



The American Committee on Africa

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR U.S. AID TO AFRICA

July 5, 1996

Dear Friend of ACOA,

A final Congressional vote on U.S. aid to Africa could be only days away. The House of Representatives has already voted to eliminate the Development Fund For Africa which guarantees Africa at least a small share of the aid budget. The Senate vote could come as early as the week of July 16.

Without this, money for Africa, the world's poorest continent, can too easily be diverted to other regions. If Communists threaten a come-back in Eastern Europe or the Mid-East peace process is in danger, any administration could be pressured to rush in additional funds at Africa's expense. This is why it is so critical that Congress officially earmark aid for Africa.

Every Senator needs to hear from his or her constituents in the next few days about aid to Africa. We need to send the message that development aid must be earmarked especially for Africa just as it is for Eastern Europe and the Mid-East.

You can call your Senators at (202) 224-3121. Or call Western Union at 1-800-325-6000 to send them a 20 word public opinion message.

U.S. aid to Africa is helping people build a brighter future. This year 45,00 South Africa families will have basic water and sanitation. Thousands of children in Uganda and Malawi are going to school for the first time. U.S. aid inoculates children against deadly diseases, and provides rural families with health clinics and clean drinking water. If U.S. development aid is abolished or diverted, people throughout Africa will suffer or even die.

We have been straining our limited resources to get this message to the Senate:

✓ ACOA is mobilizing women's organizations to protect aid programs for women and children.

✓ State and municipal legislators are contacting their

Senators on aid.

✓ We are reaching out to church, civil rights and community leaders across the country.

Although aid has been our top priority we have also been busy on other fronts:

* Our ecumenical Religious Action Network of congregations from coast to coast is working on behalf of political prisoners in Nigeria.

* We are building links between women in the U.S. and southern Africa.

* We are developing plans to make Africa an issue in the presidential election.

Only your help makes all this possible.

That's why I'm turning to you today to ask you to contribute as generously as you possible can. Thank you.

For justice and peace,

Jennifer Davis

Jennifer Davis
Executive Director

P.S. Please, if you can,
call your Senators to-day!