

CENTRAL COUNTY

# CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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## Food aid policy

Recently the Times printed an article on the global food crisis that is threatening developing countries.

Normally a food crisis is brought on by a decline in production like crop failure or political and civil unrest. However, soaring food prices are now an obstacle to the agencies that distribute food.

There are some changes that could help the situation by changing the U.S. requirement that 75 percent of food aid must be carried on U.S. ships.

Shipping costs result in less money being available for food. The European Union recently changed its policies by buying food aid locally or regional avoiding large transportation costs.

If Congress created a Department of Global Development, the United States might develop a stronger and more effective voice for global issues of poverty and health. I hope the new administration will work toward this goal.

Edna Mass  
Walnut Creek

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