

Mr. Hooper

Dean Rusk  
Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey  
George W. Bush  
Mr. Sen

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION

AND DEVELOPMENT LUNCHEON

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JULY 20, 1966

Bang. Frank  
Have together  
Have separately

Sen. Hubert  
Dave Bell

The greatest threats to peace in the world today are poverty and hunger.

↳ There was a time -- and not long past -- when men <sup>and nations</sup> ~~helpless~~ stood by in the face of poverty and hunger. They were accepted as inevitable.

↳ But today, for the first time in human history, man has the capacity to overcome both poverty and hunger.

↳ We have the tools, the knowledge, the technology, and the means.

↳ The only question is ~~this~~: Do we have the will?

↳ Today my subject is hunger.

↳ Despite our resources, the world food situation has changed dramatically -- and ominously -- in recent years.

↳ Thirty years ago the less developed regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America were exporting 11 million tons of grain yearly to the developed countries, principally Western Europe. During the war decade of the 1940's that flow was reversed. This year more than 30 million tons will move from the "have" to the "have not" regions of the world. And we are not meeting the need.

↳ It is clear that decisive action must be taken if famine is to be avoided in the densely populated developing countries.

*American Surpluses are fast disappearing*

If present trends continue for another 10 to 20 years, half the world will be facing outright starvation whenever there is a bad harvest, and serious malnutrition even when there is not.

↳ In such a world, what are the prospects for peace?

The ultimate remedy is to achieve a balance between food and people. There is an obvious need for family planning policies to be adopted on a wide scale.

↳ But even if this is done, present population growth will not drop sharply before the end of the 1980's.

↳ So the next two decades will be critical.

To meet this crisis, a radical increase is needed in the food output of the developing countries.

*Both* This cannot be done by treating agriculture in these countries as an isolated sector. It requires modernization in both agriculture and its supporting industry.

↳ It requires massive capital investment and, in many cases, a reallocation of development priorities.

↳ To wage this war, a strategy with four main components is needed in the developing countries,

① ↳ First, the marketing mechanism must be modernized, emphasizing the need to give the farmer an incentive to produce more.

↳ He must be able to sell his products at a fair price. And he must be able to buy essential consumer and producer goods in return. The farmer <sup>producer</sup> must be offered a chance to play a rewarding part in an expanding market economy.

② ↳ Second, the farmer's capital plant must be improved, through a sound rural development program.

This means roads, water, fertilizer plants, rural electrification, agricultural research centers, better seeds, more farm equipment, good pesticides and insecticides, and adequate credit at reasonable rates of interest.

③

↳ Third, the farmer must be educated to receive and absorb modern agricultural technology.

We must bring education not only to the farmers of today, but to children who will be the farmers of tomorrow. That this will take a generation is no reason for despair; it is, rather, an urgent reason to get on with it.

④

↳ Fourth, we must make sure that farmers are healthy enough to do the job.

↳ Adequate health programs are fundamental to expanding agricultural development and should never be neglected.

Such programs range from diet improvement for undernourished children to malaria control and projects to insure livestock health.

↳ These four elements are the beginnings of a winning strategy in the war on hunger. These elements are all part of the same effort and cannot be separated.

∟ If this strategy is to be carried out, we in the developed countries will need to expand our current programs of aid and technical assistance. This means giving agricultural development top priority in our foreign assistance programs.

∟ To this end, the United States is increasing its provision of technical and capital assistance for agricultural improvement, for health, and for education.

∟ We also are providing needed food to meet emergencies, such as those incurred under unexpected adverse weather conditions.

∟ Since 1954 the American Food for Peace Program has provided more than 140 million tons of food to hungry people.

∟ To help meet a continuing emergency food need, President Johnson has launched the Food for Freedom program, now awaiting final action in Congress.

Under this program, our acreage and farm production would be expanded as necessary to feed hungry people in areas of emergency need.

The new program also contemplates two related steps! Greatly expanded emphasis on self-help efforts in and by the recipient countries; and an expansion and improved coordination of efforts in the field of technical agricultural assistance in the developing nations by the nations here represented.

In this effort, private industry can play an enormously constructive role. I have in mind particularly the chemical fertilizer and pesticide manufacturers and the food processing industry, which are already doing great things in developing regions.

Recipient-countries must invite, welcome, encourage, private investment.

Let me make it clear: The United States cannot meet the need alone. (our surpluses are gone)

An enlarged effort will be required by every country represented in this room.

