

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

WHORM Subject File Code: CO049
(Countries: Ethiopia)
Case File Number(s): 430000-499999
Box Number: 72

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Last Updated: 11/21/2023

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

CDD49

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 86 10 08

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. John Edwin Smith

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Encloses a section from the Atlanta Journal entitled Eritrea, A. Lonely War. Urges something be done to ease the plight of these people.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	CoKell	ORIGINATOR	86 10 8 108	CP2	A	86 10 9 16
	<i>✓ Do \$</i>	Referral Note: <i>DK</i>	86 10 8 112			86 10 9 18
		Referral Note: <i>For a Presidential draft.</i>				

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: 40638955
NSC #8606172

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOb).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4620 _____

Prime Subject Code: C0049 Secondary Subject Codes: ND016 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P-
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
 - n - 3 - Ron
 - n - 4 - Dutch
 - n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 - n - 6 - Ronald
 - n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Nancy
 - n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

6172

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 1986

Dear Mr. Smith:

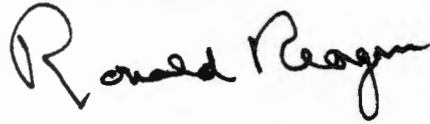
Thank you for your letter of July 16, 1986, regarding the tragic situation in Eritrea and for your excellent and informative article which you enclosed. I share your deep concern for the Eritrean people and indeed for all Ethiopians who are caught up in this never-ending struggle. It is indeed a tragedy that the people of the region must bear the scourge of war in addition to the already heavy toll of drought, famine and socialist policies which reduce incentives for agricultural production. The government has also used famine as a weapon of war against peasants in the areas of insurgency. Resettlement, the mass relocation of people to the south, was intended to reduce support to insurgents, and caused untold death apart from the famine.

My speech before the United Nations General Assembly in October, 1985, included Ethiopia in the list of nations suffering from regional conflict. In this speech, I called on the Soviet Union, which is providing weapons for Ethiopia's wars, to help find a peaceful solution.

The United States has already done much to alleviate the suffering in Eritrea, as well as elsewhere in Ethiopia. Much of the food, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance you saw there came from the U.S. government, channeled through private relief organizations, to the feeding camps and emergency centers. We have also urged all parties to the conflict to seek a peaceable solution. So far, these entreaties have fallen on deaf ears.

These difficulties will not diminish our hope for an end to attempts by the government of Ethiopia to impose a military solution in the region. We continue to believe that a political solution must be reached through negotiations of all parties to the conflicts. Meanwhile, we will continue to provide whatever humanitarian assistance is necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed word "Sincerely,".

Mr. John Edwin Smith
72 Marietta Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

National Security Council
The White House

86 SEP 16 P 4: 02

System # _____

Package # 6172

DOCLOG BT AIO _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>3</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>Review</u>
Rodney McDaniel	_____	_____	_____
Rodman/Cockell	_____	_____	_____
Al Keel	_____	_____	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Florence Gantt	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	_____	_____	_____
Rodney McDaniel	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>	_____	<u>J</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)

DATE OF CTR? 9/16

The President's name 9/11

6172

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1986 AUG 27

ACTION

August 27, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SIGNED

FROM: JOHN M. POINDEXTER *RSM for*

SUBJECT: Your Reply to Letter Re Eritrea

Issue

To reply to a letter from Mr. John E. Smith of Atlanta, Ga.

Facts

Mr. Smith, a reporter for the Atlanta-Journal Constitution, has written to you expressing concern for the people of Eritrea. He enclosed an article he had written about Eritrea after having spent a 31-day stint there.

Discussion

Mr. Smith's article, entitled, Eritrea, a Lonely War, tells the story of a valiant people he feels are very similar to Americans, in their love for liberty. He writes that not only have they adopted our value system regarding the rights of the individual liberties, religion and welfare of the oppressed, but they cling to an incredible dream that they will someday form a free nation in the manner our nation was formed.

State has prepared a response to Mr. Smith for your signature.

Recommendation

OK

No

RS

_____ Sign your letter to John E. Smith of Atlanta.

Attachments

- Tab A Your letter to Mr. Smith
- Tab B Incoming letter

Prepared by Phillip Ringdahl
cc Vice President

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

6172

ACTION

August 27, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: PHILLIP H. RINGDAHL *PH*

SIGNED

SUBJECT: Presidential Reply to Inquiry About Eritrea

Mr. John E. Smith, a reporter for the Atlanta-Journal Constitution, wrote to the President expressing concern for the people of Eritrea in their fight for freedom. The State Department has drafted a response for the President's signature and the speechwriters have cleared the text of the reply.

Recommendation:

Sign and forward your memo to the President at Tab I transmitting his reply to Mr. Smith.

APPROVE

PH 8-27

DISAPPROVE

Attachments

Tab I Your memo to the President
Tab A President's letter to Mr. Smith
Tab B Incoming letter from Mr. Smith
Tab II Incoming memo from State

H.S.W.

National Security Council
The White House

86 AUG 27 P 2: 03

System # _____
Package # 6172
DOCLOG H.S.W. A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	_____	_____	_____
Rodney McDaniel	<u>1</u>	<u>RM</u>	<u>A</u>
Rodman/Cockell	_____	_____	_____
Don Fortier	_____	_____	_____
Al Keel	_____	_____	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Florence Gantt	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	_____	_____	_____
Rodney McDaniel	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>2</u>	<u>DM 8/27</u>	<u>D</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____

I = Information	A = Action	R = Retain	D = Dispatch	N = No further Action
-----------------	-------------------	------------	--------------	-----------------------

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 26, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR HELEN SOOS

FROM: JOSH GILDER ^{JG}
SPEECHWRITER
TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft of Ethiopia Letter

The enclosed remarks are fine. However the absence of any real information on the Communists' use of famine as a weapon of war and the mass relocations to the south gives a less than full picture of the situation. It sounds like our differences with the Soviet Union are relatively minor. You might want to insert an additional paragraph or two of a more substantive nature.

