[7/28/80-Not Submitted-DF]

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DATE: 28 JUL 80
FOR ACTION: JACK WATSON, AL MCDONALD, JODY POWELL, PHIL WISE
INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: OWEN MEMO RE US INITIATIVE TO RELIEVE AFRICAN FAMINE

+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (202-695-7850) +
+ BY: 1200 PM WEDNESDAY 30 JUL 80 +

ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: ( ) I CONCUR. ( ) NO COMMENT. ( ) HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:
TO:

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY— ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE CALL — PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. — ☐ FTS
☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Watson
The P. should not do announce + must be concurs.

should.

RECEIVED BY DATE TIME

63–109

U.S. G.P.O. 1980-311-156/26
FOR STAFFING
FOR INFORMATION
FROM PRESIDENT'S OUTBOX
LOG IN/TO PRESIDENT TODAY
IMMEDIATE TURNAROUND
NO DEADLINE
FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING
LAST DAY FOR ACTION

Should I announce on
Muslin?

ACTION FYI

ADMIN CONFID
CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET
EYES ONLY

VICE PRESIDENT
JORDAN
CUTLER
DONOVAN
EIDENBERG
EIZENSTAT
MCDONALD
MOORE
POWELL
WATSON
WEDDINGTON
WEXLER
BRZEZINSKI
MCINTYRE
SCHULTZE

ANDRUS
ASKEW
BERGLAND
BROWN
CIVILETTI
DUNCAN
GOLDSCHMIDT
HARRIS
HUFSTEDLER
LANDRIEU
MARSHALL

MILLER
MUSKIE
AIELLO
BUTLER
CAMPBELL
H. CARTER
CLOUGH
FIRST LADY
HARDEN
HERTZBERG
HUTCHESON
KAHN
MARTIN
MILLER
MOE
MOSES
PETERSON
PRESS
RECORDS
SANDERS
SHEPPARD
SPETH
STRAUSS
TORRES
VOORDE
WISE
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INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: OWEN MEMO RE US INITIATIVE TO RELIEVE AFRICAN FAMINE

+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +
+ BY: 12:00 PM WEDNESDAY 30 JUL 80 +

ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS
STAFF RESPONSE: ( ) I CONCUR. ( ) NO COMMENT. ( ) HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

I favor Muskie announcing
Phil
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 25, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY OWEN
SUBJECT: US Initiative to Relieve African Famine

As Bob Bergland reported to you last week, an extraordinary international effort is needed to avert extensive starvation in drought-afflicted parts of Africa and to continue aid to East African refugees. This memorandum outlines a planned US initiative to this end endorsed by State, IDCA, AID, USDA, OMB and NSC, which you may wish to announce.

Background

Drought is threatening to ruin a second successive growing season in almost all of Eastern Africa and parts of Western Africa. The prospect is for widespread famine among millions of Africans whose normal lot is malnutrition. This tragedy is likely to dominate the news from Africa this Fall and induce popular concern by religious and charitable organizations and friends of Africa in the United States.

USDA now estimates that the East African countries face an abnormal cereal import need in the next 12 months of 800,000 to 1,400,000 tons -- additional to their 1979-80 import levels. Our PL 480 program can cope with only part of this estimated need: about 150,000 tons from the FY 80 supplemental just received and 200,000 - 300,000 tons from the pending FY 81 appropriation, in addition to previously planned food aid to these countries. Other donors, including rich OPEC countries as well as Europe, Japan and Canada, must be enlisted to provide the balance.

We have explored with Director General Saouma of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and other food aid donors the idea of Saouma's calling an emergency conference to start organizing a coordinated action program. The emergency conference also would help broaden international participation in relief for Eastern African refugees next year. International aid pledges have met their minimum food needs this calendar year, but continuing drought will strain both local and global resources for refugee feeding next year.

Your announcement that the US is asking Saouma to call this conference would serve to give it wide public notice and would foreclose possible domestic criticism of indifference to a serious humanitarian problem.
RECOMMENDATION

That you announce that the US Government is asking the FAO to convene an emergency meeting of countries and international agencies interested in jointly providing food and other relief to millions of Africans facing famine in drought-affected countries. (State, Agriculture, IDCA, AID, OMB and NSC concur.) If you approve this recommendation, we will give Jody Powell the attached press release to issue if you do not make the announcement at an early press conference.

_____ Approve  _____ Disapprove

Attachment: Draft Press Release:
International Action to Relieve Famine in Africa
International Action to Relieve Famine in Africa

The drought now spreading across Eastern and parts of Western Africa threatens a great tragedy. Millions of people in these countries normally endure chronic malnutrition, and a food shortage can mean immediate starvation unless foreign aid is provided quickly to the most needy.

The people of fortunate and humane nations such as ours cannot stand by and watch children and oldsters starve or suffer permanent physical and mental damage from prolonged hunger.

Consequently, the President is calling today for an international emergency conference to mobilize aid to the drought-afflicted countries of Africa. We are asking the Director General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to convene an early meeting of governments of both regular food aid donor countries and other countries able to make financial contributions.

This conference should develop a coordinated program of action by the international agencies, such as the World Food Program, the European Community, national agencies such as the US Food for Peace Program, and cash contributors.

In addition, the conference should assure that the continuing food needs of East African refugees are provided for next year.
DATE: 28 JUL 80
FOR ACTION: JACK WATSON  JODY POWELL
AL MCDONALD  PHIL WISE

INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: OWEN MEMO RE US INITIATIVE TO RELIEVE AFRICAN FAMINE

ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: ( ) I CONCUR. ( ) NO COMMENT. ( ) HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

SHOULD THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCE OR MURKIE?
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 25, 1980

ACTION

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