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THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

PRO11

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: DECEMBER 12, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. TRIN YARBOROUGH

SUBJECT ENCLOSURES VIDEO CASSETTE OF A RECENT PSA ON  
THE ETHIOPIA FAMINE AND CRISIS THROUGHOUT  
AFRICA BY ENTERTAINER JAMES BROWN

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SALLY KELLEY	ORG	84/12/12		C 85/02/12 AB
REFERRAL NOTE:				
VAID		<del>84/11/27</del>		
REFERRAL NOTE:		R 84/12/16		ASSIGN 1B
REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS MEDIA L INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_  
MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES:           | *DISPOSITION CODES:  | *OUTGOING            | * |
| *                        | *                    | * CORRESPONDENCE:    | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION    | *A-ANSWERED          | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS  | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM         | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER          | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE        | *C-COMPLETED         | * CODE = A           | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET    | *S-SUSPENDED         | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* |                      | * OUTGOING           | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * |                      |                      | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE *       |                      |                      | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY *       |                      |                      | * |
- \*\*\*\*\*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY  
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

THE ADMINISTRATOR

JAN 7 1985

Dear Mr. Yarborough:

The President has asked me to thank you for sending the video cassette of the recent public service announcement by James Brown for Oxfam America on the current crisis in Ethiopia and other African nations as well as for the related materials enclosed. The dedication of your organization and that of Mr. Brown to the alleviation of the desperate situation in Africa is indeed commendable.

We have been and are continuing to help those suffering from famine in Africa. Last year America was the largest donor of food aid to Africa. Grains and other food commodities worth a total of \$173 million were sent to 26 African nations to relieve the human tragedy caused by the drought. Ethiopia alone received emergency food valued at \$19 million.

In the past 60 days, the U.S. announced additional food assistance for the countries affected by the drought. This additional aid is more than the total supplied last year when we mounted the largest emergency feeding program in Africa's history. A total of 550,000 metric tons of emergency food valued at \$200 million is being sent to 15 African nations. Ethiopia has now received \$115 million in emergency food assistance in addition to the provision of U.S. government contracted trucks and planes to deliver food and medicine to people who are in terrible need.

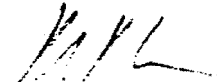
I am also pleased to report that, three weeks ago, the President released 11 million bushels of wheat from the emergency food reserve and, just last week, ordered an emergency airlift of supplies to Sudan in response to the mounting crisis in that country.

Mr. Trin Yarborough  
Oxfam America  
115 Broadway  
Boston, MA 02116

The situation is being reviewed continuously, and other countries may soon be added to the list as we seek to alleviate the human suffering throughout Africa.

The traditional readiness of Americans to help those less fortunate is manifested through both official government actions like these and those of the private and voluntary organizations and their supporters cooperating in this critical effort. We wish you every success in your worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,



M. Peter McPherson

Enclosures.....

*P.S. After this letter was drafted the President decided to reallocate or seek from Congress a total of \$411 million additional food and assistance. The will from that the U.S. will provide this year a total of 1 1/2 million tons of food to fill a disaster need of about 3 million tons of food.*

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY  
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

THE ADMINISTRATOR

JAN 7 1985

Dear Mr. Brown:

The President has asked me to thank you for your concern about world hunger as evidenced by the donation of your time to Oxfam America for the recording of public service announcements on the current crisis in Ethiopia and other African nations. We recently received a video cassette of your appeal from Trin Yarborough. As a public figure, you have a unique capacity to alleviate the suffering in Africa by activating public interest and support for remedial measures. You are to be commended for your commitment to help.

We have been and are continuing to assist in this critical effort. Last year America was the largest donor of food aid to Africa. Grains and other food commodities worth a total of \$173 million were sent to 26 African nations to relieve the human tragedy caused by the drought. Ethiopia alone received emergency food valued at \$19 million.

