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TRANSCRIPT OF NEWS CONFERENCE, JUNE 17, 1996

(Speakers list: J. Brian Atwood, director, U.S. Agency for International Development; U.S. Representative Tony Hall (D-OH); Julia Taft, president, Interaction; Rudy von Bernuth, executive director, Council of Voluntary Agencies; David Beckman, president, Bread for the World)

ATWOOD. Thank you very much, Julia, and thank you for your leadership and that of Interaction, a group of American non-governmental organizations who do humanitarian and development work. We're pleased that the NGOs that are members of Interaction are partners in delivering assistance to people around the world.

We have a table at the front here full of leaders; David, Rudy, Tony Hall. All, in their own way, have really been leaders in this effort. We're here today to discuss some rather dismal statistics. This is a very sad week for the American foreign assistance program. The Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has this morning in Paris released its 1995 statistics for official development assistance.

The United States has now fallen behind Japan, France and Germany in total aid volume. Our volume has dropped by one-third and we continue to rank last among donor nations as a percentage of our gross national product, as Julia indicated. Tomorrow, USAID will begin a reduction of its workforce. The first of 200 letters will be distributed to our American staff informing them that we do not have the budget to sustain their employment. This comes on the heels of reducing the USAID workforce from 11,500 to 8,700. This is the second largest reduction in the U.S. government.

The services of outstanding development professionals will be lost to the U.S. government, possibly forever. So, at the moment when global development problems are mounting, the United States is severely damaging its institutional capacity to respond. At the same time, the overall contribution of the industrial nations to development has fallen another 10 percent. This is a reduction of 18 percent in the last two calendar years.

International organizations, the United Nations and the international financial institutions, led by the World Bank, are being undermined just as the world faces major real development problems. Eight hundred million people, mostly children, are malnourished. Food shortages in many areas of the developing world have become acute. Insurance companies are paying out record amounts for weather-related damages due to global warming. Millions of families have no access to family planning services, which is causing millions of unwanted pregnancies, maternal deaths and abortions.

Nation-states are failing in greater numbers than ever due to political, economic, environmental and demographic pressures, unleashing a tide of refugees and displaced persons. These problems will only get worse as the world's population grows by one billion people each decade.

These new people can either be consumers, or they can be the wards of the world's rich countries.

That's the choice that we face today. We Americans think of ourselves as generous people. We respond when there is a humanitarian crisis. But the time is over for measuring our generosity simply by our response to disasters.

As Julia mentioned, we're the richest nation on earth. Our economy produces \$6 tril-

lion a year in goods and services. Yet our foreign assistance program accounts for less than one percent of our national budget, about \$34 per taxpaying family.

That's not generous. We should feel ashamed. We are failing to fulfill our responsibilities as a world power. More importantly, we are failing our own national interests and we're failing our own national values.

I think it's time to wake up and realize that we will not balance our budget without sustained growth in the global economy. We will not balance our budget if the developing world continues to produce failed states that disrupt the global economy. We need to make the investments in development assistance that will preserve our children's health, standard of living, and safety.

If we continue to ignore this responsibility, the world will see increasing chaos, and our generation will be condemned for its short-sightedness. Thank you.

JULIA TAFT. Thank you, Brian. Congressman Hall?

HALL. Thank you, Julia and Brian and David, Rudy. Ladies and gentlemen and friends, today's report—pardon me—really comes at an historic moment. This is a time of enormous opportunities for peace and prosperity. Russia had just held its second election on a record of more economic reform and more trade.

But it's also a time of terrible suffering in countries all over the world. There's well over 23 humanitarian crises that are going on right now. And it's a time of internal chaos that faces other countries where peace technically prevails, such as in Bosnia.

The clearest message in today's report is that while the quality of aid is improving, the quantity of financial resources is slipping dramatically.

Two more reports offer a troubling picture of the future. Four out of every five dollars that next year's foreign appropriation bill cuts are in the programs that target the world's poorest people. It does try to maintain the current commitment to UNICEF and childhood survival programs, but otherwise falls short of even last year's miserly contribution.

The agriculture appropriation bill ignores the sobering fact that wheat and corn prices have doubled, and that prices for other commodities are near all-time highs. This means significantly less food will reach the mouths of hungry children and others next year.

And this is something that really hasn't been focused on. The appropriation bill, the agriculture bill that we passed last year—or I'm sorry, last week—is the lowest percentage of tonnage that I can remember, probably the lowest percentage of tonnage going to hungry people since the start of the program. And it's been cut in half since 1993.

This is doubly shortsighted because the grain we are not providing is grown by American farmers.

Many members of Congress, especially the newer ones, they express a deep hostility towards foreign aid. Many elected officials lack the vision and the leadership to make it clear to their voters that the eradication of poverty is in the best interest of everyone, both rich and poor countries.

The story doesn't end here, though, and, like the spirits of Christmas past and present and future, these trends do not seal our fate. I believe there is a different spirit in our nation, and that this is the spirit that should guide us to a different future. I believe that people are willing to help people help themselves, and there is no shortage of support for food aid and microenterprise programs, and popularly-supported programs that do just that.

Both government programs and NGOs need seed money and nurturing. I believe that

people stand ready to help children, especially, and the millions of refugees of wars and weather disasters. Poll after poll supports this readiness, and my own constituents affirm it to me every time I go home. I believe my constituents are proud of the fact that I work on these programs.

As a matter of fact—I've said this to you before, and I can't say enough times—and that a recent poll showed that it was a very wide, very wide poll from the standpoint it had tremendous diversity across the country that people believed that hunger and poverty issues are as important as balancing the budget and health care issues.

There is a consensus emerging among governments, NGOs, churches, and people who are guided by their conscience that we know how to fight hunger and poverty, and that we can beat it if we work together. Despite the critics, there is ample evidence to support the consensus. Some 20 years ago, the world banded together and they wiped out smallpox, and we won. And we are very close to eliminating polio.

Winning that battle will mean that American families will save the quarter billion dollars spent each year on polio vaccines. It will mean that the dozen American children who actually catch polio from the vaccine each year won't anymore. And it will mean that we will save the lives of the thousands of children crippled or killed by polio each year.

In the past 50 years, we have helped raise literacy by a third, cut infant mortality in half, and increase life expectancy from 44 to 62 years. The United States cannot afford to ignore any region or segment of a population, however poor. We are too connected, we are too attuned to the other people we watch on television every night, we're too vulnerable to diseases that begin continents away, and too enriched by exports to nations whose people achieve a healthy standard of living.

Interaction and development initiatives deserve a special commendation for their Relief of Aid Report. It is hard evidence that the quality of aid is improving, and it is a clear call to action for developed countries to focus more resources on hunger and poverty.

Thank you.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the United States should become a humanitarian leader once again instead of dragging our feet. And in the long run our failure to do the generous and right thing will cost our people both in security terms and in economic terms.●

MAKING MAJORITY APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the immediate consideration of a resolution, which I send to the desk, making majority appointments to committees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 267) to make changes in committee membership for the 104th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be

agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 267

Resolved, That notwithstanding any provision of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following Senators are either added to or removed from the following committees for the 104th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

Added to:
 Armed Services: The Senator from Kansas [Mrs. FRAHM];
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: The Senator from Kansas [Mrs. FRAHM];
 Finance: The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT];
 Governmental Affairs: The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI];
 Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry: The Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM];
 Rules and Administration: The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT];
 Budget: The Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK];
 Removed from:
 Armed Services: The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT];
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI];
 Governmental Affairs: The Senator from Colorado [Mr. BROWN]; and
 Budget: The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT].

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Senate Resolution 400, 94th Congress, and Senate Resolution 4, 95th Congress, appoints the following Senators to the Select Committee on Intelligence: the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR], the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from Arizona [Mr. KYL], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], the Senator from Maine [Mr. COHEN], and the Senator from Colorado [Mr. BROWN].

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 3525

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 3525, which was just received from the House, be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I note this is the legislation dealing with the church burning issue.

ANTI-CAR THEFT IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2803, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2803) to amend the anti-car theft provisions of title 49, United States Code, to increase the utility of motor vehicle title information to State and Federal law enforcement officials, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to this bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2803) was considered read the third time and passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Executive Calendar nominations Nos. 606, 607, 609 and 610 through 632, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

I note here, Mr. President, that these are military nominations which were reported out of the Armed Services Committee on June 13.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed, en bloc, are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Ronald T. Kadish, 000-00-0000, U.S. Air Force

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of general in the U.S. Air Force while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Walter Kross, 000-00-0000

IN THE ARMY

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of general in the U.S. Army while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601(a):

To be general

Lt. Gen. Wesley K. Clark, 000-00-0000, U.S. Army

The following U.S. Army Reserve officers for promotion in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, United States Code, sections 3371, 3384, and 12203(a):

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Paul C. Bergson, 000-00-0000
 Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Caton, 000-00-0000
 Brig. Gen. Anthony R. Kropp, 000-00-0000
 Brig. Gen. John M. O'Connell, 000-00-0000

To be brigadier general

Col. Voneree Deloatch, 000-00-0000
 Col. Robert M. Diamond, 000-00-0000
 Col. Alfonsa Gilley, 000-00-0000
 Col. Haywood S. Gilliam, 000-00-0000
 Col. Pierce A. Roan, Jr., 000-00-0000
 Col. Alfred T. Rossi, 000-00-0000
 Col. Richard G. Simmons, 000-00-0000

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of general in the U.S. Army while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601(a):

To be general

Lt. Gen. David A. Bramlett, 000-00-0000, U.S. Army

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the U.S. Army while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601(a):

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, 000-00-0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following-named brigadier generals of the U.S. Marine Corps for promotion to the grade of major general, under the provisions of section 624 of title 10, United States Code:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Braaten, 000-00-0000, USMC
 Brig. Gen. Michael P. DeLong, 000-00-0000, USMC
 Brig. Gen. Edward Hanlon, Jr., 000-00-0000, USMC
 Brig. Gen. Geoffrey B. Higginbotham, 000-00-0000, USMC
 Brig. Gen. George M. Karamarkovich, 000-00-0000, USMC
 Brig. Gen. Jack W. Klimp, 000-00-0000, USMC

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under the provisions of section 601, title 10, United States Code:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Carol A. Mutter, 000-00-0000

The following-named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, and appointment to the grade of general while serving in that position under the provisions of section 5044, title 10, United States Code:

To be Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

Lt. Gen. Richard I. Neal, 000-00-0000

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under section 601, title 10, United States Code:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Terrence R. Dake, 000-00-0000

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under section 601, title 10, United States Code:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey W. Oster, 000-00-0000