

Political differences hinder Ethiopian relief efforts

By Robert Lothian

Political differences between Ethiopia's Marxist government and the U.S. and other countries is getting in the way of relief to that starving nation, according to Dr. Willis Logan, the director of Church World Services Africa.

Logan was in Portland December 12 after having just returned from an eight day trip to Ethiopia. "I was quite overwhelmed by what I saw," said Logan, who described "people being born and dying side-by-side."

Although exact figures on the number of dead are unavailable, some estimates surpass 200,000, and millions more could perish if more relief is not forthcoming, he said.

Information on the growing crisis was available 15 - 18 months ago, according to Logan. "There were early indications that the situation would deteriorate if something wasn't done," but the U.S. and other western countries didn't take the initiative, he said. It was only after the catastrophe became a media event that relief began pouring in, accord-

ing to Logan. But now that media interest has worn off relief is dwindling, he said.

"When we look at the kind of forewarning and the kind of information that was received, then we have to ask who didn't respond and why," said Logan.

"It's not something that can be left to the charitable influence of people.

"The U.S. can do more. We are not saying that the U.S. hasn't responded adequately but in terms of the immensity of the problem, certainly our ability has not been exhausted."



Dr. Willis Logan, director of Church World Services, speaks with the press following recent trip to Ethiopia. (Photo: Kris Altucher)

While "the drought is the main problem" Logan spoke of the necessity "to look for the things going on behind these disasters," such as the estrangement between the U.S. and Ethiopia's left-wing regime. Until the mid-70s Ethiopia was the major U.S. ally in the horn of Africa, and Somalia was allied with Russia. But war and a change of governments caused a switch, and now Somalia is the U.S. ally while Ethiopia has turned toward Russia. Relations between the U.S. and Ethiopia have been strained ever since. The Ethiopian government is no angel in the situation, either, said Logan, because it

interrupts needed aid to areas controlled by secessionist rebels, such as province of Eritrea.

African countries besides Ethiopia are having severe problems also, said Logan. Chad and Mozambique, for instance, he said, "are literally being strangled to death by the climactic and political situation. South Africa's destabilization efforts are raising havoc with Mozambique and other countries," he added.

"This is a situation where thousands of lives are being lost every day, and it is a situation that demands a response that transcends political differences," said Logan.

Oregon veterans' income reports due Jan. 1st

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs would like to remind the Oregon veterans and widows of veterans who are drawing Federal Veterans Administration Pensions that the Annual Income Questionnaire cards which they received must be returned to the Veterans Administration by January 1, 1985 or risk losing their pensions.

Any pensioner needing assistance in filling out the questionnaire should contact the County Veterans Service in his or her county. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs offer assistance. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs services office in Salem is located at 700 Summer Street NE, Suite 150. In Portland veterans should contact the services office in Room 1440, Federal Building, downtown. Also in the Salem area, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs veterans counselors will be available at the Polk County Courthouse from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on December 21, 1984.

If you are unable to visit one of these offices, you may call our toll-free number, 1-800-692-9666, and we will try to assist you.

Gates donates Heritage quilt

The McPherson Heritage Quilt is now in a western archive. Several items of McPherson memorabilia accompanied the donation. Said quilt was made by J. M. Gates (Mrs. Oslly J. Gates) of Portland. Gates has documented in quilting a series of historical themes.

Managua mayor

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defeating Somoza. "We know what war is. We have lived through war. We know what war costs. We want peace. We know that we can accomplish our development much better in a situation of peace."

Anti-Nicaraguan feeling coming from the Reagan administration "practically speaking, has no logic," he said. "The fear the example of the changes we are making will be seen by the other countries in Latin America."

