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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT,  
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen  
16th Ill. District.

"GIVE US SEED..."

We saw a letter from China. It came from a man of the cloth. He lives a life of sacrifice and self-denial in ministering to a humble and patient people. His letter was occasioned by difficulty in securing one of two items in which he was interested. One was clothes. Guess what the other was. A camera? No. A gun? No. Medicine? No. Sugar? No. Money? No. Cigarettes? No. It was seed. There he is, 9000 miles from home, enduring hardships, asking for seed, to place in the soil, to produce food, to multiply into more seed and to bring unending benefits long after he has departed this earth.

Seed and Guns.

Think of war. Think of the invasion. Think of the destructive instruments of war, rolling over the terrain and destroying things in it's wake. Think of artillery shells snapping off and destroying trees. Think of high-explosive shells, creating huge craters in the earth which must one day be levelled off that the earth might produce again. The guns symbolize destruction and death. Seed symbolizes new life. What an interesting contrast! The United Nation Relief and Rehabilitation Administration have taken seed into account. Hundreds of thousands of tons of seed, including potatoes will be needed. Seed gives promise of food and throws back the spectre of famine.

ALL KINDS OF SEED.

There must be vegetable and garden seeds of all kinds. But there must also be seed for grasses that cattle and livestock might eat. There must be alfalfa, clover, and legume seed. European countries have requested millions of pounds. There is an acute seed shortage. Congress is about to approve an appropriation for 12½ millions as a bonus to farmers to to gather more seed because it is badly needed. What a wealth of hope there is for hungry people and hungry livestock in those tiny seeds that make the earth verdant with food and feed.

SEED IS OUR KINSHIP WITH PAST.

A seed is planted. It produces a vegetable, a grass. But it also produces more seed. And in a few years, a tiny seed can produce enough descendants to supply a multitude. A seed is a symbol of continuity. Whether by accident or otherwise, how interesting that in the tomb of ancient King Tut in Egypt, it is said that a grain of wheat was found. Perhaps we can better understand the Egyptians cry to Joseph, " ... and give us seed that we may live and not die, that the land be not desolate, If we can get some seed to that holy man in China, his vision will be remembered by generations of Chinese to come after.