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I am also pleased to report that, three weeks ago, the President released 11 million bushels of wheat from the emergency food reserve and, just last week, ordered an emergency airlift of supplies to Sudan in response to the mounting crisis in that country.

Mr. James Brown  
c/o Topnotch Productions  
1052 Claussen Road, Suite 116  
Augusta, Georgia 30907

The situation is being reviewed continuously, and other countries may soon be added to the list as we seek to alleviate the human suffering throughout Africa.

The traditional readiness of Americans to help those less fortunate is manifested through both official government actions like these and the personal contributions of private citizens such as yourself.

Sincerely,



M. Peter McPherson

Enclosures

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# The Washington Post

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1984

*M. Peter McPherson*

## The Famine

*Ethiopia suffers now, but other nations are only months away.*

There are no words to adequately describe the magnitude of the human tragedy that is occurring in much of Africa. A deadly combination of drought, civil war, misguided government policies and growing population pressures is resulting in a famine of historic proportions.

At the request of President Reagan, I recently went to Ethiopia for an on-the-spot assessment. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Peru and, in recent years, as administrator of the Agency for International Development, I have seen hunger, pain and despair in many places around the globe. But nothing in my experience matches the suffering or the complexity of the crisis that hangs over Ethiopia today.

I am still convinced however—if the world works together—hundreds of thousands of men, women and little children can be saved.

My trip to Ethiopia led me to several conclusions:

■ In Ethiopia alone, at least 7 million people are at serious risk.

■ During the next 12 months, the total food assistance donor nations need to provide for Ethiopia alone will be in the range of 1 million tons.

■ A massive logistical problem exists as well: a plan for the delivery of food must be agreed upon. The United States has developed some ideas, but there must be a coordinated attack by donors.

■ It is essential that a donor conference be convened within the next few weeks to coordinate activities.

■ The United States is prepared to continue to provide substantial assistance.

The immediate emergency is our first priority. The United States has provided \$60 million in additional assistance in a little more than the past 30 days. This represents 130,000 tons of food and other supplies. The

other Western donor nations have provided another 200,000 tons of food. Private individuals and businesses have committed valuable additional resources.

It should be noted that the United States provided more emergency food to Ethiopia during the past fiscal year than to any other African nation and was the largest emergency food donor to Ethiopia.

This outpouring of assistance has resulted in massive logistical problems. About 50,000 tons of food a month are being moved, and about twice that capacity is required.

Automatic unloading and bagging equipment is needed. Many more trucks must be allocated by the Ethiopians to move the food inland, which they have agreed to provide. I am hopeful that will be done promptly. The United States and a few other countries are providing cargo aircraft to fly food to remote camps.

It is critical that the donor conference be convened quickly. There is a pressing need to come together and take up our share of the burden. We would welcome the participation of the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries.

While a great deal of public focus has been centered on Ethiopia, the problem is widespread in Africa. There are at least seven countries only months behind the serious problems that we see today in Ethiopia. Other countries are headed toward serious difficulties.

It's important to understand that the present and increasing suffering is the result of a set of circumstances of which the drought is only one part. For example, in many countries of Africa, rural people have been discriminated against in the pricing of agricultural production. Farmers are frequently paid less than market prices in order to provide cheap food for urban consumers.

The development of high yield seeds and other technology is needed for dryland farming in Africa as well as the development of human resources through training and education. Our agency is devoting a great deal of attention and money to these and other goals.

In summary, there are three stages to the ultimate solution. There is the present emergency stage. The second stage will extend over the next six to 12 months. Donors must allocate the million tons of food needed for Ethiopia, plus additional resources for the other sub-Saharan nations in the grips of drought and potential widespread famine. The third stage is for African countries and donors to continue to work for long-term development so that disaster does not haunt Africa forever.

