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WASHINGTON PASS ELECTRICALLY TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

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TO : GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: JERRY BREMER

HAKTO 111

1. AS PROMISED, HERewith TEXT OF KANSAS CITY STAR ARTICLE ON BUTZ'S PRESS CONFERENCE, HELD IN ROME NOVEMBER 4.

2. ROME (KIEWIT) WHILE REFUSING TO DESCRIBE THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION AS A CRISIS, EARL L. BUTZ, U.S. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY, SAID HERE ON THE EVE OF THE 11-DAY WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE THAT THE WORK OF THE DELEGATES FROM APPROXIMATELY 140 NATIONS "MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO FAIL."

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No Objection to Declassification in Part 2009/12/09 : LOC-HAK-262-2-62-0

FOLLOWING THE FORMAL PRESENTATIONS, DELEGATES WILL DIVIDE INTO SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS AS INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING NATIONS, MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY, PLANS TO IMPROVE TRADE. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF THAT, THE MEETING WILL CONCLUDE ON THE FINAL TWO DAYS WITH THE WRITING AND ADOPTION OF A FINAL REPORT.

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" I THINK EVERYBODY AGREES TO THAT. WORLD FOOD RESERVES ARE THE LOWEST THEY HAVE BEEN IN MANY, MANY YEARS. THAT IS CHIEFLY THE RESULT OF A VERY POOR PRODUCTION YEAR IN 1972 AROUND THE WORLD AND AGAIN IN 1974, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES WITH OUR CORN CROP.

IN LISTING HIS HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE ROME CONFERENCE, WITH DELEGATES FROM BOTH THE U.S.S.R. AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN ATTENDANCE, BUTZ TICKED OFF FOUR ITEMS THAT HE SAID MUST BE HANDLED CO-OPERATIVELY AND SUCCESSFULLY.

HE MENTIONED: DEDICATION TO INCREASE TECHNICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE; THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRUDENT RESERVE POLICY, A BETTER REPORTING SYSTEM TO DETERMINE AREAS OF WORLD SHORTAGES AND SURPLUSES AND, LASTLY, SHORT TERM RELIEF FOR PERSONS ALREADY SUFFERING FROM HUNGER IN AFRICA AND ASIA.

DEVELOPING NATIONS SIMPLY MUST INCREASE THEIR CAPACITY TO FEED THEMSELVES, HE SAID, ADDING: " IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE INCREASE IN YIELDS HAS BEEN TWICE AS GREAT IN THE DEVELOPED NATIONS AS IN THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. THIS MUST BE CORRECTED."

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" THAT ERA HAS ENDED," HE SAID. " THERE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING RESERVES MUST BE BROADENED AND MUST BE SHARED BY ALL PRODUCING NATIONS AND ALSO BY THE PRINCIPAL CONSUMING NATIONS."

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" THE BEST POSSIBLE SIGNAL TO SEND BACK TO THEM WAS DOLLARS 4.50 A BUSHEL WHEAT," HE SAID. " THEY CAN INTERPRET THAT SIGNAL WITH A DULL PENCIL. YOU NEED NO SPECIAL SKILL TO GET THAT SIGNAL ACCROSS.

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CALLING ITSELF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIORNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, THE GROUP ISSUED A DECLARATION OF THE ROME FORUM ON WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS ON THE EVE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE.

THE CHAIRPERSON SAID THAT THE MEETING HERE CARRIES WITH IT A "SENSE OF EXTREME URGENCY" HER CONVICTION IS THAT THE REAL ISSUE IS WHETHER LARGE SEGMENTS OF MANKIND WILL HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO SURVIVE UNTIL THE 1975 HARVESTS. SHE PEGGED THE CRITICAL TIME ELEMENT OVER THE NEXT SIX TO NINE MONTHS. SHE CALLED FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONALLY-CONTROLLED AND PRICED GRAIN STOCKS SO "THAT WE DO NOT HAVE CONTINUOUSLY INFLATIONARY PRESSURE ARISING FROM UNCONTROLLED WORLD MARKETS."

SHE ALSO CALLED FOR AN "EARLY WARNING SYSTEM" SO THAT NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE SIZE OF WORLD FOOD STOCKS AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME.

