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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

SCOTT COHEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
 GERYLD B. CHRISTIANSON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

November 18, 1983

Dear Mr. President:

We have seen many reports about the effects of the severe drought now plaguing at least twenty countries in all parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The picture which emerges from these reports is of a drought which is the worst in ten years for some countries and without parallel in this century for many others.

The prospect of serious malnutrition and even starvation is already very real for millions of Africans. As we know, the effects of malnutrition on children are often, tragically, irreversible. The current crisis is especially compelling in light of the fact that Africa is the only continent where per capita food production has been declining for the last decade.

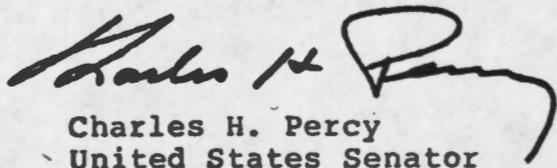
Beyond the terrible human cost of the drought, the adverse consequences for both political and economic stability seem inevitable. Your own Task Force on International Private Enterprise has called for increased food assistance to Africa, pointing out that basic needs must be met before private enterprise can be successful.

While the Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture have already dedicated considerable attention to this situation, we expect that much more food assistance will be required in the months ahead. We urge you to make sure that this Administration and the American people are in the forefront of those who are responding to the urgent food needs in sub-Saharan Africa.

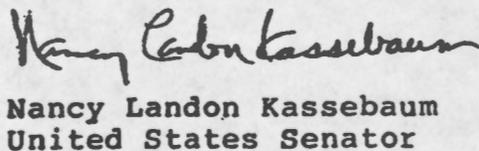
During the Congressional recess that begins soon, we hope that the Administration will take whatever steps may be necessary to meet emergency needs. Should additional resources be required, we are confident that our colleagues will give favorable consideration to any pertinent legislation. We encourage Administration officials to develop whatever legislative proposals may be appropriate to address both the current emergency and the longer-term challenge of reversing the declining food production rate in Africa.

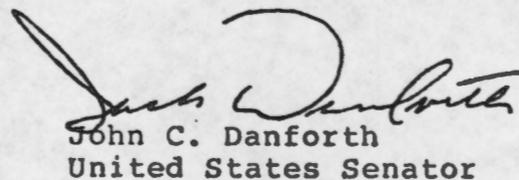
We believe that a concerted effort to help meet drought-related food needs in Africa is in the finest humanitarian tradition of the American people.

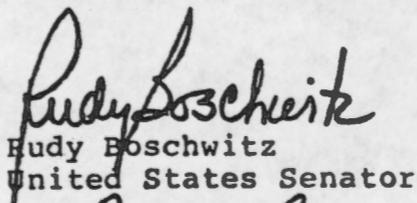
Sincerely,

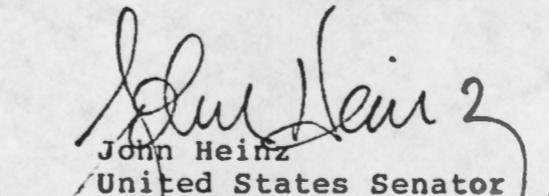

Charles H. Percy
United States Senator

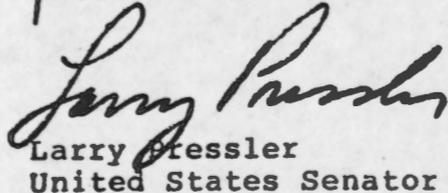

Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

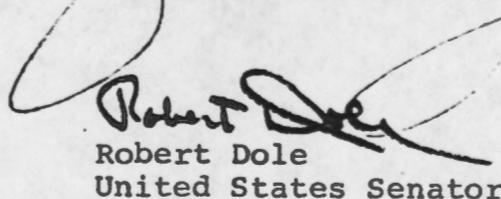

Nancy Landon Kassebaum
United States Senator


John C. Danforth
United States Senator


Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senator


John Heinz
United States Senator


Larry Pressler
United States Senator


Robert Dole
United States Senator

CHP:ayj

cc: The Honorable George Shultz
Secretary of State

The Honorable Peter McPherson
Administrator, Agency for
International Development

The President
The White House