

February 3, 1975

POOL REPORT #1ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE  
TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA

White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen said that President Ford has authorized \$1.470 Billion in Foreign food Assistance for the 1975 fiscal year. He said that the figure carried in the Budget of \$1.1 Billion for the PL-480 program was not correct because Ford had not yet made a final decision.

Nessen said the 1975 figure is a 75 percent increase in dollars and tonnage over the 1974 fiscal year figure and will allow shipment of 5.4 million tons of grain. He made the decision last Friday or Saturday for the following reasons:

-- the necessity of American help to meet the desperate food needs of developing countries. He said 70 percent of the food aid will go to the poorest countries and will help relieve severe famine conditions in many areas.

-- the importance of helping nations with whom the U.S. has close economic and political relations.

-- the availability of adequate amounts of food to provide this assistance without severely affecting U.S. domestic supplies or U.S. domestic prices.

Ford does not require Congressional approval of this outlay. Nessen said. He also said that the country-by-country division of the assistance has not yet been decided pending consultation with Congress over the interpretation of the Humphrey amendment to the Food for Peace program.

The so-called Humphrey amendment concerns how much goes to the poorest countries and how much to the others.

The 1976 budget shows an outlay of \$1.17 Billion for the aid program. Nessen said grain prices are estimated to be likely to come down so that less money in 1976 will still buy the same amount of grain.

Nessen said Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto arrives in Washington Tuesday and will have his first meeting Wednesday with Ford at 10:30 a.m., est with a state dinner in his honor Wednesday evening. He leaves Friday after meeting with other government officials.

Cliff Evans  
Fran Lewine  
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