And we must not lose the momentum of public interest and concern that has attended the crisis in Ethiopia. Above all, we must not lose hope. I am firmly convinced that despite the magnitude of the problem, it can be addressed. We need only to look to the examples of the recent past. Twenty-five or 30 years ago India was the recurring scene of famine that took millions of lives. Today, because of improved policies, technology, training and determination, India is virtually grain independent, and massive starvation is only a bitter memory.

While we respond to emergencies today, we must help create the circumstances in which people can help themselves climb out of poverty and misery. All of the short-term help of all the industrialized countries cannot be seen as a solution. Ultimately, the developing nations themselves must provide a policy climate that creates the conditions under which their own people can prosper and be fed.

*The writer is administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.*

THE



SUN

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 1983

P. 13A

THE SUN

By M. Peter McPherson

# Africa: Is There Hope?

Washington.

OVER the past few weeks the press and television have brought home the horror of thousands upon thousands of shriveled, hollow-eyed Ethiopians in the throes of starvation. The enormity of the tragedy has shocked the Western world, and set off an explosion of human compassion.

What is even more shocking is that the pictures have not yet revealed. Hundreds of thousands of people are malnourished and on the verge of starvation in Kenya, Niger, Mozambique, Sudan, Chad, Mali and other African countries.

I have received hundreds of calls and letters from concerned Americans. They all ask the same questions: What caused this tragedy. What can we do about it? Is there hope?

The food shortages in Africa are caused by a number of factors:

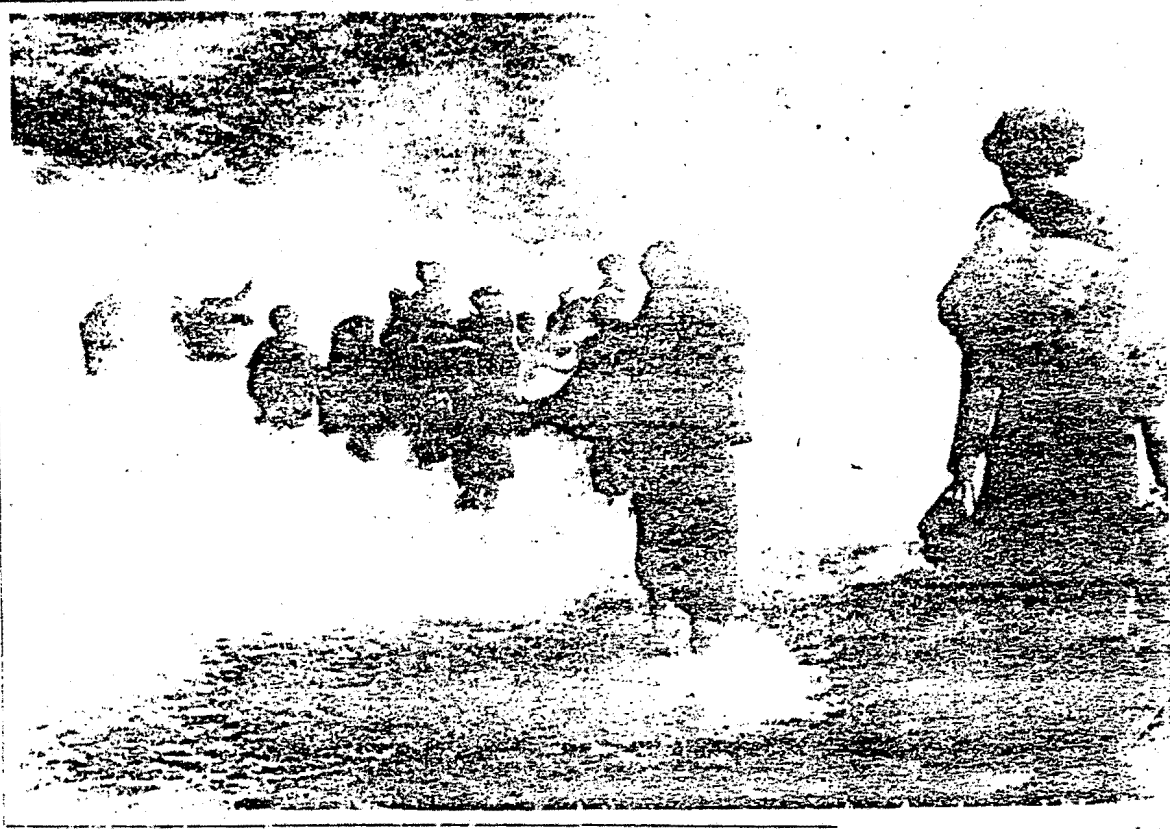
□ The effects of prolonged drought have been exacerbated by explosive population growth;

