supplies

10. <u>LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF</u>
360 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010
(212) 532-6350

Relief and development agency for the collective body of Lutheran churches in the U.S. Involvement: Provision of food and medical supplies

11. MAP INTERNATIONAL P.O. Box 50, Wheaton, IL 60187 (800) 225-8550

Private inonprofit voluntary agency providing health and services and medical supplies through grassroots medical organizations worldwide Involvement: Provision of medical supplies and personnel

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12. MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
21 South 12th Street, Akron, PA 17501
(717) 859-1151

Cooperative relief and service agency of North American Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Churches
Involvement: Provision of food supplies

13. OPERATION CALIFORNIA
7615 1/2 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90048
(213) 658-8876

Private, nonprofit international medical relief agency <a href="Involvement">Involvement</a>: Provision of medical supplies

14. OXFAM AMERICA TO A COLOR OF THE COLOR OF

Private, nonprofit international development agency seeking to promote self-reliance among the world's poor Involvement: Provision of food, seed and medical supplies

15. PRESIDING BISHOPS FUND FOR WORLD RELIEF
Episcopal Church Ctr., 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017
(212) 867-8400 ext. 384

Arm of the Episcopal Church, providing resources for relief and emergency needs Involvement: Provision of food supplies

16. SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION
Ethiopia Fund, P.O. Box 925, Westport, CT 06881
(800) 243-7075

Nonprofit, nonsectarian private community development agency <a href="Involvement">Involvement</a>: Provision of food and medical supplies

17. U.S. COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF
P.O. Box 3040, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
(800) 826-1100

Private voluntary agency supporting UNICEF's activities
Involvement: Food distribution, sanitation, and basic health services.

18. WORLD CONCERN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
P.O. Box 33000, Seattle, WA 98133
(800) 426-7010

Private Christian relief and development agency
Involvement: Provision of food, medical supplies and
veterinary medical services

19. WORLD RELIEF CORP.
P.O. Box WRC, Wheaton, IL 60189
(312) 665-0235

Relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Association of Evangelicals
Involvement: @ Provision of food supplies

20. WORLD VISION RELIEF ORGANIZATION
Ethiopia Famine Relief, P.O. Box O, Pasadena, CA 91109
(800) 423-4200

Interdenominational Christian humanitarian agency involved in international development and relief
Involvement: Food distribution and health care

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# THE WHITE HOUSE

July 16, 1986 (XXXY66)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President is always pleased to hear that young Americans are taking a personal interest in their country's response to the hardships and suffering endured by some of their brothers and sisters sharing our globe.

Since World War II, the United States has accepted as its responsibility the obligation to help those in need whenever and wherever a catastrophe strikes. As the leader of the free world and the champion of democracy, the United States has historically utilized its resources to help underdeveloped nations help themselves. We have done this by providing emergency aid, volunteering individual expertise and technical support, and by encouraging reforms that will enhance economic and political freedoms, stimulate economic growth, and allow these nations to increase agricultural output and otherwise improve the lives of their citizens. In fact, the United States established the Agency for International Development in 1961 just for this purpose.

It is to your credit that you are eager to learn about and help those in need. There is much you can do in your own community to assist those less fortunate than yourself. I'm sure your parents and teachers would be glad to suggest how you can help others in your neighborhood and your community, as well as in our country and around the world. For more information on current U.S. efforts, please write to the U.S. Agency for International Development, 320 21st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20523.

With the best wishes of the President,

Incerely, Inne Higgs

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

(7/16/86)

Mr. Michael Ortega Evening Supervisor Correspondence Analysis Section Room 60 Old Executive Office Building Washington, DC 20500

AUH/COM/COO/

## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

July 14, 1986

AVHY66

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With the best wishes of the President,

## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 28, 1986 (XXXY66)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President is always pleased to hear that young Americans are taking a personal interest in their country's response to the hardships and suffering endured by some of their brothers and sisters sharing our globe.

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With the best wishes of the President,

Incerely, Inne Higgins

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President and Director of Correspondence

(2/28/86)

Mr. Michael Ortega Evening Supervisor Correspondence Analysis Section Room 60 Old Executive Office Building Washington, DC 20500

Enclosure: White House Report to Students, Edition IV

AVH/CGM/CAD/AVH

AUIT/COM/COO)

### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 24, 1986

AVHY66

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President is always pleased to hear that young Americans are taking a personal interest in their country's response to the hardships and suffering endured by some of their brothers and sisters sharing our globe.

