

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “African Drought, 1973-1974 (1)” of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Transfer/Disposal Sheet

ITEM ID 00623

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM MOVED . . Five color slides of the following
scenes: Senegal - Deserted Village,
Mauritania - Refugee City, Mauritania
- Cattle-feeding Station, Senegal -
U.S. A.I.D. Sorghum in Dakar, Mali -
A.I.D. Airlift Bamako to Timbuktu.

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 031500016

COLLECTION TITLE STANLEY S. SCOTT PAPERS (WH Public
Liaison Office - Minority Affairs)

BOX NUMBER 1

FOLDER TITLE African Drought, 1973-1974 (1)-(3)

ACCESSION NUMBER 1998-NLF-022

MOVEMENT DATE 05/31/2001

TYPE OF MATERIAL Photographs

NEW LOCATION Audiovisual Collection

ARCHIVIST William H. McNitt

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

August 25, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: AL HAIG
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT
SUBJECT: US Aid in the African Famine

In response to your memorandum of August 21, 1973, below are my recommendations concerning the principal points made by Stan Scott in his memo of August 17 on US aid to the African famine.

1. The Scope of the US Relief Effort:

-- US assistance to date is considered adequate. Our commitment thus far has amounted to \$42 million, which represents 40 percent of the international effort. That total effort, \$135 million, equates with the kind of response made to Bangladesh at a similar stage of relief.

-- Beyond the immediate food shortage, which will continue to require careful attention in the coming 12 to 24 months, there is the problem of long-range recovery. The President has pledged that the US will join others to assist in this effort. Careful planning requiring a high level of technical skill is as important as funds.

-- We must avoid promising more than we can deliver. In addition, we must not generate false expectations of major new assistance to Africa as a whole, since we would have great difficulty in delivering even if we wanted to do so. The groups calling for a greater US role in the present disaster are basically interested in more overall assistance.

2. Coordination Responsibility:

-- On June 20 the President appointed Maurice Williams his Special Coordinator for American Assistance in the West African Drought Disaster. Williams has wide experience in emergency relief efforts. He has been the President's personal choice for coordinating relief efforts in Bangladesh, the floods in the Philippines, and, most recently, the earthquake disaster in Nicaragua.

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL



-- In the present situation he has coordinated a wide range of activities by the appropriate agencies of the Executive Branch. He has sent teams to the area to study various aspects of the problem and has a senior AID official in the area indefinitely as his personal on-the-spot representative. He has asked the National Academy of Sciences and MIT to undertake special studies dealing with rehabilitation. He will attend a series of meetings in Upper Volta next month, including a Heads-of-State meeting to further assess needs and coordinate efforts.

-- Consequently, my own view is that while Mr. Scott doubtless can make an important contribution, I believe the US effort should continue to be coordinated by Mr. Williams.

3. Need for a Comprehensive Plan:

-- I believe that the plan which Williams is pursuing is a comprehensive one and that perhaps Scott has not been adequately briefed on the full scope of our efforts.

-- However, more should be done to make the American public aware of this effort. It may be here that Scott could play a useful role.

4. Drought Relief Commission:

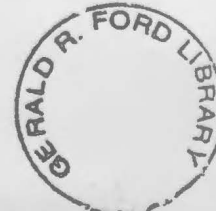
-- A blue-ribbon, drought relief commission may generate calls for additional assistance both for the current disaster and to Africa as a whole which the US Government would be unable to meet, thus causing an embarrassment to the Administration.

-- On the other hand, increased involvement by private groups might be encouraged by other forms of Presidential action, and once again, this is an area where Scott might play a useful role.

-- Increased personal association by the President with the relief and recovery activities might be considered.

-- He might personally endorse legislation pending in Congress to provide \$30 million in special assistance.

-- He might consider a personal letter to the upcoming meeting of the Heads of States of the affected countries which Williams will be attending.



5. Sources of Food Supply:

-- Grain supplies worldwide are short, and, actually, we are supplying rice to Vietnam. The Philippines, the other possible source of rice mentioned in Scott's memo, is also experiencing rice shortages.

-- Sorghum is the basic diet in the region of Africa we are assisting. They prefer it to the more expensive and very scarce rice.

6. Direct US Relationship to Africa:

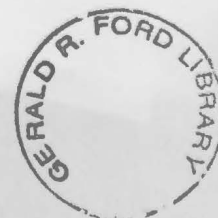
-- US assistance to West Africa is carefully labelled as such. Nonetheless, it is true that we work closely with other donors, particularly the ex-colonial powers. They are an important source of development financing for the area and our actions must seek to maximize their assistance.

7. Possible Role for Scott

-- Finally, I would recommend that Scott be briefed by Williams on US assistance to date and Williams' future plans.

-- In addition, we might consider requesting that Scott and Williams jointly develop a plan further to engage the President personally in US support activities.

-- They might also be requested to develop appropriate actions to engage the US public's understanding of the steps which the USG has taken and is planning to help the people of the stricken area.



the **match**
institution

August 9, 1973

Mr. Stanley Scott
Special Assistant to
the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Stan:

I think I should amplify my statement of conviction concerning the strategic importance of a powerful United States response to the West African famine.

In short, the need for help is critical; only the United States can make the effort succeed; the black population needs a reassurance of Presidential interest; and it offers an unparalleled opportunity for the exhibition of moral leadership by both the President and the nation that is so urgently called for at home and abroad.

I could amplify each of the above elements with statistics, history and emotion at length, but I resist that temptation to offer instead my most sincere form of commitment, a formal offer of my personal services and the institutional services of my firm on a no cost or non profit basis to see such a campaign through.

There are numerous gimmicks and conjectures currently afloat as to how the initiative can be regained in characterizing the Government as a continuing repository for humane concern, all such faint-hearted approaches are in my judgement doomed to failure. The West African crisis offers a robust and timely alternative. All that is needed to make such a program live is imagination, seriousness of purpose, the commitment of real resources and an undistorted image of humanistic concern.

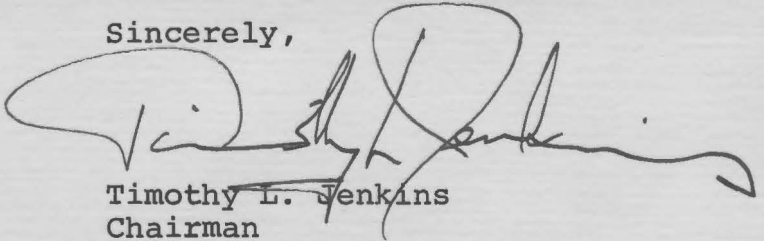


2101 S Street, Northwest . Washington, D. C. 20008 . 232-1414

Mr. Stanley Scott
August 9, 1973
Page 2

I believe the President and the United States capable of all four of these vital ingredients. And I believe that an excellent time and place to demonstrate this fact would be at the August 16th regional meeting at Quagadougou by prompt appointment of a special U. S. envoy for those sessions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy L. Jenkins", written over a horizontal line.

Timothy L. Jenkins
Chairman

TLJ:yg

cc: Rev. Jessie Jackson



STAN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

AFRICA -

4 YEAR DROUGHT - EMERGENCY HELP,
MUCH LIKE THAT IN CHILE AFTER EARTHQUAKE

MOBILIZING AGENCIES

DO D

- HELICOPTERS FOR AIRLIFT OPERATIONS
- ROAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT -

ACTION

- PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

- A. WELL DIGGING OPERATION
- B. FARM EXPERTS -
- C. IRRIGATION EXPERTS?
- D. VETERINARIANS
- E. DOCTORS
- F. GEOLOGISTS

STATE -

CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS

AID -

RED CROSS



August 10, 1973

Stan,

Here is what I thnk should be the type of presentation that would be meaningful to the President and yourself. Since you are arriving late, I will call you at your office or your home on this paper.

Hope this is helpful.

Ted



The drought continues to spread effecting 8-10 million people in six countries in Sub-Sahara, Central and West Africa. Without rain the famine which now exists will only persist and become increasingly widespread. There is an obvious need for immediate and massive worldwide assistance.

In order for full-scale attention to be directed to ending the famine, I suggest that the President greatly increase ^{the} scope of the relief effort in order to more realistically deal with the problem which plagues the people.

An initiative in the magnitude of the commitment of the U.S. in the Bangladesh catastrophe is illustrative of the conception of the magnitude of the relief required in this emergency. Obviously, an initiative on this scale would mean that the U.S. would commit a sum far-in excess of the millions initially announced. In the Bangladesh crisis, the U.S. relief and technical assistance totalled more than \$400 million. Due to U.S. involvement under President Nixon's leadership, highly visual, yet basic ~~impact~~ ^{impact} was made on the Bangladesh problem.

Meanwhile in the vast Sub-Sahara area, we are witnessing genocide by nature. Not only does the U.S. have a moral obligation to help abate this crisis, it is clear that the President's leadership would stimulate greater action by other countries, United Nation Agencies, and Multilateral



Agencies such as the World Bank.

Similiarly, the U.S. leadership would further stimulate the tremendous non-government resources available in private foundations, the business community, church and labor organizations, social and medical institutions and other humanitarian and civil rights groups.

Given the status of the problem and the President's interest in solidifying our relation with Africa, it would seem appropriate that as Special Assistant for minority affairs, my office should move to immediately coordinate a staff of technical assistants from the agencies of the executive branches of government to combat the crisis. Obviously, this effort should complement what is already being done. But its merit may well be that it will approach the crisis in terms of directing our resources to end rather than to merely temporary allay the ultimate consequences of this crisis. Not only must we feed the threatened populous and supply feed for the livestock on a temporary basis but we must look also to solving the technological problems which contributed to this catastrophe by turning our vast technical resources to harness the natural forces of this arid area.

In order to immediately focus national and international attention on this grave emergency, I suggest that the President announce a more comprehensive plan - broader in scope - than his previous action. The President's next step should



seek to inspire additional public support as well as total commitment from the private sector.

It is realistic that substantial money can be immediately directed to this problem from the discretionary funds available in the agencies.

Within ^{the} /context of this paper, the additional sums needed should be assessed and documented in a bill which can be submitted to the Congress by the Administration as a priority request to Congress when it reconvenes in early September.

It is my view that the sensitivity of the private sector can be best stimulated by appointing a Blue-Ribbon Drought Relief Commission of highly regarded private citizens. Leaders from the social, medical, civil rights, foundations and business community would be charged with directing and coordinating the involvement of private agencies. They should also serve as a liaison to government task forces involved in this crisis.

I envision that the involvement of nationally highly respected leaders would certainly spark the sensitivity of the general public to this cause. Some names comes quickly to mind such as:

While there is no question that the U.S. and other world powers have the technical ability to meet this crisis over the short and long range, we do have to deal with the political realities of an effort on the scope which is



herein projected.

Certainly in an era when our moral leadership is questioned at home and abroad, our total commitment to aborting this famine can do nothing but reap benefits from the international community while demonstrating to the non-white populace at home and elsewhere that our political differences stop short of people starving to death.

Interestingly, when we turn to the question of where can surplus food be found in adequate supply to meet this need, immediate sources which come to mind are rice supplies which can be purchased from Vietnam and the Philippines - two countries which well-know the havoc of man made and natural disasters. The technical and logistics necessary together, transport, and distribute these foodstuffs is readily available.



My concern is that we all appreciate the urgency with which we must activate the financial resources to expedite the delivery of these emergency supplies and services. Yet we need to began such long term projects as the exploration of alternative water resources, more viable irrigation systems and roads to transport supplies to harness the barriers imposed by the ravages of nature.

In the space of three short years, we have demonstrated to the victims of cyclone and civil strife in Bangladesh,

flood victims in the Philippines and earthquake victims in Nicaragua that America puts people first. Our commitment now to the people of Africa can be no less immediate and effective.

Traditionally, the United States has dealt with the West African nations through their European colonizers. We now have an opportunity to develop a direct relationship which will do much to enhance our sensitivity to the problems of the emerging nations and give them a chance to assess the level of our sincerity when the issue is not what we can get but what we have the capacity and willingness to give as a people.