□ Over the last decade, Africa's food production has risen by only about 1.9 percent a year while the population has grown by 3 percent a year. Africa is the only continent in the world to experience a per capita decline of food production;

□ Environmental degradation has taken place as increased use of fuel wood for energy has contributed to deforestation, devegetation, declining water tables, soil erosion, silting, desertification and flooding.

□ Many of Africa's governments have pursued economic policies which have in fact depressed agricultural production by keeping food prices low, paying farmers less than market prices to satisfy politically powerful urbanites. Predictably, these policies act as disincentives for poor farmers to grow more;

□ Lack of education impedes



management of public and private resources and prevents the creation or adoption of appropriate technology;

□ The lack of roads inhibits transport of food;

□ In many African countries civil war has depleted resources and disrupted agricultural production. Millions have lost all their worldly possessions. Agricultural productivity has been lost as they have been forced to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

What are we doing about it?

Americans should know that the president has been aware of, and has directed us to respond to, the emergency for several months.

The United States was the largest emergency food donor in Africa in the past year, contributing about 505,000 metric tons of food worth \$173 million. The United States provided about half

of the food delivered for drought in Africa last year.

Because of the early severity of drought, the United States provided more emergency assistance to Ethiopia last year than to any other African country.

In past two months, we have signed agreements to provide African nations emergency food with an approximate value of \$200 million, more than the value of food delivered to Africa in the preceding 12 months.

About 200,000 metric tons of this U.S. donation are bound for Ethiopia; this is roughly equal to the food provided Ethiopia from all other donors.

I estimate that Ethiopia alone will require 1 million metric tons of emergency food assistance in the next 12 months from all donors.

Once at dockside, however, the

(MORE)