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With the best wishes of the President,

, ~ YA-66 (3rd Rev.) . RE: World Hunger and what we are doing about it

#### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

March 20, 1985 (XXXY66)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President is always pleased to hear that young Americans are taking a personal interest in their country's response to the hardships and suffering endured by some of their brothers and sisters sharing our globe. — I regret the delay in this reply.

Since World War II, the United States has accepted as its responsibility the obligation to help those in need whenever and wherever a catastrophe strikes. We are doing so now in a massive effort to aid the victims of famine and drought in Africa. Also, as the leader of the free world and the champion of democracy, the United States has historically utilized its resources to help underdeveloped nations help themselves. We have done this by providing emergency aid, volunteering individual expertise and technical support, and by encouraging reforms that will enhance economic and political freedoms, stimulate economic growth, and allow these nations to increase agricultural output and otherwise improve the lives of their citizens. In fact, the United States established the Agency for International Development in 1961 just for this purpose.

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statement on January 3 about U.S. food assistance policies in

Africa and elsewhere. White Muse Refort to Students which we have you'll find interesting. Latter the President's Students which we with the President's best wishes, Publication was made, Frenencus Arenes

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(3/19/85)Mr. Michael Ortega Evening Supervisor Correspondence Analysis Section Old Executive Office Building Washington, DC 20500

Enclosure: 1/3/85 Statement by the President WHITE HOUSE

AVH/CGM/CAD/NSC/AVH

RePort to Students IV

### THE WHITE HOUSE

# REPORT TO STUDENTS



**Edition IV** 

On October 27, 1984, President Reagan devoted his weekly radio address to the youth of America. He told of being asked what had been the greatest highlight of the 1984 campaign, to which he replied, "the tremendous number of young people at our rallies and the tremendous outpouring of their spirit for America and our future." During President Reagan's first term in office, he maintained extensive communication with students of all ages. He also visited schools throughout the nation where he enjoyed answering questions directly. In this report, we have selected the issues that you write about most often and are happy to share the President's own words on the topics that concern you.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Warren Burger administers the Oath of Office to President Reagan on January 20 at the White House
The public ceremony took place in the Capitol Rotunda on January 21, 1985



Concern for Peace/Strategic Defense Initiative

Central America

**Excellence in Education** 

Prayer in School

Young Astronaut Program

Economy/Tax Reform/Deficit/Unemployment

**Food for Progress** 

Abortion

#### Concern For Peace

Excerpt from the President's State of the Union Address February 6, 1985

Just as we're positioned as never bfore to secure justice in our economy, we're poised as never before to create a safer, freer, more peaceful world. Our alliances are stronger than ever. Our economy is stronger than ever. We have resumed our historic role as a leader of the free world. And all of these together are a great force for peace.

Since 1981 we've been committed to seeking fair and verifiable arms agreements that would lower the risk of war and reduce the size of nuclear arsenals. Now our determination to maintain a strong defense has influenced the Soviet Union to return to the bargaining table. Our negotiators must be able to go to that table with the united support of the American people. All of us have no greater dream than to see the day when nuclear weapons are banned from this Earth forever.

Each Member of the Congress has a role to play in modernizing our defenses, thus supporting our chances for a meaningful arms agreement. Your vote this spring on the Peacekeeper missile will be a critical test of our resolve to maintain the strength we need and move toward mutual and verifiable arms reductions.

For the past 20 years we've believed that no war will be launched as long as each side knows it can retaliate with a deadly counterstrike. Well, I believe there's a better way of eliminating the threat of nuclear war. It is a Strategic Defense Initiative aimed ultimately at finding a nonnuclear defense against ballistic missiles. It's the most hopeful possibility of the nuclear age. But it's not very well understood.

Some say it will bring war to the heavens, but its purpose is to deter war in the heavens and on Earth. Now, some say the research would be expensive. Perhaps, but it could save millions of lives, indeed humanity itself. And some say if we build such a system, the Soviets will build a defense system of their own. Well, they already have strategic defenses that surpass ours; a civil defense system, where we have almost none; and a research program covering roughly the same areas of technology that we're now exploring. And finally some say the research will take a long time. Well, the answer to that is: "Let's get started."

