

EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN
ILLINOIS

1968 Robert
MINORITY LEADER



United States Senate

BIAFRA, August 12, 1968

Thank you for writing me expressing concern over the unfortunate people of Biafra.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been acknowledged as the coordinating agent of all outside disaster relief assistance to needy persons throughout Nigeria. These needy persons are found in what remains of Biafra, as well as in the areas of Biafra now under the Federal Military Government of Nigeria.

As of July 24 the United States had given the following to Biafra:

Food for distribution valued at approximately	\$1,400,000
Nonfat dry milk and butter oil, estimated value	2,700,000
Funds for transportation and medicine	200,000
Funds for relief supplies - transportation and vehicles	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total	\$5,300,000
Total contributions from United States private organizations, July 1.	
	\$2,000,000

While the Federal Military Government of Nigeria has proposed means of getting emergency relief supplies into rebel-held areas, they emphasize that were any supplies brought into any part of Nigeria by means not authorized by them, this would constitute a violation of Nigerian air space and an act of hostility against Nigeria.

We are all concerned about these people, and I am hopeful the matter of getting enough food and supplies to them can be resolved shortly.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN
ILLINOIS

MINORITY LEADER



United States Senate

BIARRA-ROBO

December 9, 1968

Dear :

Very strenuous efforts have been and are being made by a number of us here to try to provide both relief to the distressed and a solution to the hostility between Nigeria and Biafra. In the first instance, the military leaders in both regions have been largely responsible for denying such help to the needy, but it does now appear that the conflict will shortly be resolved, and assistance to all who require it will become possible.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen