84th Congress
1st Session

S. RES. ______

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Murray (for himself, and ---------------------------------------------) introduced the following resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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SENATE RESOLUTION
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To provide for the creation of an International Food and Raw Materials Reserve.

Resolved, That the Senate of the United States hereby finds that ---

(a) the prices and incomes received by American farmers have been declining and threaten to decline still further in the future;

(b) there has been a serious decline in the export of American farm products;

(c) shrinkage in foreign markets for American farm products might bring about a decline in farm and national income which could not be offset, even with a more adequate system of farm credit, price supports, and stockpiling programs;

(d) the world market for farm commodities and raw materials has historically been characterized by fluctuations which adversely affect prices, undermine the security of producers, and impede steady expansion
consistent with the need for larger supplies of food, clothing and other commodities as basic elements in expanding economies and improved living standards;

(e) fluctuations in the level of the prices of primary materials have had disruptive effects on world production and trade, and declines in the general level of these prices have historically been important factors in world economic depressions;

(f) food, clothing and other essential supplies per person in many areas of the world are less than before the war and far below the minimum required for healthful and productive living;

(g) the people in some countries live under the ever-present threat of famine and starvation;

(h) the development of more adequate reserves of farm products and other raw materials would provide essential safeguards against shortages resulting from natural causes such as drought, flood, and pestilence; from breakdowns in distribution; from inflation, insurrection and war;

(i) the ever-present threat of a major decline in the level of raw-material prices makes it impossible for underdeveloped countries to proceed with the confidence that is needed for their orderly development; and

(j) the existence of a reserve from which could be drawn, in time of need, some of the basic materials
from which food, clothing, and other essentials are produced, would be an important step toward strengthening democracy throughout the world and creating the economic foundations and the atmosphere of hope and confidence necessary for world peace.

SEC. 2. It is the policy of the Congress that the United States participate with other nations, under the auspices of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and other specialized international agencies, in establishing an International Food and Raw Materials Reserve which would ---

(a) provide for the acquisition and appropriate storage, in the United States and in other countries, of raw or processed farm products and other raw materials, such acquisition to take place at times when overall surpluses of such materials would otherwise cause undesirable price movements;

(b) be developed in a manner that will help to prevent extreme price fluctuations in the international market for farm products and other raw materials and keep production expanding to meet the world's pressing need for more food, clothing, and other essential supplies;

(c) be used to prevent famine and starvation;

(d) help absorb temporary market surpluses of farm products and other raw materials;

(e) provide for the use of currencies paid to the International Food and Raw Materials Reserve by purchasers of materials, or for the use of instruments
of credit issued in connection with the operations of the Reserve, to finance purchases of raw or processed products or to assist in the financing of approved economic and social development programs, formulated in cooperation with the appropriate international lending, economic development, and technical assistance agencies, such programs to include (without being limited to) those which further universal public general and vocational education, literacy, public health and medical care.

SEC. 3. The President and his representatives before the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization and other appropriate international bodies are hereby authorized and requested to enter into international negotiations for the purpose of preparing a specific plan and a proposed international agreement or agreements on the creation of an International Food and Raw Materials Reserve along the general lines set forth in section 2 hereof.

SEC. 4. The plan and agreement or agreements developed in accordance with section 3 hereof, together with full supporting material and information on operating methods, shall be presented to the Senate of the United States for approval.