Thank you.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

TIME STAMP

86 AUG 23 P 1: 17

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: #6172

ACTION OFFICER: Ringdahl **DUE:** August 26, 1986

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo For President | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo McDaniel to Chew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo For Poindexter / Fortier / Keel | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo McDaniel to Dolan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo _____ | to _____ |

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. 3393

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Brooks <input type="checkbox"/> Burghardt <input type="checkbox"/> Burns <input type="checkbox"/> Cannistraro <input type="checkbox"/> Childress <input type="checkbox"/> Cobb <input type="checkbox"/> Danzansky <input type="checkbox"/> deGraffenreid <input type="checkbox"/> Dobriansky <input type="checkbox"/> Donley <input type="checkbox"/> Douglass <input type="checkbox"/> Farrar <input type="checkbox"/> Grimes <input type="checkbox"/> Hanley <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly <input type="checkbox"/> Kissell <input type="checkbox"/> Kraemer | <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Laux <input type="checkbox"/> Lavin <input type="checkbox"/> Lenczowski <input type="checkbox"/> Levine <input type="checkbox"/> Linhard <input type="checkbox"/> Mahley <input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Mandel <input type="checkbox"/> Matlock <input type="checkbox"/> May <input type="checkbox"/> Mingle <input type="checkbox"/> North <input type="checkbox"/> Perry <input type="checkbox"/> Platt <input type="checkbox"/> Pugliaresi <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond <input type="checkbox"/> Reger | <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ringdahl <input type="checkbox"/> Ross <input type="checkbox"/> Sable <input type="checkbox"/> Sachs <input type="checkbox"/> Saunders <input type="checkbox"/> Sestanovich <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Sommer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soos <input type="checkbox"/> Stark <input type="checkbox"/> Steiner <input type="checkbox"/> St Martin <input type="checkbox"/> Tahir-Kheli <input type="checkbox"/> Teicher <input type="checkbox"/> Thompson <input type="checkbox"/> Tillman <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
|---|--|--|

- INFORMATION**
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McDaniel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pearson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretariat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rodman | <input type="checkbox"/> Cockell | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poindexter (advance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fortier (advance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Keel (advance) |

COMMENTS



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

8624864

August 22, 1986

#6172

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Draft Letter for the President's Signature Replying
to an Inquiry about Eritrea

A draft letter is attached for the President's signature which is in reply to a letter from an Atlanta Journal-Constitution reporter. The letter expresses concern for the people of Eritrea. In the reply, the President shares this concern, draws attention to his October, 1985, speech at the UNGA on regional conflicts, and points out that the United States provides humanitarian assistance to Eritrea, as well as the rest of Ethiopia, and continues to urge a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

Attachment:
Draft Letter

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

86 AUG 23 12:48

SUGGESTED DRAFT

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of July 16, 1986, regarding the tragic situation in Eritrea and for your excellent and informative article which you enclosed. I share your deep concern for the Eritrean people and indeed for all Ethiopians who are caught up in this never-ending struggle. It is indeed a tragedy that the people of the region must bear the ~~additional~~ scourge of war in addition to the already heavy toll of drought and famine. My speech before the United Nations General Assembly in October, 1985, which included Ethiopia in the list of nations suffering from regional conflict, expressed this concern. In this speech, I called on the Soviet Union, which is providing weapons for Ethiopia's wars, to help find a peaceful solution.

The United States has already done much to alleviate the suffering in Eritrea, as well as elsewhere in Ethiopia. Much of the food, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance you saw there came from U.S. government, ^{the} ~~money,~~ channeled through private relief organizations, to the feeding camps and

Mr. John Edwin Smith,
72 Marietta Street,
Atlanta, Georgia.

8/25
10 Speechwriters
Dn

emergency centers. We have also urged all parties to the conflict to seek a peaceable solution. So far, these entreaties have fallen on deaf ears.

These difficulties will not diminish our hope for an end to attempts by the government of Ethiopia to impose a military solution in the region. We continue to believe that a political solution must be reached through negotiations of all parties to the conflicts. Meanwhile, we will continue to provide whatever humanitarian assistance is necessary.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

8624864

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

AUGUST 12, 1986

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 434435

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 16, 1986

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. JOHN EDWIN SMITH
72 MARIETTA STREET
ATLANTA GA 30302

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES A SECTION FROM THE ATLANTA JOURNAL
ENTITLED "ERITREA, A. LONELY WAR"; URGES
SOMETHING BE DONE TO EASE THE PLIGHT OF
THESE PEOPLE

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

27
3624864

The Atlanta Journal
THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Post Office Box 4689 Atlanta, Georgia 30302 (404) 526-5151

S.M. Richard CAD
encls
John Edwin Smith
72 Marietta Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

16 July 86

434435

Mr. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I have enclosed a special section our newspaper recently put out pertaining to a tiny corner of the world that is little known to most Americans. I am speaking of Eritrea, the northernmost province of Ethiopia.

The special section, "Eritrea, A Lonely War," tells the story of a valiant people very similar to Americans. These people have a love for liberty that I have not experienced since my days in the Marine Corps. Not only have they adopted our value system regarding the rights of the individual liberties, religion and welfare of the oppressed, but they cling to an incredible dream that they will someday form a free nation much in the manner that our great nation was formed.

I have never written to a President before, but I feel that I would be remiss in my duty as a citizen if I did not bring the Eritrean plight before your eyes.

