

DECEMBER 22, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
-----NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 9005 -- International Development and Food Assistance Act of 1975.

This authorizes foreign economic development assistance appropriations of \$1,567 million for 1976, up to one-quarter of that total amount for the transition quarter, and \$1,497 million for 1977, and contains significant policy provisions relating to Public Law 480 and the Foreign Assistance Act.

The bill provides that not more than 25 percent of food aid commodities under Title I (concessional sales) may go to countries having a per capita gross national product above \$300, unless the President certifies that such use is required for humanitarian purposes and neither House disapproves such use by simple resolution within 30 days of the President's certification.

The bill also establishes an overall annual minimum of 1.3 million tons of commodities to be distributed under Title II (grants) and further stipulates that at least 1 million tons of these commodities be distributed through non-profit, United States voluntary agencies and the United Nations World Food Program.

A third provision of the bill relating to Public Law 480 would permit the cancellation of up to 15 percent of the repayments due under Title I sales agreements in any fiscal year for recipient countries taking specific self-help development measures.

H. R. 9005 contains a number of provisions relating to the Foreign Assistance Act including the following which will:

- Add a new Title XII, aimed at strengthening the capacities of U. S. land grant and other universities in program-related agricultural institutional development and research activities.
- Stipulate that no less than 67 percent of the funds appropriated for population and health programs are to be used for family planning activities;
- Prohibit the furnishing of development assistance to any government which engages in a "consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally

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recognized human rights," unless the aid will directly benefit needy people in the country involved.

- Earmark a total of \$30 million over the 1976-1977 period to be used to reimburse voluntary agencies for ocean freight costs;
- Permit the President to waive, on a project-by-project basis, the requirement that a recipient country put up at least 25 percent of the cost of each project or activity for countries that are on the United Nations "relatively least developed" list;
- Provide that the President establish criteria to assess the commitment and progress of countries and international organizations in meeting the development objectives of the act;
- Add new restrictions on the issuance of housing guaranties, including limiting such guaranties to countries which have received development assistance in the previous two fiscal years and restricting the total value of guaranties that may be made to any country in a given year.
- Permit the use of up to \$1 million annually in reimbursements from other countries for U.S. technical assistance, and provide that such reuse may be repaid over a 3-year period, with interest at Export-Import Bank rates;
- Prohibit the furnishing of development assistance to any country which objects, on the basis of race, religion, national origin, or sex, to the presence in such country of a U.S. officer or employee who is carrying out any program authorized by the Act;
- Establish a ceiling of \$90 million on economic aid to Chile in 1976.
- Prohibit any debt owed to the United States as a result of a loan made under this Act from being settled for less than the full amount unless Congress, by concurrent resolution, approves such settlement.

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