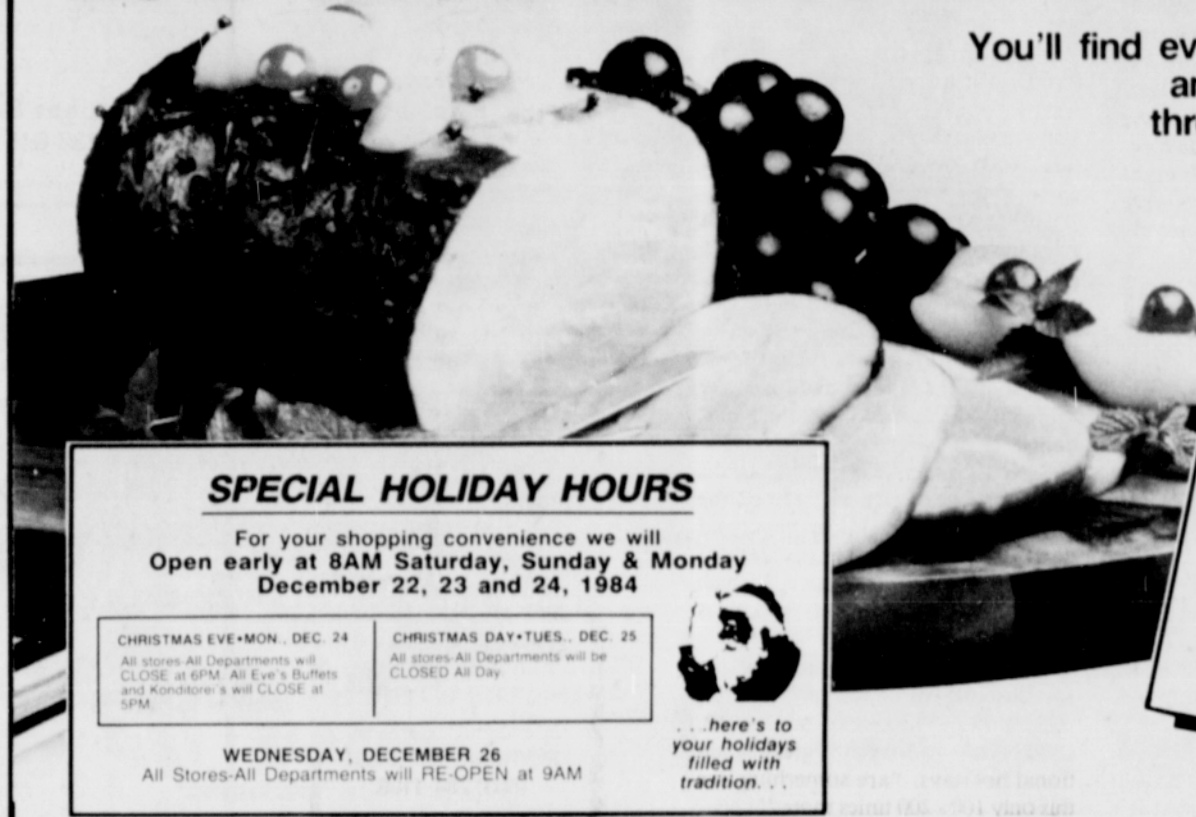
"Given what Mr. Reagan has done against us, we don't have a very good opinion of him. But," said Santos, with elegant tact, "we hope to have an opportunity to change our opinion of him."

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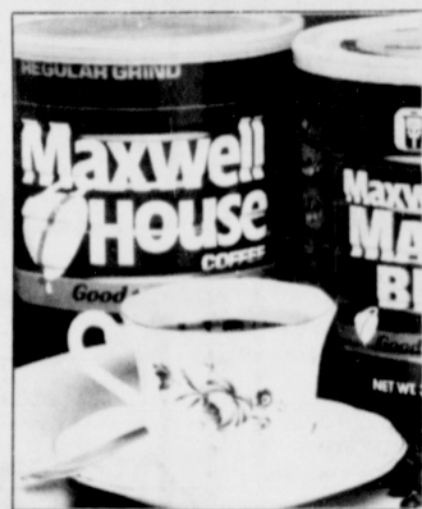
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