Harry Truman once said that, ultimately, our security and the world's hopes for peace and human progress "lie not in measures of defense or in the control of weapons, but in the growth and expansion of freedom and self-government."

And tonight, we declare anew to our fellow citizens of the world: Freedom is not the sole prerogative of a chosen few; it is the universal right of all God's children. Look to where peace and prosperity flourish today. It is in homes that freedom built. Victories against poverty are greatest and peace most secure where people live by laws that ensure free press, free speech, and freedom to worship, vote, and create wealth.

Our mission is to nourish and defend freedom and democracy, and to communicate these ideals everywhere we can. QUESTION: What are your views on relations with the Soviet Union and why do you think we need a security shield (Strategic Defense Initiative, sometimes described by the press as "Star Wars") to defend against nuclear missiles?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Today, we utter no prayer more fervently than the ancient prayer for peace on Earth. Yet history has shown that peace does not come, nor will our freedom be preserved, by goodwill alone. There are those in the world who scorn our vision of human dignity and freedom. One nation, the Soviet Union, has conducted the greatest military buildup in the history of man, building arsenals of awesome offensive weapons.

We have made progress in restoring our defense capability. But much remains to be done. There must be no wavering by us, nor any doubts by others, that America will meet her responsibilities to remain free, secure, and at peace.

There is only one way safely and legitimately to reduce the cost of national security, and that is to reduce the need for it. This we are trying to do in negotiations with the Soviet Union.

We are not just discussing limits on any further increase of nuclear weapons. We seek, instead, to reduce them. For the sake of each child in every corner of the globe, we seek, one day, the total elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth

For decades, we and the Soviets have lived under the threat of mutual assured destruction; if either resorted to the use of nuclear weapons, the other could retaliate, and destroy the other. Is there either logic or morality in believing that, if one side threatens to kill tens of millions of our people, our only recourse is to threaten tens of millions of theirs?

We seek another way — a far better way. I have approved a research program to see if a security shield can be developed that will destroy nuclear missiles before they reach their target. Such a shield would not kill people, but destroy weapons; it would not militarize space, but help demilitarize the arsenals of Earth. Such a shield could render nuclear weapons obsolete. So, we will meet with the Soviets hoping that we can agree on a formula for ridding the world of the threat of nuclear destruction.

And as we strive for peace and security, we are heartened by the changes all around us. Since the turn of the century, the number of democracies in the world has grown four-fold. Today, human freedom is on the march, and nowhere more so than in our own hemisphere. Freedom is one of the deepest and noblest aspirations of the human spirit. People worldwide hunger for the right of self-determination, for those inalienable rights that make for human dignity and progress.

America must remain freedom's staunchest friend, for freedom is our best ally, and the world's only hope, to conquer poverty and preserve peace.

#### Central America

QUESTION: Why must the United States be concerned about the situation in Nicaragua and other Central American countries?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: In our international relations, we'll continue to be what we set out to be four years ago: a reliable friend to our allies and to our neighbors and a leader to those who care about human liberty. We're a friend of peace first, last and always. But the American soul was forged in freedom. And we will be a friend of freedom everywhere; and the foes of freedom will be our foes. We must assure the survival and success of freedom in Central America. We cannot break faith with freedom anywhere. This is our heritage and our moral obligation.

Remarks of the President at the 1985 Executive Forum, January 25, 1985.

Of the 34 countries in Latin America, 27, with about 90 percent of the region's population, are either democratic or in transition to democracy. A decade ago, less than 40 percent of Latin America's population was so fortunate....

The transition to democracy, especially in Central America, has been accompanied by a concerted and well-financed effort by the Soviet Bloc and Cuba to undermine democratic institutions and to seize power from those who believe in democracy. This is nothing new. Venezuelans who struggled so long and

hard for freedom faced this same threat as they transformed their country into a democracy. Similar subversion — financed, armed and supported by the outside — has plagued Colombia and other countries as well.

A new danger we see in Central America is the support being given the Sandinistas by Colonel Qaddafi's Libya, the PLO, and, most recently, the Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran.

The subversion we're talking about violates international law; the Organization of American States, in the past, has enacted sanctions against Cuba for such aggression. The Sandinistas have been attacking their neighbors through armed subversion since August of 1979. Countering this by supporting Nicaraguan freedom fighters is essentially acting in self-defense and is certainly consistent with the United Nations and OAS Charter provisions for individual and collective security....

