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11/15/74

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *dg*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

~~ROY L. ASH~~

SUBJECT:

Food Aid Issues Raised by the  
World Food Conference

As expected, the World Food Conference has increased the visibility of the food aid issue in the U.S. and abroad. In Rome, there is movement toward the long sought after U.S. goal of encouraging other developed countries to share in the food aid burden, especially in the next several critical months until a new crop can be harvested.

However, the U.S. decision not to commit now to providing more food aid in the short term will be interpreted by many as a failure "to do everything humanly possible to assure that our future contribution will be responsive to the growing needs." Standing alone, this well publicized decision will leave the U.S. open to mounting criticism as the consequences of increasingly severe food shortages abroad become apparent over the next few months.

To avoid this outcome, the U.S. should act, even while the World Food Conference continues, to provide positive leadership to enhance the desirable momentum toward more burden sharing that is developing in Rome, while at the same time not ending up paying a disproportionate amount of the bill. Particularly, we should try to assure that the short term U.S. and world crop situation does not undermine attempts to develop solid longer term solutions to the world food problem.

To provide this positive leadership now and in the weeks immediately ahead, the U.S. must provide answers to the following questions:

1. Given the U.S. decision not to provide additional food aid at this time, what can the U.S. do now to help maintain the momentum toward other developed countries contributing more food aid in the next several months?

2. What can be done to make Secretary Kissinger's commitment -- that the U.S. will do "everything humanly possible" to help feed the starving and the hungry -- credible for Americans and other nations?
3. What can the U.S. do to assure Americans and other countries that the pressures created by today's food shortages have not caused us to shrink from accepting a responsible leadership role in helping develop solutions for the longer term world food problem?

RECOMMENDATION

That you ask the International Food Review Group to consider the above issues and, at the earliest possible time, to recommend actions that the U.S. should take at the World Food Conference, and in the weeks immediately following the Conference, to provide positive leadership on the world food issue within the limits of our responsibility and the resources we are willing to make available for such an effort. (Seidman, Scowcroft and Cole concur.)

APPROVE

RCF.

DISAPPROVE

\_\_\_\_\_

STAFFING

## THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: November 12, 1974

Time:

FOR ACTION: Bill Seidman (for EPB) cc (for information):  
Brent Scowcroft  
Ken Cole

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:

Time:

Wednesday, November 13, 1974 m

4:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Ash memo (11/12/74) re: Food Aid Issues  
Raised by the World Food Conference

ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ For Necessary Action☒ For Your Recommendations☐ Prepare Agenda and Brief☐ Draft Reply☒ For Your Comments☐ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

11/13 3<sup>55</sup> p - Cole ok  
Scowcroft 4p - Substance fine  
refer to HAK memo that  
establishes new committee  
11/13 6p Dennis Wood charging  
memo to conform to P.  
decision  
11/14 - Change approved by Cole &  
Seidman w/p

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a  
delay in submitting the required material, please  
telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.  
For the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

11/14/74

Roger Porter:

Attached is the new memo -- only the recommendation paragraph was changed. Could we have clearance from Mr. Seidman as soon as possible, today. Thank you.

Dianna Gwin  
Office of the  
Staff Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 12, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT

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ROY L. ASH

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To avoid this outcome, the U.S. should act, even while the World Food Conference continues, to provide positive leadership to enhance the desirable momentum toward more burden sharing that is developing in Rome, while at the same time not ending up paying a disproportionate amount of the bill. Particularly, we should try to assure that the short term U.S. and world crop situation does not undermine attempts to develop solid longer term solutions to the world food problem.

To provide this positive leadership now and in the weeks immediately ahead, the U.S. must provide answers to the following questions:

1. Given the U.S. decision not to provide additional food aid at this time, what can the U.S. do now to help maintain the momentum toward other developed countries contributing more food aid in the next several months?

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3. What can the U.S. do to assure Americans and other countries that the pressures created by today's food shortages have not caused us to shrink from accepting a responsible leadership role in helping develop solutions for the longer term world food problem?

RECOMMENDATION

That you ask the Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board to consider the above issues and, at the earliest possible time, to recommend actions that the U.S. should take at the World Food Conference, and in the weeks immediately following the Conference, to provide positive leadership on the world food issue within the limits of our responsibility and the resources we are willing to make available for such an effort.

APPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hormets*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR

November 12, 1974

The Secretary of the Treasury  
The Secretary of Agriculture  
The Deputy Secretary of State  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
The Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors  
The President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations  
Executive Director, Economic Policy Board  
Executive Director, Council on International Economic Policy

SUBJECT: Follow-Up Group to World Food Conference

The President has directed that an International Food Review Group, comprising the addressees of this memorandum, be established to coordinate the implementation of United States' decisions and initiatives stemming from the World Food Conference. It should, as appropriate, make recommendations on further actions to be taken to implement the measures announced at the Conference. The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Agriculture are to be Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

The Group should coordinate its recommendations, as they relate to U.S. agriculture and trade policy, with the Executive Committee of the President's Economic Policy Board.

The International Food Review Group should create a working group chaired by the representative of the Secretary of State with the representative of the Secretary of Agriculture as Vice Chairman. Other members of the working group should be representatives of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy and the President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations. The working group should coordinate its activities with U.S. Government efforts in multilateral trade negotiations. Other agencies may be invited to participate in the working group as appropriate.

*H* *A. Kissinger*

Henry A. Kissinger

*all sth  
OPEEC  
This is how  
changed to  
add OMB  
Treasury  
but the rest  
remain the same  
RH*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 13, 1974

NOTE FOR JERRY JONES

FROM: BOB HORMATS *BH*

The NSC view on Roy Ash's memo to the President on food aid issues is that the substantive questions raised merit consideration but that, in the light of the fact that the President has directed establishment of the International Food Review Group, that Group rather than the EPB should consider the issues raised by Ash.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 15, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROY L. ASH  
FROM: JERRY H. JONES  
SUBJECT: Food Aid Issues Raised by the  
World Food Conference

Your memorandum to the President of November 12 on the above subject has been reviewed and your recommendation outlined in the memorandum has been approved.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
Henry Kissinger