Political Rationale - General Points

1. Will focus attention away from domestic problems re give the country a dramatic new spirtual and moral rallying point.
2. Solidify the American black community behind a Nixon-administered project- (Give Special Assistant Scott's Office an important role re Black community will see him doing something meaningful).
3. Switch the political focus temporarily from the Middle East to Africa.
4. Help the economies of underdeveloped nations from whom we buy the rice and grain.



West African 'Famine Zone'—A Road in Niger Leads From a Breadbasket Area Into a Wasteland

ON THE ROAD TO AGADEZ, Niger (AP)—Just ahead, the fabled mud-brick city of Agadez rises out of the wilderness at the edge of the Sahara.

Far to the south, on the fer-

perished in Niger, Chad, Mauritania, Upper Volta, Mali and Senegal.

A vast international relief effort is pouring hundreds of thousands of tons of food grain into the region to keep the

with steadier rainfall that insures that their little granaries will be full this fall.

The countryside in the south is dotted by small clusters of tiny mud huts or thatch homes that look like beehives.

On the way north, this relatively verdant countryside slowly gives way to patches of parched land and thin scrub.

In Tahoua, a cattle-marketing town of simple adobe buildings about halfway from Ni-

North of Tahoua, for mile after mile, the barren land is littered with dead cattle and camels.

Few people or villages are visible north of Tahoua until a man stumbles out from the

move. They are profiting from the death all around them, buying dying cattle for slaughter at 50 cents a head from other herdsmen moving south.

Lakes in the Road

Just north of Abalak, heavy rains have flooded parts of the

to some 15,000 Arabs and Tuaregs, the legendary "blue men" of the desert. In-Gall built around an oasis, has also become the home of 7,000 nomads forced from the desert, their herds destroyed.

shifting sands and oven-like heat. The nomads have pushed the population over 93,000. They stand in lines each day with cups and bowls in their hands at 25 relief distribution centers in Agadez and by

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR.
FROM: STANLEY S. SCOTT *SS*
SUBJECT: U. S. Aid in African Famine

The countries comprising the Sudano-Sahelian area -- Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad -- are experiencing a death-dealing drought that threatens starvation for at least six million of their 26 million inhabitants. There is an obvious need for immediate and massive worldwide assistance.

In order for full-scale attention to be directed to ending the famine, I recommend that the President greatly increase the scope of the relief effort in order to more realistically deal with the problem which plagues the people.

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Similiarly, the U. S. leadership would further stimulate the tremendous non-government resources available in private foundations, the business community, church and labor organizations, social and medical institutions and other humanitarian and civil rights groups.

Given the status of the problem and the President's interest in solidifying our relation with Africa, it would seem appropriate that as Special Assistant for Minority Affairs, my office should move to immediately coordinate a staff of technical assistants from the agencies of the executive branches of government to combat the crisis. Obviously, this effort should complement what is already being done. But its merit may well be that it will approach the crisis in terms of directing our resources to end rather than to merely temporary allay the ultimate consequences of this crisis. Not only must we feed the threatened populous and supply feed for the livestock on a temporary basis but we must look also to solving the technological problems which contributed to this catastrophe by turning our vast technical resources to harness the natural forces of this arid area.

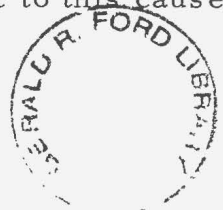
In order to immediately focus national and international attention on this grave emergency, I suggest that the President announce a more comprehensive plan -- broader in scope -- than his previous action. The President's next step should seek to inspire additional public support as well as total commitment from the private sector.

It is realistic that substantial money can be immediately directed to this problem from the discretionary funds available in the agencies.

Within the context of this paper, the additional sums needed should be assessed and documented in a bill which can be submitted to the Congress by the Administration as a priority request to Congress when it reconvenes in early September.

It is my view that the sensitivity of the private sector can be best stimulated by appointing a Blue-Ribbon Drought Relief Commission of highly regarded private citizens. Leaders from the social, medical, civil rights, foundations and business community would be charged with directing and coordinating the involvement of private agencies. They should also serve as a liaison to government task forces involved in this crisis.

I envision that the involvement of nationally highly respected leaders would certainly spark the sensitivity of the general public to this cause.



