

To: Susan
Fr: Elliot
working draft of foreign aid statement

The most basic human right is the right to live. The inability to survive, a reality facing millions throughout the world, makes the civil and political rights Americans cherish meaningless. Yet amendments being proposed today in the name of human rights would have the effect of denying the most fundamental right of all---survival.

As a Peace Corps ~~Volunteer~~ Volunteer in Ethiopia, I personally witnessed the daily struggle to exist. On a return visit last year, I witnessed the frustration of Ethiopians when the United States opposed a loan for an irrigation project in order to register dissatisfaction with the political regime. To punish ~~stra~~ starving human beings for the reprehensible actions of their governments, ~~over which they have little~~ ~~center~~ is to abandon the moral obligation this nation has incurred as the world's most prosperous country.

Further cuts or restrictions in this foreign aid bill will have the ^{dual} effect of eroding a vital element of American foreign policy and thwarting our domestic battle against inflation and unemployment. The future economic and political security of the United States is dependent on the relationships we cultivate now with less developed countries. If we ~~chese~~ choose to alienate them, we are choosing future confrontations whose costs will greatly outweigh the meager savings we might ~~recieve~~ ^{receive} by cutting funds today.

We are obligated to look beyond the personal political benefits of cutting aid to the advantages of a more prosperous world economy. The relations between the United States and the Third World are ones of interdependency, not dependency. The stability and growth of our economy is linked with the continuation of supplies of ~~f~~ raw materials and the expansion of markets for American goods and services. And the benefits of foreign aid are not vague promises to be

fulfilled in the distant future. Every dollar appropriated to the international financial institutions stimulates almost two dollars in goods and services for our economy.

The mutual benefits of the foreign aid program make it imperative that not further funding cuts or restrictions endangering our participation in the IFI's be imposed. Our actions on this bill will determine whether we aid less developed countries to become prosperous, democratic nations, or throw these countries further into the arms of the Soviet Union. By turning our backs on the Third World, we turn our backs on ourselves.