The ideals we share have come of age and now is the time. We are the people. Democracy is the way. There are some 600 million of us from that tip of Tierra del Fuego up to that north coast of Alaska bound together by a common heritage and history, all of us Americans, all of us worshiping the same God. What a power for good in the world we can be if we strengthen our neighborliness and the contact and the cooperation between us.

Remarks of the President in meeting with Western Hemispheric Legislators, January 24, 1985.



President Reagan receives a warm welcome from students in the audience at Bolingbrook High School in Illinois

#### **Excellence in Education**

#### Excerpt from the President's Address to the National Association of Independent Schools February 28, 1985

This spring, we mark the second anniversary of a Department of Education report that was entitled "A Nation At Risk." Now that report concluded that if an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war.

Well, from 1963 to 1980, scholastic aptitude test scores showed a virtually unbroken decline. Science achievement scores showed a similar drop. Most shocking, the report stated that more than one-tenth of our 17 years olds could be considered functionally illiterate.

And so Americans decided to put an end to educational decline. Across the land, parents, teachers, school officials and State and local office holders began to improve the fundamentals of American education...

When we took office, only a handful of States had task forces on education. Today, they all do. Since 1981, 43 states have raised their graduation requirements; five more have higher requirements under consideration. Perhaps the most telling figure is this—scholastic aptitude test scores have risen in two of the last three years, the best record in the last 20 years. And, we've only begun.

States and localities, which quite properly bear the main responsibility for our schools, have taken an active part in this movement for educational reform. But we've made certain that the Federal government has also played a leading role. Our Administration has replaced 28 narrow educational programs with one block grant to give State and local officials greater leeway in spending Federal aid.

We've rolled back regulations that were hampering educators with needless paperwork. We've taken steps to promote discipline in our schools, including the establishment of the National School Safety Center. And we've launched Partnerships in Education, a program in which businesses, labor unions and other groups of working people are pitching in to help schools in their communities.

Today there are more than 40,000 such partnerships in operation. In Philadelphia, for example, business leaders have raised \$26 million to support the Catholic schools that educate one-third of the city's children. I should add that one of the most effective Federal actions has been the growth of the economy that I mentioned a moment ago.

Private contributions to schools, especially colleges and universities, are up. Indeed, in 1983, the colleges and universities that responded to a survey conducted by the Council for Financial Aid to Education reported endowments totalling some \$29.6 billion, the largest one-year figure since the Council began conducting its surveys in 1966.

Under the previous administration, even though Federal education budgets soared, overall spending on education throughout America, adjusted for inflation, actually declined by \$17 billion, dragged down by the weakening economy. But with inflation down and the economy now growing again, education spending throughout the country, despite restraint at the Federal level, has actually gone up by almost \$18 billion. And today, many States are running a surplus and are in a better position to help fund our public schools and universities.

From the State university that has new funds for research to the community that can afford a new school bus, economic growth is giving education throughout America a powerful lift. Continuing this economic growth will prove invaluable during the four years to come. And that's why we intend to provide more incentives, cut personal income tax rates further, and keep America the investment capital of the world. And that's why we can, and must, bring Federal spending under control.

Now, in recent weeks, there's been a certain amount of confusion regarding our budget proposals on education. Let me take this opportunity to make matters clear. In our proposal, we have recommended reserving aid for the needy, limiting aid per student to a level we can afford, closing loopholes that lead to abuse and error, and cutting excessive subsidies to banks and others.

Regarding student loans, as things stand now, our nation provides some aid to college students from the highest income families; some to students who come from families with incomes higher than \$100,000. This defies common sense, insults simple justice, and must stop. Government has no right to force the least affluent to subsidize the sons and daughters of the wealthy. And under our proposal this will change.

Those whose family incomes are too high to qualify for guaranteed loans with heavy interest subsidies will still have access to guaranteed, but unsubsidized loans of up to \$4,000. And every qualified student who wants to go to college will still be able to do so.

Yes, our proposal may cause some families to make difficult adjustments. But by bringing the budget under control, we will avoid the far more painful adjustment of living in a wrecked economy. And that's what we're absolutely determined to do.

Our budget proposal is prudent, it's reasonable, and just. I consider it fully deserving of the support for it that I'm asking you and all Americans to give.