As you will see by reading my stories obtained by a 31-day stint in this small corner of Africa, the cause of the Eritreans is worthy. For 25 years they have fought and died for their dream of liberty. For the past 12 years, Eritrea has faced the might of the Soviet Union. More important, sir, is that in that time the Eritreans have held their own. Their food is supplied through donations, including U.S. church groups; the Eritreans must rely on the weapons they glean from the battlefield. They manufacture much of their medicines, yet they have but 32 doctors to care for a nation of almost three million. They have suffered through drought, famine and war with the steadfast determination that enabled our forefathers to withstand the might of the British during the time of our own revolution.

Eritreans, for 25 years, have fought and died for the one concept of "We the People..."

Mr. President, I know you are faced with incredible pressures that I, as a humble servant of this magnificent country, will never truly comprehend. But sir, if you can find a free moment, I beg you to read the story of a people who are truly crying out from the wilderness.

Page 2

I ask you to read "Eritrea, A Lonely War," Mr. President, not to show off my writing style or to glorify anything that photographer Neil McGahee or I may have experienced while covering Africa's longest war.

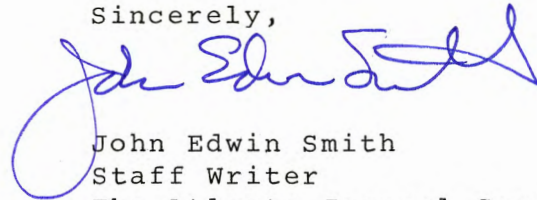
No, sir, that is not the case.

My motives are only for the welfare and preservation of a truly wonderful and courageous people -- the Eritreans. It was my 14-year-old daughter, Jill, who came up with the idea of writing to you. As she told me, "Mr. Reagan will love these people. Maybe he can help them."

So, Mr. President, at the urging of the youth of America, I humbly submit the story of a gallant people for your perusal. I pray that you will be as touched by their plight as I was during my journey through their devastated land.

Thank you, Mr. President, for taking the time to read this letter. May God always bless you.

Sincerely,



John Edwin Smith
Staff Writer
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Reagan Presidential Library

Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This marker is used as an administrative marker by the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential Library Staff. This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Reagan Presidential Library's Research Room.

Newspaper Article

The Atlanta Journal Constitution

Sunday, June 22, 1986 (Section S)

"Eritrea: A Lonely War"

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8606172

RECEIVED 25 AUG 86 10

TO POINDEXTER

FROM PLATT, N

DOCDATE 22 AUG 86

RINGDAHL

27 AUG 86

KEYWORDS: ETHIOPIA

UN

SMITH, JOHN EDWIN

SUBJECT: DRAFT LTR RE PRES SIGNATURE REPLYING / INQUIRY ABOUT ERITREA

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR PRES

DUE: 29 AUG 86 STATUS C FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

RINGDAHL

SOOS

MCDANIEL

PEARSON

RODMAN

COMMENTS

REF# 8624864

LOG

NSCIFID

(LF JF)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
Stripping Desk	c 9/16 9/16	Pres Sigd Ltr for Dispatch		CAM

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

WH 10/1

aj

477713

6767

CO 049

FG 006-12

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

NSC

September 23, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR RONALD K. PETERSON

FROM: RODNEY B. McDANIEL *Bob for*

SUBJECT: Legislative Referral: Congressional Bill
Opposing Resettlement Policy of Ethiopian
Government

The NSC staff has reviewed and concurs with the Department of State in opposing Section 3 of the proposed bill.

Attachment
Tab A - Legislative Referral

NSC # 8606767

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

ACTION

September 22, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR RODNEY B. McDANIEL

FROM: HELEN SOOS *HS*

SUBJECT: Legislative Referral: State Draft Report on Bill
"Expressing the Opposition of Congress to
Ethiopian Government's forced Resettlement Policy
with Respect to Ongoing Famine in Ethiopia."

The attached Congressional bill (Tab A) is intended to oppose the Ethiopian Government's forced resettlement policy. Attached at Tab I for your signature is a memo to Ronald Peterson, advising NSC views on the bill. NSC concurs with the Department of State in opposing Section 3 which includes legislated sanctions.

Clark ^{*cm*}Murdock, Steve ^{*ST*}Farrar, Paula ^{*matlock for*}Dobriansky and Ron ^{*V3*}Sable concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to Peterson at Tab I.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I

Memo to Peterson

Tab A - Legislative Referral



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

6767
SPECIAL

September 17, 1986

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: **Legislative Liaison Officer -**

National Security Council ✓
Agency for International Development (Lester 647-8404)
Department of Agriculture (Clemans 382-1516)

02
01

SUBJECT: State draft report on a Congressional draft bill "expressing the opposition of the Congress to the Ethiopian Government's forced resettlement policy, expressing the concern of the Congress with respect to the ongoing famine in Ethiopia."

(NOTE: The Economic Policy and Trade Subcte. of the Foreign Affairs Cte. will be holding a hearing on this subject on 9/25/86, and has requested State's views by 9/23.)

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

A response to this request for your views is needed no later than MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1986.

Questions should be referred to **SUE THAU/ANNETTE ROONEY** (395-7300), the legislative analyst in this office.

Ronald K. Peterson

RONALD K. PETERSON FOR
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

cc: J. Eisenhour
B. Bostick
R. Landis



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FAIM.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased on behalf of the Secretary of State to reply to your letter of August 7, 1986, requesting the Department's comments on a draft bill "expressing the opposition of the Congress to the Ethiopian Government's forced resettlement policy, expressing the concern of the Congress with respect to the ongoing famine in Ethiopia, and for other purposes."