While there is no question that the U. S. and other world powers have the technical ability to meet this crisis over the short and long range, we do have to deal with the political realities of an effort on the scope which is herein projected.

Certainly in an era when our moral leadership is questioned at home and abroad, our total commitment to aborting this famine can do nothing but reap benefits from the international community while demonstrating to the non-white populace at home and elsewhere that our political differences stop short of people starving to death.

Interestingly, when we turn to the question of where can surplus food be found in adequate supply to meet this need, immediate sources which come to mind are rice supplies which can be purchased from Vietnam and the Philippines -- two countries which well-know the havoc of man-made and natural disasters. The technical and logistics necessary to gather, transport, and distribute these foodstuffs is readily available.

My concern is that we all appreciate the urgency with which we must activate the financial resources to expedite the delivery of these emergency supplies and services. Yet we need to begin such long-term projects as the exploration of alternative water resources, more viable irrigation systems and roads to transport supplies to harness the barriers imposed by the ravages of nature.

In the space of three short years, we have demonstrated to the victims of cyclone and civil strife in Bangladesh, flood victims in the Philippines and earthquake victims in Nicaragua that America puts people first. Our commitment now to the people of Africa can be no less immediate and effective.

Traditionally, the United States has dealt with the West African nations through their European colonizers. We now have an opportunity to develop a direct relationship which will do much to enhance our sensitivity to the problems of the emerging nations and give them a chance to assess the level of our sincerity when the issue is not what we can get but what we have the capacity and willingness to give as a people.



POLITICAL RATIONALE - GENERAL POINTS

1. Will focus attention away from over-played domestic problems and give the country a dramatic new spiritual and moral rallying point.
2. Black population needs a reassurance of Presidential interest; and it offers an unparalleled opportunity for the exhibition of moral leadership by both the President and the nation that is urgently called for at home and abroad.
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APPROVE: _____

DISAPPROVE: _____

COMMENT:

cc: Melvin Laird
Brice Harlow
Anne Armstrong
Leonard Garment
John Bennett

Attachment



August 17, 1973

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Similarly, the U. S. leadership would further stimulate the tremendous non-government resources available in private foundations, the business community, church and labor organizations, social and medical institutions and other humanitarian and civil rights groups.

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APPROVE: _____

DISAPPROVE: _____

COMMENT:

cc: Melvin Laird
Bruce Harlow
Anne Armstrong
Leonard Garment
John Bennett

Ron Ziegler
Ken Cole

SSS:cak

Attachment



SECRET-SENSITIVE

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

Visit to West African Drought States

10-14 Days



1. Washington - Dakar, Senegal

The port at Dakar is a major point of arrival of US foodstuffs destined for Senegal, Mali and Mauritania and Mrs. Nixon could visit this operation. In addition, Senegal is quite lovely and the weather pleasant. It would therefore make an appropriate rest stop after the long trip from Washington.

2. Senegal - Bamako, Mali

Our major food airlift effort into the ancient interior of Mali (Timbuktu), has been staged from Bamako. There are three Air Force C130s making the air drops and they are currently scheduled to remain in Bamako until October 15. Mrs. Nixon could view this operation, meeting with the American crewmen, and receiving what we know to be the genuine appreciation of the Mali Government.

3. Bamako - Niamey, Niger

Niger is one of the hardest hit of the states and the major recipient of our food assistance. An opportunity might be presented to visit refugee camps on the outskirts of town.

4. Niger - Ouagadougou, Upper Volta

This would be suggested as the last stop of Mrs. Nixon's visit. It is the headquarters of the Permanent Committee of the Six Affected States, and Upper Volta's President Lamizana was recently host to a planning meeting of the Chiefs of State of the area. He has been instructed to report on the drought to the UN and to friendly governments. Our Ambassador in Ouagadougou, with Peace Corps assistance, has been active in organizing a small-scale but successful air-food drop program to serve isolated areas. It would be appropriate for Mrs. Nixon to end her visit here with general discussions with President Lamizana and the Permanent Committee.