Our effort should be directed to the following objectives:

↳ To provide developing countries with the technical aid required to increase food production within their borders.

↳ To meet emergency needs for food shipments while development programs are created and put into operation.

↳ To give these countries whatever help they request in arranging family planning programs.

To attain these objectives we must have an overall plan for coordinating our aid programs. The place to develop this plan and to facilitate its execution is here -- in the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD.

↳ This Committee represents a collective 6 billion-dollar annual aid effort by the 15 leading sources of aid today: 14 national governments and the Commission of the European Economic Community.

↳ Its predecessor, the OEEC, was created by a great challenge. → The postwar breakdown of Europe's economy.

↳ To meet this challenge, it had to develop new techniques of international cooperation. ↳ Its achievement is one of the great success stories of our time.

But, ↳ Now we face a new and enlarged challenge. → Worldwide hunger. Again, new techniques of international cooperation are needed.

↳ We in DAC must answer two key questions:

↳ How much help is needed?

↳ How can our <sup>respective</sup> countries best work together in providing that help?

↳ Our study should look not just to piling up data, but should look to action -- action directed toward a clear and feasible goal. → The eradication of large-scale famine and hunger.

↳ Every country represented in this room -- including my own -- will have to do more, far more, in this effort than is being done today. The United States is ready to join with others in doing so.

↳ In the last decade all our countries have grown richer. But our levels of aid have not expanded at an equal rate.

↳ We in the industrial countries, taken as a whole, are providing less, proportionately, to others than we did ten years ago. At the same time the need has grown.

↳ As you learned this morning, President Johnson has offered to increase this country's pledge to the World Food Program, if other participants, together, will match our pledge. — *and again not from surpluses — But from expanded production.*

↳ He has also expressed our willingness to join other producer nations in creating a World Food Reserve, if this is needed to meet emergency requirements.

↳ Both these initiatives underline the President's conviction that a program which affects us all can best be met by <sup>an</sup> effort which involves us all.

↳ In this expanding effort, such existing international institutions as the FAO, the World Bank, IDA and the UN Development Program have a large role to play.

↳ And every country, whatever its political and social system, should have an opportunity to play a part in this humanitarian effort.

It would be welcome news indeed if the Soviet Union and the nations of Eastern Europe were to join the FAO and the World Food Program.

And I hope that the rulers of mainland China may some day decide that cooperation with others, in fighting hunger, is more rewarding than policies which presently hinder their relations with the rest of the world.

↳ I hope they may recognize that the true enemies of the  
people -- the enemies to be purged -- are hunger and want.  
These are enemies without ideology. These are enemies  
which threaten all nations.

↳ At the turn of this century the American poet Edwin  
Markham, inspired by Millet's painting, "The Man With  
the Hoe," described the man still standing today in a hundred  
thousand villages around the world:

"Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans

Upon his hoe and gazes on the ground,

The emptiness of ages in his face,

And on his back the burden of the world."

And Markham cried out:

"O masters, lords and rulers in all lands,

Is this the handiwork you give to God?"

↳ This is the question we must ask ourselves today.

For the man with the hoe, bent though he may be,  
will not forever stand bowed -- nor should he.

↳ His fate, and ours, need not be determined by  
ruthless, unjust tides of history.

↳ And world peace need not be hostage to the bursting  
pressures which surely must build in human societies cut  
off from the affluence and well-being which surround them.

↳ For our world today is a world in which we do have  
the means to break the patterns of centuries and to build  
a new foundation for a peaceful world order.

~~We have the means. The only question is the  
question of our will.~~

*To do less, would be  
to fail in our responsibility.*

July 20 1966  
[Transcript?]

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
AT THE MEETING OF DAC

Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary.

Secretary-General Kristensen, Dr. Sen, Mr. Thorp, Secretary Freeman, and I must mention Mr. Woods because he is in control of such vast sums of money, my good friend George Woods, your excellencies, delegates to this very important conference of the Development Assistance Committee for economic cooperation.