#### Young Astronaut Program

NASA, our Office of Private Sector Initiatives, the Department of Education of the National Space Institute, with help from the National Science Teachers Association and other educational and aerospace groups, have designed an outstanding curriculum. You'll find incentives to pursue science and math and the chance to take part in exciting space-related activities. The end product will be knowledge — our greatest resource for meeting tomorrow's challenges with optimism and success.

And that's the driving force behind the Young Astronauts Program. This private sector program will be directed by the Young Astronauts Council here in Washington under the leadership of Jack Anderson, Hugh Downs, and Harold Burson...

Just as our past achievements in space reassure us of our greatness, the Young Astronauts Program reassures us that we will keep dreaming new dreams and keep moving forward.

Let me say a word now to the young people who are here today. These grounds have seen some very proud moments, welcomed some very important people. But none have been more important than you, because you are America's future. In the years to come, it's going to be up to you to point the way and to keep America moving forward. And I believe you'll succeed beyond what we can even imagine.

America's history has not been one of accepting what is, of knowing limits — but of striving and working to build what can be. And there's nothing we can't do if we set our minds to it. There's nothing we can't achieve. And that's the way it's always been in America, from the time that the first covered wagon with the pioneers headed west, to when our astronauts put the first American footprints on the Moon, we've proved that there is no problem so big that it can stop progress.

Remarks of the President in Ceremony for the Young Astronaut Program, October 17, 1984.

#### Prayer in School Radio Address by the President February 25, 1984

The act that established our public school system called for public education to see that our children learned about religion and morality. References to God can be found in the Mayflower Compact of 1620, the Declaration of Independence, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem. Our legal tender states, "In God We Trust."

When the Constitution was being debated at the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin rose to say, "The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see that God governs in the affairs of men. Without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." He asked: "Have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?" Franklin then asked the Convention to begin its daily deliberations by asking for the assistance of Almighty God.

George Washington believed that religion was an essential pillar of a strong society. In his farewell address, he said, "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." And when John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was asked in his dying hour if he had any farewell counsels to leave his children, Jay answered, "They have the Book."

But now we're told our children have no right to pray in school. Nonsense. The pendulum has swung too far toward intolerance against genuine religious freedom. It's time to redress the balance.

Pictured below: President Reagan enjoys the company of some of the participants in the Young Astronaut Program at a Ceremony on the South Lawn. For information about this program, first check with your local school. If no facts are available contact The Young Astronaut Council, 1015 15th Street, N.W., Suite 905, Washington, D.C. 20005





Young Americans greet the President as he arrives at a rally in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, October 16, 1984

## Taxes, Economy, Unemployment and Deficit

Radio Address by the President January 26, 1985

QUESTION: How do you feel about the economy after your first four years in office and what do you feel you achieved?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: We start out the new year with good news. The fundamental strength and vitality of our economy is unquestionable. In 1984, we grew stronger and faster than we have in over 30 years, while inflation stayed lower than any time since 1967. Last month, 340,000 people found new jobs in an economy that now employs more people than ever before in history. Like a sapling in springtime, our economy sprang back after a long winter and reached for the sun. Once we began to remove the crushing weight of high taxes and overregulation, nothing could hold us back.

Our challenge in 1985 is to build on the momentum of progress, to carry the economic expansion forward so that its opportunities and benefits touch every American. Let's make 1985 the year of opportunity. Let's use our economy, America's tremendous engine of prosperity, to break down the barriers and obstacles on the road to achievement...

After we've come so far, we must never turn back to the old destructive habits of taxing and spending.

In the next four years, all of us together are going to transform America. We're going to lower tax rates further by instituting, for the first time since the income tax began, real tax reform to make the entire system more simple, more fair and more efficient. And by lowering tax rates, we're going to encourage greater productivity and the creation of wealth for all.

Remarks of the President at the Executive Forum, January 25, 1985

## Remarks of the President to Business and Trade Representatives

February 4, 1985

QUESTION: What does your Administration plan to do about the deficit?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: Although we'll be pursuing budget reform and tax reform separately, they're each vital and necessary complements of the other. They're the twin elements of our program to keep our economy growing, creating jobs and spreading opportunity... Now is the time to get control of our budget, cut tax rates still further, and keep the cycle of prosperity going. Budget and tax reform won't be easy and we're going to need every ounce of support that you can give us in the months ahead to move this through the Congress.