5. This itinerary does not include Chad, or Mauritania, the remaining two states of the affected area. They could be added if Mrs. Nixon has the available time. Also timing should take into account travel plans of the Chiefs of State of the host governments, particularly President Lamizana.

*Says,
Duran*

African Drought Relief Via Skylab Photo Data

By Joy Billington
Star-News Staff Writer

Among those waiting most eagerly for the Skylab team of astronauts slated

Below, a realative new-comer to the university, Dr. MacLeod, was pursuing his. They had never met, when university authorities were

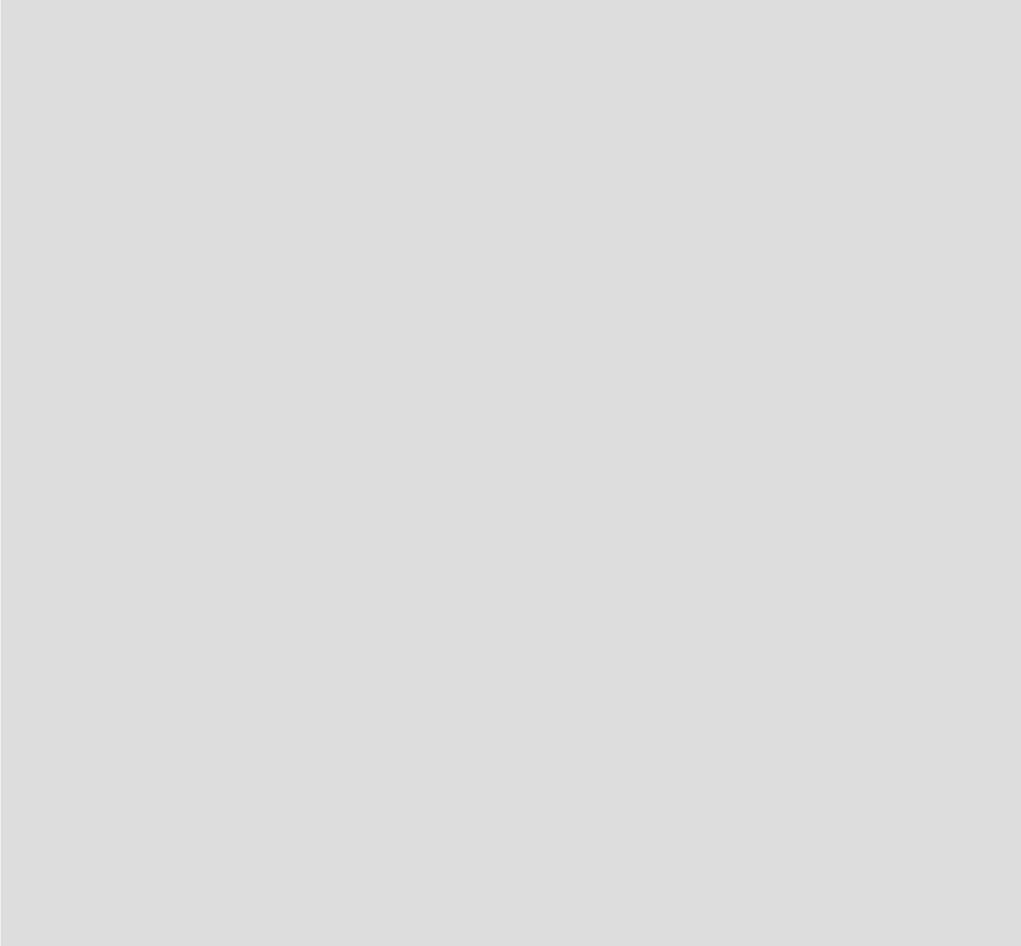
the region had started to register in people's minds, so the money was forthcoming," Randall says.

raising cattle for profit, had revitalized the land through controlled grazing management and fencing.



Nationwide Fast Called To Aid Starving Africans

In response to recent reports that the famine and drought crisis in West Africa have ended, representatives from Afro-Americans Against the Famine met with one month, wells to locate water cannot be dug in one month, trees to block the encroachment of the Sahara cannot be planted in one month. The struggle



To Be Equal

by *Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.*

National Director of Urban League



AID STARVING AFRICANS OR MILLIONS MAY DIE

Starvation has come to Africa, and unless a major international effort is successful, millions of people may die before this fall.