The State Department supports Sections 1 and 2 of the bill. However, we oppose Section 3, which would amend Section 620 (f) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act to list Ethiopia specifically as a communist country. Section 620 (f) prohibits assistance under the Act to such countries, and other legislative provisions impose certain sanctions on such communist countries, such as a prohibition on Export-Import Bank loans and a requirement that the U.S. Executive Director to the IMF vote against the use of IMF facilities.

There is no need for such legislative action in the case of Ethiopia. The Congress has just adopted a provision suspending economic assistance to Ethiopia (Section 812 (d) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985); it has been our general practice to vote against the use of IMF facilities for Ethiopia; and the President already has statutory authority to deny Export-Import Bank loans (under the "Chafee Amendment" in Section 2 (b) of the Export-Import Bank Act).

While we might consider taking additional steps against Ethiopia, as a general principle of foreign policy the Administration opposes legislated sanctions on individual countries, which restrict the President's flexibility in dealing with difficult foreign policy problems. We therefore oppose Section 3.

The Honorable
Dante B. Fascell,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.

We do not oppose Section 4. We appreciate that the bill does not legislate sanctions but asks the Administration to consider them. If passed, the Administration would examine the case and report to the Congress. We would only note again that we are opposed to such sanctions in principle.

The Department appreciates Congress' role in pressuring the Ethiopian Government to halt resettlement. This role was instrumental in getting Chairman Mengistu to temporarily halt resettlement in December 1985/January 1986. Since then it has entered into a period of "consolidation" which the Ethiopian Government states is an attempt to improve the situation in the resettlement areas. However, they have made it clear they intend to resume resettlement in the near future, albeit in smaller numbers. The Ethiopian Government's temporary suspension of forced resettlement already indicates its vulnerability to world opinion. We will continue to monitor the situation and make sure Ethiopia knows the world is watching.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection from the standpoint of the Administration's program to the submission of this report.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

J. Edward Fox
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

drafted AF/E:JSzymanski
9/2/86 647-8852 70135S
cleared AF/E:DJFisher
AF:JKBishop
E:ESpiro
AF/RA:Ballen
EB/ODF:RM
AID/AA/APR:McGowan
HA:JMontgomery
IO:NSS
L/AF:ECummings
OMB:GMoser

99TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

x

A BILL

Expressing the opposition of the Congress to the Ethiopian Government's forced resettlement policy, expressing the concern of the Congress with respect to the ongoing famine in Ethiopia, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

2 The Congress finds that--

3 (1) a significant hunger crisis continues to threaten
4 thousands of lives in Ethiopia, despite the concentrated
5 efforts of Western donors;

6 (2) the American people, along with the worldwide
7 humanitarian community, find the suffering in Africa due
8 to famine an enormous tragedy and seek ways to relieve
9 the sickness and hardship of starvation victims;

10 (3) the aid contributed by Western donors is given in
11 good faith, with the understanding that it will reach the
12 actual victims of the famine;

13 (4) the United States Government monitors the
14 distribution by private and voluntary organizations of
15 American-donated food through the Agency for
16 International Development;

17 (5) the United Nations, through its Office of
18 Emergency Operations in Africa, oversees and helps direct
19 the efforts of donor countries;

20 (6) the Ethiopian Government has engaged in a program
21 of resettlement designed to move significant numbers of
22 people from some areas of the country to resettle them in
23 other areas;

24 (7) the Ethiopian Government has stated that
25 resettlement should be voluntary, that it should not

1 separate family members, and that it should be conducted
2 without causing undue suffering of the participants;

3 (8) reputable international voluntary agencies have
4 alleged that the Ethiopian Government has used coercive
5 force in this resettlement;

6 (9) allegations have been made that the Ethiopian
7 Government misused non-United States food assistance as
8 part of its resettlement program;

9 (10) allegations have been made regarding inhumane
10 conditions prevailing in many resettlement camps;

11 (11) Ethiopian authorities have not met their
12 commitment to international donors to distribute 2,500
13 metric tons of food and relief goods per day from the
14 port of Assab;

15 (12) all resources are needed to deal with the
16 continuing hunger crisis and should not be diverted to
17 resettlement efforts; and

18 (13) the United States, the United Nations, and all
19 other donors seek the cooperation of the Ethiopian
20 Government in aiding the vast number of Ethiopians who
21 are victims of the current famine.

22 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES.**

23 It is the sense of the Congress that--

24 (1) the United States, in cooperation with other
25 members of the international donor community, should call

1 upon the Ethiopian Government to recognize that resources
2 donated for famine relief should be used for that purpose
3 and not diverted to resettlement efforts or other
4 purposes;

5 (2) the Ethiopian Government should give its
6 strongest consideration to suspending its resettlement
7 program for the duration of the drought so that all
8 available resources can be focused on famine needs and so
9 that, during its announced consolidation period, the
10 Ethiopian Government can make progress toward improvement
11 of conditions of the settlements already in place;

12 (3) the international donor community should jointly
13 call for a halt to all forced resettlements by the
14 Ethiopian Government, just as the Congress hereby calls
15 for the end of coercive resettlement activities;

16 (4) the United Nations, through its Special
17 Representative in Ethiopia, should monitor any
18 resettlement effort so that coercion is not used and
19 there is total freedom to move into or out of any
20 resettlement camp;

21 (5) the United Nations, through its Special
22 Representative in Ethiopia, should insist that the
23 Ethiopian Government provide free access to all
24 resettlement sites for all international observers and
25 the news media;

1 (6) the United Nations, through its Office of
2 Emergency Operations in Africa, should immediately report
3 on the conditions in the resettlement camps; and

4 (7) the Ethiopian Government should commit sufficient
5 resources to move donated food and relief goods from the
6 port of Assab to distribution centers so that the minimum
7 rate of 2,500 metric tons per day necessary to meet the
8 needs of its people is maintained.

