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U.S. Provides Big Share of Foreign Aid

WE frequently notice advertisements appealing for Americans to help feed starving people or "adopt" children in foreign lands.

One might infer from such promotions that we are neglecting our responsibilities but facts do not substantiate this view.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the United States donated 56 percent of total grain donations for 1982-1983. The European Community gave 23 percent and all other nations 23 percent.

After a couple of readers inquired about the extent of foreign aid, we asked The Oklahoman and Times Washington Bureau for latest figures. Correspondent Vivian Vahlberg supplied voluminous details about the program.

"The budget total foreign aid requested for fiscal 1984 is \$16.8 billion," Vahlberg wrote. "Traditional foreign aid is only about \$9.56 billion of that. The rest is for administration, international organizations, information and activities such as the Export-Import Bank which pri-

marily benefits U.S. companies exporting products."

The budget summary notes that "the United States seeks a world order characterized by peace, security and prosperity; in which individuals may enjoy political and economic freedom." Thus, foreign aid takes form as security, economic and financial assistance. Some examples:

Loans and grants for budgets and balance of payments support of "friendly governments" and financing of development projects;

Forgiven loans and loan guarantees to enable foreign governments to buy U.S. defense equipment, services and training;

Programs to encourage expansion of a market-oriented international economic system and to help meet developmental and humanitarian needs of developing countries;

Funds for the World Bank group of institutions and regional banks for Latin America, Asia and Africa to lend "to promote sound economic policies in recipient countries";

Funds for the Agency for Interna-

tional Development (AID) to participate in the United Nations and some 50 other organizations to carry out developmental, humanitarian and scientific activities;

Public Law 480 Food Aid, which includes concessional loans for food imports, food for the needy, security objectives, economic and export market support, and humanitarian

Just a few days ago economically troubled Mexico was granted \$1.7 billion credit to buy 6 million tons of foodstuffs produced in the United States.

Foreign aid also includes care for refugees abroad and resettlement of up to 72,000 refugees in the United States.

Perhaps productive nations are not doing all that is needed to relieve the world's poor and politically oppressed people's.

However, if the Third World's apparent socialist objective of redistributing income worldwide is considered, demands of their hungry but growing populations might never be satisfied.