

June 27, 1980

REMARKS OF SENATOR TSONGAS

Mr. President:

I would like to add my comments to those of my colleagues speaking on the need for additional P.L. 480 funds in H.R. 7542, the Supplemental Appropriations and Rescission Bill.

The Senate version of the bill contains \$100 million in P.L. 480 funding, divided between Title I (\$20 million) and Title II (\$80 million). The House version provides for \$20 million in Title I and \$122,800,000 in Title II. The House version, therefore, provides \$42,860,000 more funds in Title II than the Senate version.

It is crucial, in my view, that the Senate conferees on this bill accept the House figure. The funds would be used to send food assistance to three countries tragically burdened with large refugee populations -- Somalia, Pakistan, and Kampuchea. Starvation and death stalk the refugee camps of these nations. Military conflict in neighboring states compels noncombatants to leave their homes and seek safety and refuge across their borders.

It is imperative that the United States respond to the desperate circumstances in Somalia, Pakistan, and Kampuchea. The conferees will face many issues in their deliberations, and their task will be complex, but this is an issue, in my mind, which more than merits their support.