9 SEC. 3. ADDITION OF ETHIOPIA TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT LIST
10 OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

11 Section 620(f)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
12 (22 U.S.C. 2370(f)(1)) is amended by inserting after
13 "Estonia." the following:

14 "Ethiopia."

15 SEC. 4. REPORT BY PRESIDENT.

16 The President shall report to the Congress, not later
17 than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on
18 progress in achieving the objectives set forth in section 2,
19 including an end to forced resettlements. The President shall
20 include in the report his recommendation as to whether the
21 United States should impose economic sanctions against
22 Ethiopia, including--

23 (1) denying nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the
24 products of Ethiopia;

25 (2) prohibiting the importation of coffee and coffee

1 products produced or grown in Ethiopia;

2 (3) prohibiting loans or other extensions of credit
3 to the Government of Ethiopia;

4 (4) prohibiting new investments in Ethiopia; and

5 (5) instructing all United States representatives to
6 international financial institutions to oppose the
7 furnishing of any assistance by those institutions to
8 Ethiopia.

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT**

TIME STAMP

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 6767

ACTION OFFICER: Murdock DUE: 20 Sept.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo For President | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo McDaniel to Chew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo For Poindexter / Fortier / Keel | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo McDaniel to Dolan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Memo <u>McDaniel</u> | to <u>Peterson</u> |

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. _____

- | FYI | FYI | FYI |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Laux | <input type="checkbox"/> Ringdahl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burghardt | <input type="checkbox"/> Lavin | <input type="checkbox"/> Ross |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burns | <input type="checkbox"/> Lenczowski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sable |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cannistraro | <input type="checkbox"/> Levine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sachs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childress | <input type="checkbox"/> Linhard | <input type="checkbox"/> Saunders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cobb | <input type="checkbox"/> Mahley | <input type="checkbox"/> Sestanovich |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danzansky | <input type="checkbox"/> Major | <input type="checkbox"/> Small |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deGraffenreid | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandel | <input type="checkbox"/> Sommer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dobriansky | <input type="checkbox"/> Matlock | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donley | <input type="checkbox"/> May | <input type="checkbox"/> Stark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douglass | <input type="checkbox"/> Mingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Steiner |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farrar | <input type="checkbox"/> North | <input type="checkbox"/> St Martin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grimes | <input type="checkbox"/> Perry | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahir-Kheli |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hanley | <input type="checkbox"/> Platt | <input type="checkbox"/> Teicher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly | <input type="checkbox"/> Pugliaresi | <input type="checkbox"/> Thompson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kissell | <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond | <input type="checkbox"/> Tillman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kraemer | <input type="checkbox"/> Reger | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

- INFORMATION
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> McDaniel | <input type="checkbox"/> Pearson | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretariat |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rodman | <input type="checkbox"/> Cockell | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poindexter (advance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fortier (advance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Keel (advance) |

COMMENTS Please honor all due dates

30

National Security Council
The White House

86 SEP 23 P 2: 30

System # _____

Package # 6767

DOCLOG 30 AIO _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Rodney McDaniel	_____	_____	_____
Rodman/Cockell	_____	_____	_____
Al Keel	_____	_____	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Florence Gantt	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	_____	_____	_____
Rodney McDaniel	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>2</u>	_____	<u>D</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____

I = Information	<u>A = Action</u>	R = Retain	D = Dispatch	N = No further Action
-----------------	-------------------	------------	--------------	-----------------------

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other RBM

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)

RECEIVED 18 SEP 86 12

TO MCDANIEL

FROM PETERSON, R

DOCDATE 17 SEP 86

SOOS

22 SEP 86

MCDANIEL

23 SEP 86

KEYWORDS: ETHIOPIA

FOOD

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL

SUBJECT: ONGOING FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA / CONGRESSIONAL DRAFT BILL

ACTION: MEMO MCDANIEL TO PETERSON

DUE: 26 SEP 86 STATUS C

FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MURDOCK

DANZANSKY

DOBRIANSKY

RODMAN

SOOS

FARRAR

CANNISTRARO

SABLE

SACHS

COMMENTS ***** PLEASE HONOR ALL DUE DATES THANK YOU *****

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(TC JF)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

C 9/23 Pearson Seg

AS, RBly

DISPATCH

JE 9/23

W/ATTCH

FILE

WH (C) [initials]

3633

479719

0049

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 31, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN POINDEXTER

FROM: PAT BUCHANAN *PB*

SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF ETHIOPIA AS "COMMUNIST" COUNTRY

Toby Roth, Republican Congressman from Wisconsin, has written in protest against a proposed State Department paper which would exclude Ethiopia from designation as a "Communist" country, despite a year's work by Roth and allies to get that designation -- unanimously -- through the House Foreign Affairs Africa subcommittee. Given Mengistu's rather barbaric behavior, in both withholding food and "resettlement" we will have a problem, if we do not treat them with a least the severity we now treat South Africa.

Peter Rodman,

Please check into this with Phil.

*I would like the larger issue of
"designation of a country as Communist"
reviewed.*

J

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

86 MAY 7 2 P 4 : 19



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

TOBY ROTH
WISCONSIN

March 26, 1986

Mr. Patrick Buchanan
Assistant to the President
for Communications
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Pat:

I would like to bring to your attention a ludicrous State Department draft position paper which is presently working its way through the system. My colleagues and I have dedicated close to one year's work drawing congressional and media attention to the Communist-nature of the Ethiopian regime. Last week, the House Foreign Affairs Africa subcommittee unanimously agreed with me that Ethiopia ought to be classified as a Communist country and that the President ought to consider selective sanctions against the Mengistu government in order to stop its "resettlement" campaign which is claiming up to an estimated 1,000 lives a day.