### QUESTION: What do you intend to do for the poor and the unemployed?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: We have cut tax rates by almost 25 percent, yet the tax system remains unfair and limits our potential for growth. Exclusions and exemptions cause similar incomes to be taxed at different levels. Low-income families face steep tax barriers that make hard lives even harder. The Treasury Department has produced an excellent reform plan whose principles will guide the final proposal we will ask you to enact.

One thing that tax reform will not be is a tax increase in disguise. We will not jeopardize the mortgage interest deduction families need. We will reduce personal tax rates as low as possible by removing many tax preferences. We will propose a top rate of no more than 35 percent, and possibly lower. And we will propose reducing corporate rates while maintaining incentives for capital formation.

To encourage opportunity and jobs rather than dependency and welfare, we will propose that individuals living at or near the poverty line be totally exempt from Federal income tax. To restore fairness to families, we will propose increasing significantly the personal exemption.

Tonight, I am instructing Treasury Secretary James Baker to begin working with Congressional authors and committees for bipartisan legislation conforming to these principles. We will call upon the American people for support, and upon every man and woman in this Chamber. Together, we can pass, this year, a tax bill for fairness, simplicity, and growth making this economy the engine of our dreams, and America the investment capital of the world. So let us begin.

Tax simplification will be a giant step toward unleashing the tremendous pent-up power of our economy. But a Second American Revolution must carry the promise of opportunity for all. It is time to liberate the spirit of enterprise in the most distressed areas of our country.

This government will meet its responsibility to help those in need. But policies that increase dependency, break up families, and destroy self-respect are not progressive, they are reactionary. Despite our strides in civil rights, blacks, Hispanics, and all minorities will not have full and equal power until they have full economic power.

We have repeatedly sought passage of enterprise zones to help those in the abandoned corners of our land find jobs, learn skills, and build better lives. This legislation is supported by a majority of you... Let us place new dreams in a million hearts and create a new generation of entrepreneurs by passing enterprise zones this year...

Nor must we lose the chance to pass our youth employment opportunity wage proposal. We can help teenagers, who have the highest unemployment rate, find summer jobs, so they can know the pride of work and have confidence in their futures.

We'll continue to support the Job Training Partnership Act, which has a nearly two-thirds job placement rate. Credits in education and health care vouchers will help working families shop for services they need.

Our Administration is already encouraging certain low-income public housing residents to own and manage their own dwellings. It is time all public housing residents have that opportunity of ownership.

The Federal government can help create a new atmosphere of freedom. But States and localities, many of which enjoy surpluses from the recovery, must not permit their tax and regulatory policies to stand as barriers to growth.

Let us resolve that we will stop spreading dependency and start spreading opportunity; that we will stop spreading bondage and start spreading freedom... The social safety net for the elderly, needy, disabled, and unemployed will be left intact. Growth of our major health care programs, Medicare and Medicaid, will be slowed, but protections for the elderly and needy will be preserved.

Excerpt from the President's 1985 State of the Union Address to a Joint Session of Congress, February 6, 1985

#### African Hunger Relief Initiative

#### Excerpt from Statement by the President January 3, 1985

Hunger and extreme malnutrition now threaten over 14 million people in Africa through the end of 1985. In response to this human catastrophe, America has responded as a government and as a people in a tremendous outpouring of aid. This fiscal year, the United States has already committed to Africa over 600,000 tons of emergency food, worth \$250 million—this is in addition to our regular food aid program of about 1 million tons. The U.S. response has been far larger and faster than that of any other donor nation or institution...

Yet, even with all our country has already done to feed the starving, more —much more— must be accomplished by our nation in the months ahead to meet this challenge.

I am thus announcing today a comprehensive African hunger relief initiative. It addresses Africa's immediate emergency food needs, its pressing refugee problems, and its need to stimulate agricultural development on that continent.

(continued on page 8)

#### Abortion

QUESTION: What is your position on the subject of abortion?

PRESIDENT REAGAN: I have often said that when we talk about abortion, we are talking about two lives — the life of the mother and the life of the unborn child. Why else do we call a pregnant woman a mother? I have also said that anyone who doesn't feel sure whether we are talking about a second human life should clearly give life the benefit of the doubt. If you don't know whether a body is alive or dead, you would never bury it. I think this consideration itself should be enough for all of us to insist on protecting the unborn.

Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation by Ronald Reagan

I want you to know that I feel these days, as never before, the momentum is with us. Surely, recent advances in medical technology have changed the debate. Surgeons now speak of the "patient in the womb." We now know more than ever before about the unborn. Doctors have invented procedures that can give blood transfusions to the fetus and even administer medication. For the first time, through the new technique of real-time ultrasound imaging, we're able to see with our own eyes on film the abortion of a 12-week-old unborn child. The film, which, as you know, I'm sure, is narrated by a former director of the world's largest abortion clinic, provides chilling documentation of the horror of abortion during the first three months of life. It's been said that if every member of the Congess could see this film of an early abortion, that Congress would move quickly to end the tragedy of abortion. And I pray that they will.

Remarks of the President in a Telephone Communication to the 1985 March For Life, January 22, 1985



President Reagan sings along with students at St. Agatha's High School, Redford Township, Michigan, October 10, 1984

African Hunger Relief-continued from Page 7

Based on my discussions with African officials, congressional and private-sector leaders, heads of voluntary organizations, and members of my Administration, I am today directing that the U.S. Government's total commitment to Africa for fiscal year 1985 for emergency and regular food aid and disaster relief programs exceed \$1 billion. This aid will provide over 1.5 million tons of emergency food. This overall \$1 billion program will include resources already committed to Africa for the coming year, other AID resources, and a supplemental request on which I will ask the 99th Congress to take immediate action.

I have also today approved a \$25 million draw-down from the United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to finance urgent humanitarian assistance needs in Africa. This action is in response to appeals by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee for the Red Cross. This money will go to victims of the crises in Ethiopia, the Sudan, and other countries.

On the economic development side, efforts will continue on three fronts: policy reform, agricultural research, and human resource development...

Today's food emergency in Africa reemphasizes the need to tackle the underlying structural problems of agricultural stagnation in the Third World. Poor countries must become more productive in agriculture if they are to grow the food so needed to feed their people.

Socialist economic systems prevalent in underdeveloped countries, have failed to achieve economic growth and have weakened agricultural production by not paying farmers a living wage. As a result of this, coupled with the failure of the Soviet Union to fulfill its promises of economic assistance, an increasing number of Third World countries once dominated by the socialist model are experimenting with free market approaches.

The United States Government will thus implement a new food aid policy to be called "Food for Progress." This policy will emphasize use of America's agricultural abundance to support countries which have made commitments to agricultural policy reform during a period of economic hardship, including: (1) adequate price levels for agricultural production, based on market principles, and (2) improved rural infrastructure and private-sector involvement.

Provisions of "Food for Progress" will be presented to Congress this year. We hope that this approach holds the promise to help prevent tragedies like Ethiopia from recurring in future years.

We encourage young Americans to consult other reference material at their local or school libraries for more details. Federal agencies also have printed information to answer your questions about their respective functions and policies. YA-66 (3rd Rev.) RES World Hunger and what we are doing about it

### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

March 20, 1985 (XXXY66)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your message. The President is always pleased to hear that young Americans are taking a personal interest in their country's response to the hardships and suffering endured by some of their brothers and sisters sharing our globe. I regret the delay in this reply.

Since World War II, the United States has accepted as its responsibility the obligation to help those in need whenever and wherever a catastrophe strikes. We are doing so now in a massive effort to aid the victims of famine and drought in Africa. Also, as the leader of the free world and the champion of democracy, the United States has historically utilized its resources to help underdeveloped nations help themselves. We have done this by providing emergency aid, volunteering individual expertise and technical support, and by encouraging reforms that will enhance economic and political freedoms, stimulate economic growth, and allow these nations to increase agricultural output and otherwise improve the lives of their citizens. In fact, the United States established the Agency for International Development in 1961 just for this purpose.

It is to your credit that you are eager to learn about and help those in need. There is much you can do in your own community to assist those less fortunate than yourself. I'm sure your parents and teachers would be glad to suggest how you can help others in your neighborhood and your community, as well as in our country and around the world. Because of your interest in this subject, I am sending you a copy of the President's statement on January 3 about U.S. food assistance policies in Africa and elsewhere.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President and Director of Correspondence

Inne Higgins

Mr. Michael Ortega (3/19/85)
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Enclosure: 1/3/85 Statement by the President

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With the President's best wishes,

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YA-66 (2nd Rev.)