I was so pleased to hear the Secretary of State remind us once again that we're meeting in the Benjamin Franklin Room and he gave you the diplomat's interpretation of this room. Let me give you the politician's interpretation. Diplomatically, Dean Rusk has reminded you of Benjamin Franklin's ambassadorial service, his great service to this republic as he sought foreign aid, military assistance, soft loans, and all that comes with it. I'd like to tell you that Benjamin Franklin was also a great politician. He understood one axiom of politics that every man and woman should understand that's in it. We hang together or we hang separately and don't forget it. And as we're here today we need to think of working together lest we be hung separately. Or I could put it in a more positive and constructive frame. We have a wonderful opportunity ahead of us, if we have learned the lesson of cooperative and collective action for common goals.

To me as I review the world scene, the greatest threats to peace in the modern world are poverty and hunger. And any world afflicted by poverty and hunger -- there is in truth no peace.

There was a time--not long past--when men and nations stood by helpless in the face of poverty and hunger, knowing not what to do nor having the means to do anything about it. They accepted poverty and hunger as inevitable because they knew no answer.

But today, for the first time in human history, man has the capacity to overcome both poverty and hunger.

In fact, we have the tools, the knowledge, the technology, and the means to achieve our victory over these ancient enemies of mankind.

The only question is: Do we have the will, the determination? And that's why we're here today, to, in a sense, analyze ourselves and to determine individually and collectively if we have the will to do what we know we can do if we but will to do it.

Today my subject is hunger, or to put it in a constructive frame--food.

But despite our modern resources, and they're many, the world food situation has changed dramatically--and ominously--in recent years.

Thirty years ago the less developed regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America were exporting around 11 million tons of grain yearly to the developed countries, represented here and principally of course in Western Europe. During the war decade of the 1940's that flow was reversed and this year more than 30 million tons will move from the "have" to the "have not" regions of the world.

But I must remind you that America's surpluses which have characterized this post-war period are fast disappearing, if not, for all practical purposes, disappeared. With all of this we have not as yet met the needs.

It is clear that decisive action, and I repeat, action, must be taken if famine is to be avoided in the densely populated developing countries.

I know of no meeting in modern times that is of greater significance than this one because you are truly determining whether or not we will save life in the days ahead or forsake it and let the lives of millions of people be taken because of our neglect.

If present trends continue for another 10 to 20 years, half of the world will be facing outright starvation whenever there is a bad harvest, and serious malnutrition even when there is not.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, those are the known facts by every man and woman in this assembly, and the governments that you represent.

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I ask this question: In such a world, that we know to be, what are the prospects for peace? Or to put it another way, what are we willing to do to assure the peace, knowing the evil forces of hunger and poverty that gnaw at the very fabric of peace.

Now the ultimate remedy is of course, to achieve a balance between food and people. There is an obvious need for family planning policies to be adopted on a world wide scale.

But even if this is done, and done as well as we could hope to achieve it, present population growth will not drop sharply before the end of the 1980's.

So the next two decades will be critical for all of mankind.

Now to meet this crisis, a very radical increase is needed in the food output of the developing countries. Some people call them the less-developed countries. We know of the countries that we speak.

But this cannot be done by treating agriculture in these countries as an isolated sector. It requires modernization in both agriculture and in its supporting industry. It requires massive capital investment, public and private, and, in many cases, a reallocation of development priorities.

I digress for just a moment to emphasize that all too often we have been fascinated with the economic assistance that lends itself to the establishment of large industrial combines and plants. All to the good, to be sure, in its proper place. But if mankind has not enough food to eat, what good the industry? What good the steel plant, or the cement plant or the railroad or whatever it may be? Mankind first of all must be able to survive in order to be able to live a rich and rewarding life. Therefore, I suggest that we re-examine our priorities of assistance to the developing countries.

Now to wage this war against hunger and want, a strategy with four main components is needed in the developing countries.

I know that most of you here have already thought through these strategies or tactics. I'm privileged to be in the presence of distinguished foreign ministers, ambassadors--our good friend, the Foreign Minister of Canada here with us today--and many of us have talked through these opportunities and challenges that face us.

But I think that the four main components ought to be emphasized.

First, the marketing mechanism must be modernized, emphasizing the need to give that producer, that farmer, an incentive to produce more.

He must be able to sell his products at a fair price. And he must be able to buy essential consumer and producer goods in return. The farm producer, call him what you will--~~campesino~~ (?), peasant, farmer-- must be offered a chance to play a rewarding part in an expanding market economy.

Second, the farmer's capital plant must be improved, through a sound rural development program. Secretary Freeman has been emphasizing that here in our country for many of our own underprivileged, and in a sense, deprived, agricultural producers.