Further progress at the Full Committee expected immediately following the Easter Recess will be severely threatened if this draft position paper becomes Administration policy. If we can't even declare Ethiopia a communist country, then the conservative foreign policy agenda is indeed in jeopardy. I urge you to review this matter with appropriate White House staff at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Toby Roth
Member of Congress

STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION ON ETHIOPIA AMENDMENT
(H.R. 4076, Roth Bill)

INCLUSION OF ETHIOPIA ON THE LIST OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES:

Strongly oppose. Due consideration has not been given to severe implications of putting Ethiopia on list of Communist countries (Section 620f of the FAA). That list has purposefully been restricted (Peoples' Republic of China has now been removed from the list) largely because of serious legal, commercial, and immigration ramifications of inclusion on it. If enacted, law could immediately affect status of Ethiopians already in US. Aid to Ethiopia is already severely restricted under various US laws; inclusion on list would also preclude EXIM financing to US firms like Boeing Aircraft. Precedent set by adding Ethiopia is dangerous; many nations throughout the world which are not deemed communist under existing standards may also be so classified without due consideration.

PROPOSED SANCTIONS:

Oppose. Appreciate that present bill does not legislate sanctions but asks Administration to consider them. Legal and policy ramifications of these sanctions are great, including possible violation of US treaty obligations. Bill calls for unilateral action rather than original Roukema bill's multilateral approach. Ethiopia has repeatedly demonstrated it is more susceptible to multilateral pressure than to bilateral pressure from US. Forty-five day reporting requirement is extremely unrealistic. Current US policy is to provide no US Government aid, except humanitarian aid, to Ethiopia.

House panel labels Ethiopia communist, urges sanctions

By Rita McWilliams
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A House subcommittee approved a bill yesterday that would add Ethiopia to the list of communist nations, a move the State Department has been hesitant to make.

The measure, approved on a voice vote by the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa, also would urge the president to impose economic sanctions against the Marxist government of the drought-stricken nation if it does not halt all forced resettlement within 45 days.

The debate in the subcommittee at times sounded like the debate on South African sanctions last year, with Republicans and Democrats switching sides.

Both sides agreed the Ethiopian government has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people by forcing famine victims to move from northern areas — a stronghold of resistance to the government — to southwestern regions.

During the peak of the program last April, relief agencies said 70,000 people a week were moved under miserable conditions to the southwest, where government promises of clinics, plowed land, oxen, farm tools and seeds never materialized.

Democrats, including subcommittee Chairman Howard Wolpe of Michigan, said sanctions against Ethiopia could hurt those the bill is designed to aid and help push political moderates out of the government.

But Republicans said Democrats were hypocritical if they opposed sanctions against Ethiopia after insisting on those against South Africa. Rep. Mark Siljander of Michigan called the forced resettlement "another moral situation."

"What's good for South Africa ought to be good for Ethiopia," said Mr. Siljander, who had opposed the South African sanctions.

Mr. Wolpe said the United States has no leverage with the Ethiopian government, while South Africa has been a longtime U.S. ally. But Rep. Toby Roth, Wisconsin Republican, who sponsored a tougher measure than the one approved, said the United States has leverage because of the \$300,000 in drought aid it gave Ethiopia last year.

The bill would not cut off food aid. The Agency for International Development already has restricted the

food program: It can be used only outside of the resettlements so as not to encourage the program.

Classifying the government of Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam as communist would end Ethiopia's eligibility for all loans from the Export-Import Bank, according to an aide to Mr. Roth.

The Ethiopian government received a \$3.2 million direct loan for building commercial hotels in the capital in 1984 and a \$48 million loan guarantee to buy two planes for the government-owned airlines, the aide said.

The bill, a compromise between a resolution by Rep. Marge Roukema, New Jersey Republican, and a stiffer sanction measure proposed by Mr.

Roth, would call on the Reagan administration to report on the resettlement program in 45 days. If the program continues, it would ask the president to consider sanctions similar to those imposed against South Africa last year, such as cutting off U.S. investments.

A similar sanctions measure has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Paul Trible, Virginia Republican. It has the support of Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Yonas Deressa, president of the Ethiopian Refugees Education and Relief Foundation Inc., said he was pleased that a sanctions measure was approved by the House subcommittee but said he favored the tougher Roth measure.

*220 mn

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Today's Holocaust

The word is finally out that the second government-organized group murder in a decade is under way, this time in Ethiopia. The Western public response is showing that the pattern of denial that greeted first reports of the Nazi Holocaust wasn't a fluke. A widespread refusal to believe that the worst could actually happen clears the way for its realization.

French relief workers were touring Washington last week with awful news that had already been reported by eyewitnesses from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Ethiopian government's year-old "relocation program," now greatly stepped up by the military *Dergue*, or junta, and its Russian patrons, has already claimed the lives of 20% of its targets, a death toll of some 100,000. It shapes up as a mass extermination on the order of the Khmer Rouge killing fields and the deportation of Armenians in 1915, with the added horror that it wouldn't have been possible without the aid and silence of Western famine relief.

Now, however, the big relief agencies have to explain why they have been holding their tongues. Administration critics like U.S. Rep. Howard Wolpe who have been whitewashing the *Dergue* may have to admit that President Reagan's officials haven't just been making anti-Marxist propaganda. Warnings from people like AID administrator M. Peter McPherson have indeed been the awful truth.

The extracts alongside show how ghastly things have really been. They come from a summary of interviews Swiss citizen Peter Niggli conducted with escapees from the Ethiopian relocation camps. Refugee interviews have been available for a long time. (See our editorial "Death in Asosa," Feb. 20, 1985). But the West has hardly listened, let alone reacted.