RE: World Hunger and what we are doing about it

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 17, 1/984 (XXXY) 6

Dear Mr. Ortega:

Thank you for your message to President Reagan about United States participation in international efforts to alleviate hunger.

The United States has been a member since their inception of four United Nations agencies responsible for food and agricultural development: 1) The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which has a broad mandate to increase food production and alleviate hunger; 2) The World Food Program (WFP), which is responsible for multilateral food aid in the form of development assistance and as emergency relief; 3) the UN General Assembly as a high-level political forum on food issues; and 4) the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which finances projects for rural development.

The United States played the leading role in the creation of the World Food Program in 1962 as the principal source of food aid within the United Nations system. Our participation and financial assistance are changeled in three ways: 1) as a part of development projects designed to produce social and economic development; 2) as emergency food assistance responding to natural and man-made disasters; and 3) as distributor of commodities.

During the Administration of President Reagan, the United States has increased its contribution to WFP and remains its largest contributor. Under President Reagan, the United States is the largest contributor in the world of international food aid on the multilateral and bilateral levels. As you may know, the President signed a Proclamation on October 14, 1983, to observe World Food Day, marking the 38th anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agricultural Organization. I am enclosing a copy of the President's remarks on this occasion.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with the President on a matter which is also of great concern to him.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President

and Director of Correspondence

(1/13/84)

Mr. Michael Ortega Night Supervisor Correspondence Analysis Section Room 60 Old Executive Office Building Washington, DC 20500

Enclosure: 10/14/83 Remarks of the President

AVH/DOS/CGM/DE/CAD/RDC/AVH

-- YA×66 (Rev.)

RE: World Hunger and what we are doing about it

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1983

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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with the President on a matter which is also of great concern to him.

, 1983,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President and Director of Correspondence

(10/20/83)

∀inside address∀

Enclosure: 10/14/83 Remarks of the President

AVH/DOS/CGM/DE/CAD/RDC/AVH



E

YA-66 (Rev.)

RE: World Hunger and what we are doing about it

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Sincerely,

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President and Director of Correspondence

(10/20/83)

∀inside address∀

Enclosure: 10/14/83 Remarks of the President

AVH/DOS/CGM/DE/CAD/RDC/AVH

ENVELOPE

10/20/83

## RE: World Hunger and what we are doing about it THE WHITE HOUSE



WASHINGTON

September 30, 1983

Dear ∀name∀:

Thank you for your message to President Reagan about United States participation in international efforts to alleviate hunger.

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Sincerely,

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President and Director of Correspondence

(9/28/83)

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AVH/DOS/CGM/DE(CAD) RDC

End. 10/14/83 ROTP

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RE: World Hunger and what we are doing about it

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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with the President on a matter which is also of great concern to him.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins Special Assistant to the President and Director of Correspondence

(9/28/83)

∀inside address∀

AVH/DOS/CGM/DE/CAD

Date: 9/4/83

To: SEV

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosures:

Other: Idrafted by DOS in the

World Hunger and what we are doing about it.

SUCCESTED REPLY

Bear Mass Bernholtz!

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which you expressed your views about U.S. participation in international efforts to help alleviate hunger. The United States has been a member since their inception of four UN agencies responsible for food and agricultural development: 1) The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which has a broad mandate to increase food production and alleviate hunger; 2) The World Food Program (WFP), which is responsible for multilateral food aid both in the form of development assistance and as emergency relief; 3) the UN General Assembly as a high-level political forum on food issues; and 4) the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which finances projects for rural development.

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During the current Administration of President Reagan, the United States has increased its contribution to WFP and remains its largest contributor. Under his leadership, the United States is the largest contributor of international food aid on both the multilateral and bilateral levels.

Miss Jill Bernholtz, 621 East 11th Street, Carroll, Jowa,

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P.2-of 2

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AVH/DOS/COM/

Those that this letter clarifies our position on the importance of international efforts to alleviate hunger and our desire for continued 0.8; support of and participation in food aid programs.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with the President on a matter which is also of great concern to him.

Sincerely,

Sally Kelley

Director of Agency Liaison Presidential Correspondence

### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Date: 9/22/83

TO: Chuck

Submitted re. "hunger"

( drægted by State Core

FROM: CONNIE MACKEY

Presidential Correspondence -

Children's Unit

Room 20, Extension 7734 or 7735