The affected area is at the lower end of the Sahara, taking in parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, and Chad

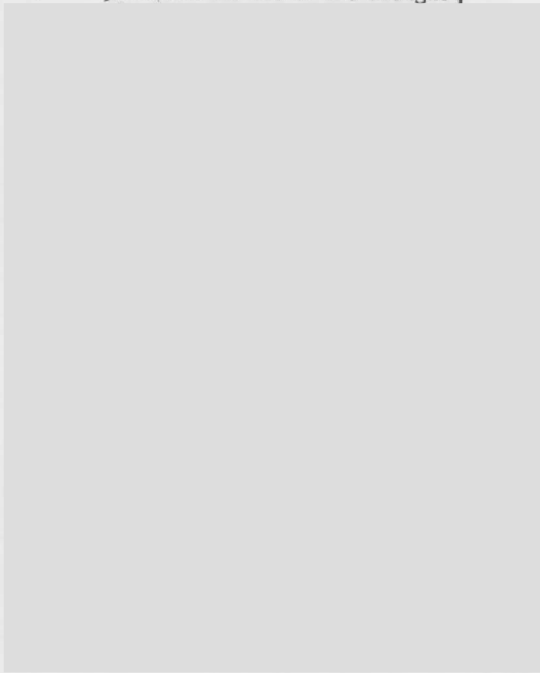
of hundreds of children dying in a measles epidemic, and the very old and very young are dying of other sicknesses.

The whole fabric of many tribal societies has already died. Nomadic cattle breeders have moved to the cities, abandoning a way of life

RD LIBRARY

Diggs Heads African Relief Effort Here

WASHINGTON — A coalition of 18 black organizations has been started to "apply political pressure" on the government to increase its aid to the drought-



WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS
Washington, D. C., Friday, August 17, 1973

CARL T. ROWAN

Poor West Africans Bitter on Aid

NIAMEY, Niger — The grim suffering and death brought on by the West African drought has raised anew some disturbing questions about "foreign aid" and relationships between Niger and the United States. Niger's President Hamani Diori, one of the ablest leaders that sweeps away the goodwill that might otherwise accrue from what has been a generally laudable U.S. contribution to the international relief effort. In Mali, officials made to fight against famine could go on for another five years. But there is doubt that the donor nations will maintain even the present level of emergency relief for so long a time let alone deal with





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23 August 1973

Mrs. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Mrs. Nixon:

You are aware, I am sure, of the disaster situation in the six drought-stricken countries of the Sahara.

It is the desire of the wives of the Ambassadors of these six countries involved and wives of Ambassadors of other interested African countries to sponsor a benefit to help their countrymen.

This benefit will be "The Desert Ball," which will take place on November 30, 1973. The wives of the Ambassadors of Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta join with me in this request for your consent to be honorary chairman of this event.

Sincerely,

Ann Willoughby
(Mrs.) Winston C. Willoughby

Benefit Chairman



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

uc

September 10, 1973

Dear Mrs. Willoughby,

How much I appreciated your letter. Reflecting the deep concern of our people for the people of the drought-stricken nations of Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta, it would indeed be a pleasure to have my name listed as Honorary Chairman of the benefit being planned for November 30th. May this evening be a great success and a unique opportunity for everyone to work together through this worthy project to lift the hopes and spirits of our friends in need.

With warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Winston C. Willoughby
Benefit Chairman
The African-American Institute
1707 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20036

SP:



Vc: William Codus - State Department

[ca. 8/23/73]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

STAN:

CONNIE MACK RAISES ONLY ONE ISSUE
IN HIS LETTER:

RESPONSE TO A LETTER WRITTEN
BY THE PRESIDENT OF NIGER
TO THE PRESIDENT.

DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE TO ASK AID TO
RESPOND TO THIS LETTER SINCE
IT MAY BE HELD UP HERE AT
THE WHITE HOUSE.

SUGGEST INSTEAD A MEMO
TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF AID
FOR A STATUS REPORT ON U.S.
INVOLVEMENT THERE.