Indeed, the Addis Ababa regime has found the famine and the Western response to be a stroke of great fortune. Contrary to the government's lies to gullible, or cynical, Westerners, the relocations have nothing to do with fighting hunger. They are part of Ethiopia's civil war with at least five ethnically based guerrilla groups. They were planned as early as 1981, a former Ethiopian general told the head of a Swiss humanitarian group, after the failure of Lt. Col. Mengistu's "Red Star" offensive in the rebel-dominated northeastern provinces of Eritrea and Tigre. According to the government's own maps, the bulk of the conscripts for resettlement come from the strategic corridor connecting Addis Ababa to the coast. The program is directed, not by the regime's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, but by its "Office for the Na-

tionality Problem," complete with 25 Russian advisers.

To the Tigre and Wollo rebel movements, whose constituents bear the brunt of the relocations, the Mengistu regime's ultimate aim is simply to exterminate their rural base. There is nothing in the conditions of the forced move or the ultimate site to contradict these fears. The "empty fertile lowland" that the *Dergue* claims to be developing is relatively empty because it is infested by malaria, water parasites and even, at some relocation sites, the deadly tsetse fly. The relocated northerners come from temperate highlands and lack the immunities of the indigenous peoples (who themselves are being forced from their lands). AID's Mr. McPherson began his public condemnations last month after several of his staff managed an unescorted visit to the Pawe relocation camp in the northwest and discovered a continuing death rate from disease of seven to 15 people per 10,000 a day.

Famine relief has helped support "relocation." Its trucks have been diverted to move people, while grain rots at the ports. The roundups have disrupted harvests and forced abandonment of whole herds of livestock. Grain has been taken from famine areas and sent south to maintain the concentration camps. In the meantime, Lt. Col. Mengistu's army has launched its biggest offensives ever into the heart of the famine regions, drawing logistical support from the relief stockpiles while burning the rebels' crops.

The U.S. government deserves credit for its diplomatic resistance to the relocation program, but Western allies have been breaking a previously united front. Italy, with its own memories of Ethiopia, has promised \$190 million for a particularly harebrained project at the headwaters of the Blue Nile. Canada and Australia are said to be letting their food aid be diverted. The United Nations World Food Program has buried internal reports that confirm the high death rate.

Denial of the holocaust by Westerners is symptomatic of the larger problem, an unwillingness to do the hard things necessary to stop it. Relief workers kept quiet too long but perhaps can be excused considering the lack of any hard-fisted political action by the governments they represent. At the very least and based on what is now known, relief should be suspended. Then it will be time for the U.S. and Europe to look at what further steps should be taken against Lt. Col. Mengistu and his friends for having so cynically and grossly abused the world's humanitarian impulses.

Ethiopian Resettlement: Vomit and Death

Peter Niggli, a Swiss free-lance journalist, wrote the report excerpted below for the German church group Berliner Missionswerk after conducting extensive interviews last year with Ethiopian refugees in the Damazine camp in Sudan. The camp is administered by the Relief Society of Tigre, an indigenous humanitarian group affiliated with the Tigre People's Liberation Front, one of the main anti-government guerrilla movements. Most of the refugees were escapees from the Asosa resettlement region who originated in Tigre and Wollo provinces (see today's editorial nearby).

The resettlements take place without prior warning: Villages in the vicinity of the garrisons are enclosed by military troops or militia at night or in the early morning hours, and all inhabitants the troops can get hold of are rounded up. . . . It often happened that marketplaces were searched by the army on several succeeding days and every peasant, and everyone taken to be a peasant because of his rags, was arrested and sent to a resettlement camp.

As can easily be imagined these seizures caused panic in the towns: People tried to run away in all directions, to hide in the houses of acquaintances or fled to neighboring villages. After the troops had locked up their captives in administration buildings, schools and prisons, they began a large-scale search in the town and in the rural vicinity in order to capture the run-aways. . . .

To prevent resistance the resettlement candidates are set on a hunger diet, water is supplied only in minimal quantities and fighting for survival of one against the other is encouraged. Drastic physical punishments were executed in public in cases where this was not enough. . . .

First one has to imagine the masses of people penned up for two to four weeks during the time of transport to the resettle-

ment areas: They were rounded up by the hundreds in their villages and in the towns; in the collection camps they already numbered by the thousands. The truck and bus convoys included 30 to 100 vehicles; the helicopters and planes shuttled several times a day. There were waiting periods of several days between the different transports. The people were detained in the courts of public buildings or in the open field. . . .

It is not easy to provide food and drink for such masses of people—this task was solved in a careless and negligent manner. Often the peasants did not receive anything to eat in the first collection camps. . . .

This systematic regime of shortage turned the distribution of bread and water into a daily, ugly battle, where the young and strong fought their way through the masses to the front to get the best places to fight for food rations for their wives, children or other relatives. . . . There were two water pipes in May Daero near Mekelle for 4,000 to 8,000 people waiting there for transport. One of the water pipes was reserved for the soldiers, the other could be used by the resettlers as long as the soldiers did not use it to wash their uniforms, which had priority.

Making water a scarce resource had further consequences. No one could wash himself, not even women; the clothes were filthy and "there were clouds of flies around us. . . ." In most camps there were no latrines or separated, distant places for defecation. From this situation a new sludge field resulted every day in Mekelle where "we had to hop around like donkeys in order not to step into fresh excrement."

Many of the resettlement candidates were weakened by hunger before they reached the collection camps. Others only got to know hunger here. I was told that many healthy people fell sick in the camp;

the reason for this was seen in the catastrophic sanitary conditions. The sick people suffered from permanent diarrhea and frequent vomiting. According to these symptoms there could have been dysentery or cholera in the camps. Usually sick and healthy people were not separated. . . .

