

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 402

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the 50th anniversary of the food aid programs established under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2004

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. DAYTON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the 50th anniversary of the food aid programs established under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954.

Whereas, in the aftermath of the Second World War, many countries did not have sufficient cash to buy the agricultural commodities needed to feed the people of those countries, especially in war-torn Europe and Asia;

Whereas, during the term of President Dwight David Eisenhower, it became apparent that the abundance of food available in the United States could be used as an instru-

ment in building a durable peace after the Second World War;

Whereas a concessional credit program was established under title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (commonly known as “P.L. 480”) (7 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), signed into law on July 10, 1954, to allow for sales of agricultural commodities from the United States to developing countries for dollars on generous credit terms or for local currencies, with proceeds to be used by participating governments or nongovernmental private entities to encourage economic development;

Whereas since the enactment of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, the title I program has facilitated sales of agricultural commodities from the United States, totaling an estimated \$30,000,000,000 to nearly 100 countries;

Whereas the Food for Peace program was established under title II of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.), to provide humanitarian assistance to poor and hungry people in developing countries, based on legislation originally introduced by Senator Hubert Humphrey;

Whereas during the half-century since the establishment of the Food for Peace program, the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture have worked together to provide 107,000,000 tons of food aid to developing countries, helping an estimated 3,400,000,000 people through 2003;

Whereas the Government of the United States has depended on the commitment, skill, and experience of dozens of pri-

vate voluntary organizations based in the United States, as well as the United Nations World Food Program, to carry out the Food for Peace program on the ground in developing countries; and

Whereas a number of countries that were early beneficiaries of both programs have emerged as democracies and strong commercial trading partners, including South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Mexico, and Turkey, in part as a result of development projects and food distribution programs conducted using agricultural commodities from the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) on the 50th anniversary of the date of en-
3 actment of the Agricultural Trade Development and
4 Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) on
5 July 10, 1954, recognizes the United States Agency
6 for International Development, the Department of
7 Agriculture, and associated partners for—

8 (A) providing emergency food assistance to
9 address famine or other extraordinary relief re-
10 quirements;

11 (B) forging linkages between the abun-
12 dance of food produced under the agricultural
13 system of the United States and people in need
14 of assistance throughout the world;

15 (C) undertaking activities to alleviate hun-
16 ger;

1 (D) promoting economic, agricultural, edu-
2 cational, and community development in devel-
3 oping countries;

4 (E) identifying the private partners capa-
5 ble of carrying out the mission of the programs
6 established under that Act;

7 (F) implementing procedures governing the
8 use and evaluation of the programs and funds;
9 and

10 (G) overseeing the use of taxpayers dollars
11 to carry out the programs; and

12 (2) declares that July 10, 2004, is a day that
13 recognizes—

14 (A) the 50th anniversary of the establish-
15 ment of the concessional credit program and
16 the Food for Peace program under the Agricul-
17 tural Trade and Development Act of 1954 (7
18 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.); and

19 (B) the accomplishments of the United
20 States Agency for International Development,
21 the Department of Agriculture, and associated
22 private voluntary organization and nongovern-
23 mental organization partners in alleviating hun-

- 1 ger and poverty, bolstering development, and
- 2 restoring hope around the world.