This means roads, water, and fertilizer plants, and rural electrification, agricultural research centers, better seeds, more farm equipment, good pesticides and insecticides, and adequate credit at reasonable rates of interest.

Everything I've mentioned is available--none of it experimental; all tested and tried. It's available in abundance if you'll but use it and apply it. It isn't as if we're talking about some mystical theoretical possibility. Everything I mentioned in that listing is here--tried and tested in your countries and in mine--ready for export.

Third, the farmer must be educated to receive and absorb modern agricultural technology.

We must bring this education not only to the farmers of today, but to the children who will be the

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*campesino*

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farmers of tomorrow. That this will take a generation, and it will, is no reason for despair; it is, rather, an urgent reason to get on with it, lest we waste another generation.

And fourth, and finally, we must make sure that farmers are healthy enough, physically healthy enough, to do the job.

Adequate health programs are fundamental to expanding agricultural development and should never be neglected. Such programs range from diet improvement for undernourished children to malaria control and projects to insure livestock health.

Now these four elements are the beginnings of a winning strategy in the war on hunger. These elements are all part of the same effort and cannot be separated.

If this strategy is to be carried out, we in the more fortunate and developed countries will need to expand our current programs of aid and technical assistance. I repeat, will need to expand, increase, accelerate, step up our programs of aid and technical assistance. This means giving agricultural development top priority in our foreign assistance programs.

You know, sometimes, Mr. Secretary, I'm of the opinion that too many of our people have been educated in cities. They've forgotten that people have to eat, that the things that are on the shelves of the supermarket didn't come there through some magic, that they had to come from the good earth and the mixing of man's hand and his knowledge with the good earth. The emphasis upon agricultural production.

Now to this very end, the United States is increasing its provision of technical and capital assistance for agricultural improvement, for health, and for education. Secretary Rusk mentioned President Johnson's commitment to these three important areas of human activity. I think it's no secret to say that the other day, as we sat in cabinet meeting discussing matters of importance to our nation and the world, that the President of the United States said in so many words

that he wanted to dedicate his life and his administration to these three fundamentals at home and abroad-- food, food for all, food for the needy; health, health for all and health in particular for those who were denied health opportunity and health services; and education, education for all. After all, our President was a school teacher, and his greatest ambition is that every child on the face of this earth shall have all of the education that his mind and body can absorb, of which he is capable.

Now these are the three what I call foreign policy verities to which this country is committed--by President, by administration, and by Congress, and by our people.

Now we're also providing needed food to meet emergencies, such as those incurred under unexpected adverse weather conditions. And you know of the work that all of us have been engaged in in this matter.

Since 1954 the American Food for Peace Program has provided more than 140 million tons of food to help feed hungry people. But, as I've indicated to you, that so-called surplus is fast diminishing and frankly, in many areas no longer with us.

To help meet, however, a continuing emergency food need, President Johnson has launched the Food for Freedom program, now awaiting final action in the Congress.

Under this program, our acreage and farm production would be expanded as necessary to help feed hungry people in areas of emergency need. At cost, big cost, to the American taxpayer, but we think worth it, a cost that is worthwhile.

The new program also contemplates two related steps: Greatly expanded emphasis on self-help efforts in and by the recipient countries; and an expansion and improved coordination of efforts in the field of technical agricultural assistance in the developing nations by the nations represented here.

Now, in this effort private industry, private capital can play an enormously constructive role. I have in mind particularly the chemical fertilizer, and

pesticide manufacturers and the food processing industry, which are already doing great things in developing regions. Every country represented here has private capital; every one has private entrepreneurs that can and should find their way into the less-developed countries, into the developing countries. I want to make it quite clear: the amount of public capital available is sorely limited. In fact, this afternoon, Mr. Secretary, I hope to go to the Senate to find out if there'll be any left as we debate the foreign aid bill. Therefore, we must look to private capital more and more and we must urge the recipient countries to not only welcome it, but to encourage it, to invite it, to, in a sense, entice this private capital for the purposes of increased food production, food handling, and processing.

Now let me make it quite clear and I'm sure I have:  
The United States cannot meet the need alone, nor would you want us to.

An enlarged effort will be required by every country represented in this room.

Our effort should be directed to the following objectives:

To provide developing countries with the technical aid required to increase food production within their borders.

To meet emergency needs for food shipments while development programs are created and put into operation.

To give these countries whatever help they request in arranging family planning programs.