DRAFT MEMO ATTACHED



~~AD~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE HONORABLE _____
ADMINISTRATOR
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FROM: STANLEY S. SCOTT, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
THE PRESIDENT

PLEASE FURNISH THE LATEST DATA ON ^{UNITED STATES'} U.S. ASSISTANCE
(FINANCIAL, GOODS, SERVICE, PERSONNEL, ETC.) TO THE
DROUGHT STRICKEN COUNTRIES OF AFRICA.



August 23, 1973

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As a member of your Administration, and a Black Republican of longstanding, I wish to convey my personal concern regarding a recent television documentary - hosted by Carl Rowan concerning the famine in Africa.

The President of Niger stated on the program that he had requested by letter, that you as the President of the United States come to the aid of his country in their hour of need. He contended that his letter of three months ago had not even been acknowledged.

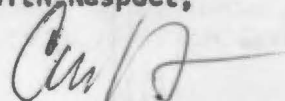
In 1956, when I join the Republican Party to work for your re-election, it was because I saw and I still see, a leader of charismatic and historical stature.

Today, Thursday, August 23, 1973, I had the opportunity to have lunch with the Counselor for Economic Affairs from Nigeria, the Honorable Olufemi Ani, who expressed his respect for you and the many Black Appointees that you have appointed.

He was very much concerned that the President of Niger had publicly voiced his discontent regarding a White House response to his letter. I promised Mr. Ani that as a member of your Administration, that I would add my voice to his request and that whoever received the letter from the President of Niger would have the simple courtesy of acknowledging the receipt of the letter.

This letter is directed to you because I know your compassion and my deep feeling of loyalty to you, will not allow me to let any challenge to your humanity to go unchallenged.

With Respect,



Connie Mack Higgins
Special Assistant and Director
Equal Employment Opportunity
and Compliance



BCC: Mr. Stanley Scott

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Mr. Stanley S. Scott
Special Assistant to the
President
Executive Office Building
Room 179
Washington, D. C. 20500



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The White House
Washington

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7 PMS MR. STANLEY SCOTT

8
9 SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

10 C/O THE WHITE HOUSE

11 WASHINGTON, D. C.

12
13 DEAR GENERAL JAMES,

14
15 TWENTY-SIX MILLION PEOPLE OF SIX CENTRAL WEST AFRICAN NATIONS:
16
17 SENEGAL, MAURITANIA, MALI, UPPERVOLTA, NIGER AND CHAD - ARE
18
19 SUFFERING A MAJOR NATURAL DISASTER. DROUGHT HAS SET IN. CATTLE
20
21 AND ANIMALS ARE DYING. CROPS CAN NOT GROW. CHILDREN CAN NOT EAT.
22
23 RIVERS ARE DRYING UP. DRINKING WATER IS DISAPPEARING. DISEASE
24
25 THREATENS TO RUN RAMPANT. THIS IS A TERRIBLE, FRIGHTENING
26
SITUATION FOR THESE TWENTY-SIX MILLION PEOPLE. IN JUNE OF THIS
YEAR THE AMBASSADORS OF THE SIX AFFECTED SUB-SAHARA NATIONS

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CAME TO OPERATION PUSH AND REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THE FAMINE RELIEF A NATIONAL PRIORITY AND TO URGE THE SUPPORT FROM PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES. WE THEN INITIATED A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE AFRICAN RELIEF DRIVE TO COLLECT FOOD AND MONEY TO AID THOSE VICTIMIZED BY THIS DISASTER. WE HAVE COLLECTED APPROXIMATELY 50 TONS OF DRIED FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. #BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION, IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE THE FOOD STUFFS FLOWN INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES. WE ARE IN DIRE NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE USE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO FACILITATE THIS AIRLIFT. # I AM SURE THAT YOU APPRECIATE THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS DISASTER AND THE NEED TO SUPPLY AID AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, I, THEREFORE, REQUEST A CALL FROM YOU AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE SO THAT WE MIGHT DISCUSS THIS REQUEST. I CAN BE REACHED AT

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TELEPHONE # 312-373-3366.
IN PEACE AND FREEDOM,
REV. JESSE L. JACKSON