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# THE SUN



BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 1982

P. 13A

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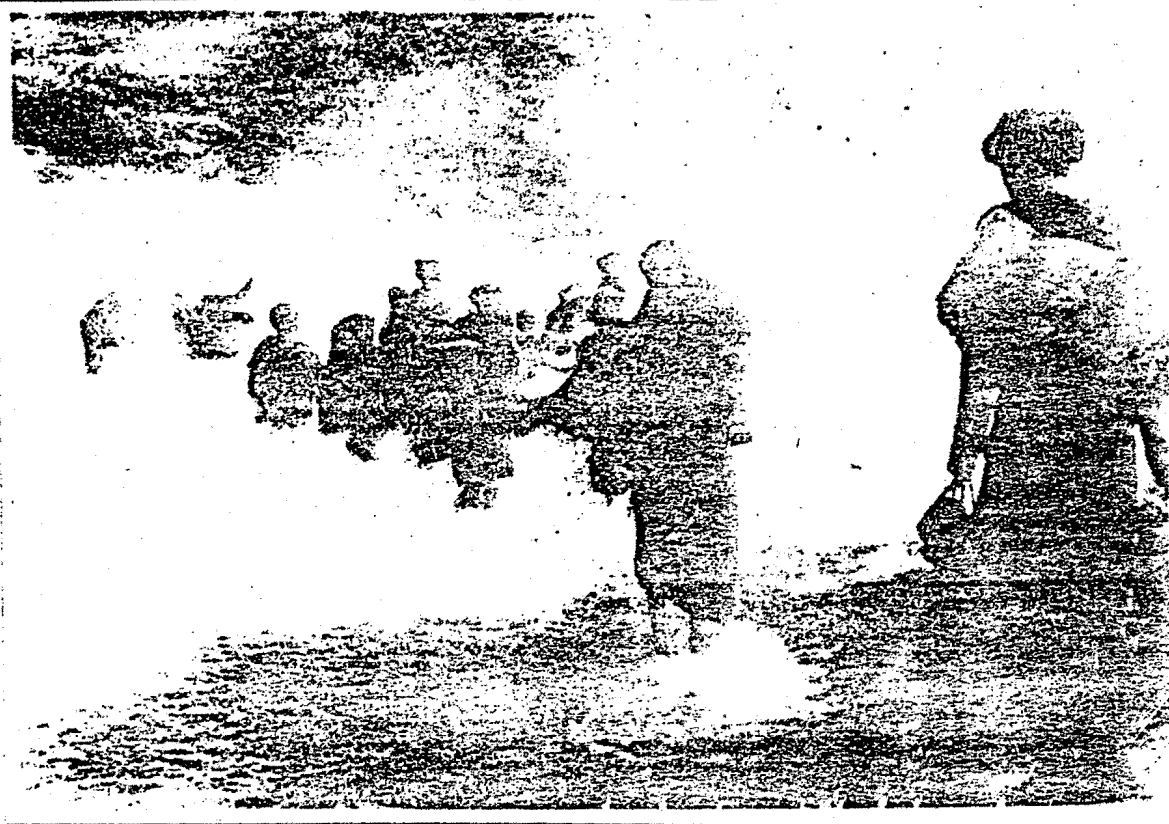
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Once at dockside, however, the

(MADP)

VJ DUE: 12/28/84

ACTION: AA/XA for McPherson signature  
with cc to ES/CCS & White House  
INFO: McPherson logs, AA/AFR, AFR/TF,  
OFDA, AA/FVA

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

REFERRAL

DECEMBER 14, 1984

TO: AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 259645

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED DECEMBER 4, 1984

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. TRIN YARBOROUGH  
OXFAM AMERICA  
115 BROADWAY  
BOSTON MA 02116

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES VIDEO CASSETTE OF A RECENT PSA ON  
THE ETHIOPIA FAMINE AND CRISIS THROUGHOUT  
AFRICA BY ENTERTAINER JAMES BROWN

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

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

EXECUTIVE SECRET  
NE

DEC 17 9 05 AM '84

5500123

# 259645

Dec. 4, 1984

*J. Kelley*

**Oxfam  
America**

115 Broadway  
Boston, MA 02116

(617) 482-1211  
Telex: 94-0288  
OXFAM,BSN

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

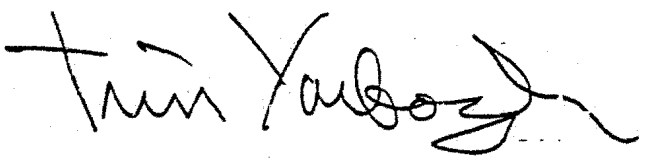
Dear President Reagan:

Enclosed is a video cassette (3/4") of a recent public service announcement on the Ethiopia famine and crisis throughout Africa, just completed for Oxfam America.

Entertainer James Brown donated his time to do this PSA for us, which we are distributing throughout the country. He asked us to send a copy to you. Please note that this tape contains two PSAs--one 30 seconds long and another 60 seconds long. We hope you will be able to view them.

I am also enclosing a few materials about our work with the famine.

Best regards,



Trin Yarborough

Enclosure

P.S.: Mr. Brown's address is: James Brown, % Topnotch Productions, 1052 Claussen Rd., Suite 116, Augusta, GA 30907.

**Executive Director**  
John Hammock

**Board of Directors**

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