

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 149

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the international response to the current need for food in the Horn of Africa remains inadequate.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2003

Mr. FEINGOLD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the international response to the current need for food in the Horn of Africa remains inadequate.

Whereas, according to the United Nations World Food Program, there are nearly 40,000,000 people at risk of starvation in Africa this year due to drought and widespread crop failure;

Whereas more than 14,000,000 of those people live in Ethiopia and Eritrea;

Whereas the World Food Program has raised only 25 percent of the \$100,000,000 it needs to assist 900,000 people in Eritrea;

Whereas increased food and transportation costs have reduced the purchasing power of aid organizations;

Whereas the United States has contributed more than any other donor country in responding to the food crisis;

Whereas food aid is only part of the solution to the complex problems associated with famine, and non-food aid is also critical to lowering fatality rates;

Whereas the number of people at risk of food shortages in the Horn of Africa could exceed the levels of the famine of 1984;

Whereas urban areas in the region lack effective food security and vulnerability monitoring and sufficient assessment capacity;

Whereas countries in Africa have the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates in the world;

Whereas malnutrition lowers the ability of people to resist infection by the HIV/AIDS virus and hastens the onset of AIDS;

Whereas a person infected with HIV/AIDS needs to consume a higher number of calories per day than the average person does in order to survive; and

Whereas there is not enough food in the assistance pipeline to satisfy the dire food needs of the people in drought-affected countries of the Horn of Africa: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the

2 President should—

3 (1) review our food assistance programs to en-

4 sure that we are as committed to, and successful at,

5 meeting food needs in Africa as we are to meeting

6 food needs in other parts of the world;

1 (2) take all appropriate measures to shift avail-
2 able United States food assistance resources to meet
3 food needs in the Horn of Africa, including
4 drawdowns of the remainder of the reserve stocks in
5 the Emerson Humanitarian Trust;

6 (3) encourage other donors to commit increased
7 food assistance resources through bilateral and mul-
8 tilateral means; and

9 (4) direct the Secretary of State, the Secretary
10 of Agriculture, and the Administrator of USAID to
11 work with international organizations, other donor
12 countries, and governments in Africa to develop a
13 long-term, comprehensive strategy for sustainable re-
14 covery in regions affected by food crisis that—

15 (A) integrates agricultural development,
16 clean water access, inoculations, HIV/AIDS
17 awareness and action, natural disaster manage-
18 ment, urban vulnerability measures, and other
19 appropriate interventions in a coordinated ap-
20 proach;

21 (B) estimates costs and resource require-
22 ments; and

- 1 (C) establishes a plan for mobilizing re-
- 2 sources, a timetable for achieving results, and
- 3 indicators for measuring performance.