And to attain these objectives we must have an overall plan that we work out together for coordinating our aid programs. The place to develop this plan and to facilitate its execution is here--in the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. That's why we have the OECD; that's why we are members, all of us.

Now this Committee represents a collective 6-billion-dollar or better annual aid effort by the leading sources of aid today; 14 national governments and the Commission of the European Economic Community.

Its predecessor, the OEEC, was created by another great challenge: the postwar breakdown of Europe's economy. To meet this challenge, it had to develop new techniques of international cooperation and it did. Its achievement is one of the great success stories of the 20th century.

But now we face a new, a more complex and an enlarged challenge: worldwide hunger. Not just Western European problems, but worldwide hunger. And again, new techniques of international cooperation are needed.

We in DAC must answer two key questions:

How much help is needed?

And how can our respective countries best work together in providing that help?

Our study, and I pause at the word study because governments love to study--study, study as if we were slow learners--our study should look not just to piling up data, but should look to action--action directed towards a clear and feasible goal: The eradication of large-scale famine and hunger. And every person within the range of my voice knows that we can achieve that goal if we want to. No longer can we say that this is beyond our means. It may be beyond our determination, but not our means.

Every country represented in this room--including my own--will have to do much more, far more, in this effort than is being done today. And I can say from this podium that the United States, the government of this country and its people, is ready to join with others in doing much more, right now.

In the last decade all our countries have grown richer. But our levels of aid have not expanded at an equal rate. We in the industrial countries, taken

as a whole, are providing less, proportionately, to others than we did ten years ago and everything is relative. At the same time the need has grown. The gap between the rich and the poor in the nations has grown, proportionately or relatively.

As you learned this morning, President Lyndon Johnson has offered to increase this country's pledge to the World Food Program, if, and I underscore if, other participants, together, will match our pledge.

And I repeat to you, this pledge does not come from surpluses already piled up but will have to come from new production, expanded acreage, at cost to the American people, to the American taxpayer.

The President has also expressed our willingness to join other producer nations in creating a World Food Reserve, Dr. Sen, if this is needed to meet emergency requirements.

Now these are new commitments by this country.

Both these initiatives underline the President's conviction that a program which affects us all can best be met by an effort which involves us all.

In this expanding effort, such existing international institutions as the FAO, the World Bank, IDA and the UN Development Program have a large role to play and we're prepared to work with these great organizations.

And every country, whatever its political and social system, should have an opportunity to play its part in this humanitarian effort.

It would be welcome news if the Soviet Union and the nations of Eastern Europe were to join the FAO and the World Food Program.

And I hope that the rulers of mainland China may some day decide that cooperation with others, in fighting hunger, is more rewarding than policies which presently jeopardize and hinder their relations with the rest of the world.

The door is open for all nations, regardless of social systems, to join in the war on human misery. Everybody is needed.

I hope that we may recognize that the true enemies of the people of this earth--the enemies to be purged--are hunger, disease, and want. These are enemies without ideology. These are enemies which threaten all nations.

At the turn of this century the American poet Edwin Markham, one of our most illustrious poets, inspired by Millet's painting, "The Man With the Hoe," described the man still standing today in a hundred thousand villages around the world: His words are so current, and yet of such historical significance:

"Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans  
Upon his hoe and gazes on the ground,  
The emptiness of ages in his face,  
And on his back the burden of the world."

And then Markham cried out:

"O masters, lords and rulers in all lands,  
Is this the handiwork you give to God?"

This is the question that we must ask ourselves today.

The man with the hoe, bent though he may be, will not forever stand bowed down, burdened--nor should he.

His fate, and ours, need not be determined by ruthless, unjust tides of history. We can make history, we can, in a sense, write our own history, of justice and of opportunity.

And world peace need not be hostage to the bursting pressures which surely must build in human societies, cut off from the affluence and well-being which surround them.

For our world today is a world in which we do have the means to break the patterns of centuries of injustice and to build a new foundation for a just and a peaceful world order.

To do less, ladies and gentlemen, would be unworthy of us, and to do less would be to fail in our responsibility as a privileged people, a fortunate people, and nations blessed by security, peace and prosperity.

I commend to you the work of mankind; to help one another, to remember that we are our brother's keeper, and to remember that in a world of want and hunger, there is no peace.

The steps to peace may very well be from the rice paddies and the fields, and from the farmyards of the peasant, the *campesino*, and the farmer, to provide food for God's children.



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