ONE IDEA PRESENTED IN THE DECLARATION APPEARS TO HAVE THE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF DELEGATES FROM MANY NATIONS AS THEY ARRIVE IN ROME. THAT IS THE CONCEPT THAT THE NEWLY-RICH OIL PRODUCING NATIONS SHOULD JOIN WITH DEVELOPED NATIONS IN SHARING THE BURDEN OF FEEDING THE WORLD'S HUNGRY

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE OLD RICH OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD AND THE NEW RICH OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD HAVE COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT A WHOLE NEW EFFORT IN THE FIELD," LADY JACKSON SAID.

THAT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED, LADY JACKSON ADDED, BUY THE FUNDING OF A WORLD AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR LONG TERM INVESTMENT. MUCH OF THAT INVESTMENT, SHE SAID, SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO SMALL FORMERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN A MASSIVE EFFORT TO HELP THEM COLLECTIVELY TO INCREASE GRAIN PRODUCTION.

LADY JACKSON SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT IN MANY AREAS OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD DIETS ARE TOO HIGH FOR GOOD HEALTH, ADDING THAT THE DESIRABILITY OF CUTTING DOWN OUR FOOD INTAKE AND MAKING CERTAIN THAT A CORRESPONDING AMOUNT OF FOOD MONEY FINDS ITS WAY TO A LEGITIMATE WORLD ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD OUGHT TO BE A TOP PRIORITY OF THE CONFERENCE HERE.

"IN 1946, WHEN THERE WAS A THREAT OF WORLD FAMINE IN THE WAKE OF THE WAR AND THE PRESENT WEALTHY PEOPLE WERE 25 YEARS LESS WEALTHY THAN THEY ARE NOW, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THAT TIME, INCLUDING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, HAD THE GUTS TO SAY TO THEIR PEOPLE THERE WILL BE RATIONING THIS WINTER BECAUSE WE MUST BE CERTAIN THAT THE GRAIN IS AVAILABLE. I BELIEVE THAT WHAT WE DID 25 YEARS AGO IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE NOW.

LESTER BROWN, A U.S. WRITER, WORLD FOOD EXPERT AND A FORMER OFFICIAL OF THE USDA, TOLD THE FORUM THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO WAYS OF STRETCHING OUT WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES. ONE, HE SAID, WAS FOR GOVERNMENTS TO INTERVENE IN THE MARKET AND, IN THE AFFLUENT NATIONS, PURCHASING FOOD FOR SHIPMENT ABROAD. ANOTHER IS TO ASK CONSUMERS VOLUNTARILY TO REDUCE THEIR CONSUMPTION. BROWN ADDED HE BELIEVED THAT APPROACH WOULD WORK IF AMERICANS WERE ASKED.

"WE HAVE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES IN ASKING FOR CONSUMPTION TO BE REDUCED," BROWN SAID. "THE PRESIDENT EARLY THIS YEAR ASKED AMERICANS TO CUT BACK ON THE USE OF ENERGY, FOR EXAMPLE, TURNING DOWN THERMOSTATS SIX DEGREES.

"I THINK THE GREAT MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WERE RESPONSIVE TO THAT REQUEST. I THINK THE SAME GREAT MAJORITY, AS WELL AS THOSE IN OTHER AFFLUENT COUNTRIES, WOULD BE RESPONSIVE AGAIN TODAY TO REQUESTS FOR CUTTING BACK ON FOOD CONSUMPTION, IF THAT CUTBACK WAS LINKED TO A FOOD RELIEF PROGRAM TO PREVENT A RISE IN DEATH RATES THAT OTHERWISE WILL BE INEVITABLE IN A NUMBER OF THE LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES."

"THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND, WHETHER IT IS THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OR THE STUDENTS AT YALE, THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL RESPOND TO A REQUEST BY THE LEADERSHIP, IF THAT REQUEST IS FORTHCOMING."

3. WARM REGARDS.

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CONFIDENTIAL

November 5, 1974

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HAK TO 111
IMMEDIATE

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: JERRY BREMER 

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2. BEGIN TEXT: (Attached) END TEXT.

3. Warm regards.

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ATTN. DR P.T. TELEGRAMMA • ADDI. DR P.T. TELEGRAMMA • AMM. DR P.T. TELEGRAMMA • AMM. DR P.T. TELEGRAMMA

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