The sick people were laid on the floor in the middle of the plane during the air transport from Mekelle to Addis, if there was enough space. At takeoff, many of the others, who were standing packed closely, fell on top of the sick, and since usually most passengers vomited and many could no longer control their bladder, the sick people ended up in a puddle of vomit and piss. On Bole airport in Addis Ababa, men were already waiting with stretchers to carry away the dead and the squashed passengers. The rest of the people were immediately, without a break, driven to the buses; protesting was ineffective and, of course, the fouled clothes could not be cleaned. . . . The passengers only received one cup of water . . . which was barely enough to swallow the bitter taste of vomit. But water was not scarce: After each landing the planes were washed with a huge gush of water by the fire brigade from Addis Ababa. . . .

At the center of each settlement . . . huts served as shelter for the Wollo as well as for the Tigre who came later. About 200 to 300 people slept in them, body to body: "If you lay down on your left side you had to stay in that position because there was no space to shift." Under these circumstances many preferred to sleep in the open, which was not always permitted because it complicated control. . . .

Frequently fires broke out because the grass was dry as dust. Since the huts were built close together, the fires spread easily. . . . Fires at night had bitter consequences: Not all sleepers could run to safety, particularly those men, women and children who had been close to starvation or who were ill.

NEWS from CONGRESSMAN MARK SILJANDER

4th District Michigan



137 CHOB, Washington, D.C.

20515 202/225-3761

SILJANDER: SAY ETHIOPIA'S COMMUNIST, MR. SHULTZ!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Ron Brackin

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1986 -- Is Ethiopia a communist country or not?

When Congressman Siljander, Ranking Minority Member of the Africa Subcommittee asked the State Department that question recently during a Foreign Affairs Committee markup of Toby Roth's bill to add Ethiopia to the official list of communist countries, the State Department wouldn't say.

"Now its official position paper says it 'strongly opposes' adding Ethiopia to the list," Siljander said. "Could the State Department possibly believe that Ethiopia is not a communist country?"

"Since 1977, every move the Mengistu regime has made has been with the advice and consent of the USSR. The State Department's own Human Rights Report describes Ethiopia as a country 'ruled by Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam and a small group of associates who exercise power through arbitrary arrest and intimidation... . The stated goal of the party (Workers Party of Ethiopia) is to transform the country into a Marxist-Leninist state. Marxist-Leninist ideology is pervasive...' It is noteworthy that Ethiopia is the only African nation to be ruled by an official communist party, a fact the State Department seems to stumble over.

"The report goes on to describe the Ethiopian government in more detail: 'Ethiopia's record on human rights is deplorable, and 1985 saw no improvement. The country remains without civil or political freedoms and without institutions or laws to protect its citizens' human rights. The Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia (PMGSE) maintains complete control over the media, labor, education, internal and external movements of Ethiopian citizens, and all political processes. Mengistu has never held a general election of any kind to legitimize himself or his Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE). Persons expressing opposition to the regime or suspected of not supporting it are routinely arrested by security police and subjected to torture in varying degrees; some executions have been reported as well.'

"The State Department complains that recognizing Ethiopia as communist 'could immediately affect (the) status of Ethiopians already in (the) U.S.'

"Here is what would happen to the 50,000 Ethiopian refugees: If they want political assylum in the United States, they have to prove that the Ethiopian government would harm them if they returned. The Ethiopian government, of course, would deny anything of the kind. If, however, the Ethiopian government were officially recognized as being communist, the burden of proof would be on the communists, making it much easier for the Ethiopian refugees to obtain assylum and, through that, permanent residence and potentially U.S. citizenship.

"The State Department position, then, is in opposition to U.S. citizenship for 50,000 Ethiopian refugees. Coupled with the fact that not one black African nation appears on the State Department list of communist countries (even though Bemin, Angola and Mozambique clearly qualify in addition to Ethiopia) this position smacks distinctly of racism.

"Finally, the State Department position paper bemoans that 'Aid to Ethiopia is already severely restricted under various U.S. laws; inclusion on (the) list would also preclude EXIM financing to U.S. firms like Boeing Aircraft.' What the State Department neglected to mention is that it is a two-way street. It would also preclude Ethiopia from getting direct loans through the Export-Import Bank subsidized by American taxpayers. That would force the Soviets to pay their own bills for international colonization.

"In the meantime, the State Department would do well to leave Wonderland behind and take a good, long, realistic look at the continent of Africa. And, if it is still unable to recognize a communist when it sees one, it need only spend an afternoon reviewing the hundreds of hours of film which shows the hollow faces and flesh-covered skeletons of the starving Ethiopian people. It need only talk with the American organizations that shipped tons of food to these people only to have it left to rot in ships' holds or on loading docks at the orders of Mengistu and his comrades. It need only talk to some of the tens of thousands of refugees who fled to America and who are waiting for the U.S. State Department to take the blinders off."

~~SUSPENSE~~

RECEIVED 07 MAY 86 16

TO POINDEXTER

FROM BUCHANAN, P

DOCDATE 31 MAR 86

KEYWORDS: ETHIOPIA

SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF ETHIOPIA AS COMMUNIST COUNTRY

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE: 09 MAY 86 STATUS S FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

RODMAN

RINGDAHL

COMMENTS

REF# LOG NSCIFID (PS)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

C 43 OBE/OUR

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

27 (C)

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8603633

RECEIVED 07 MAY 86 16

TO POINDEXTER

FROM BUCHANAN, P

DOCDATE 31 MAR 86

OBE

KEYWORDS: ETHIOPIA

SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF ETHIOPIA AS COMMUNIST COUNTRY

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE: 09 MAY 86 STATUS S

FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

RODMAN

RINGDAHL

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(PS)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

- 1/6 OBE/originals Returned to NSC/S

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH

FILE

WH (C) ✓