

Mrs. BOLTON. Not in the rainy season.

Mr. PALMER. No; the road coming down from the north—there are difficulties in moving it—but it can be moved. This has not been the problem. The problem really has been a political problem. So far as land movement is concerned, it has been the position taken by the Biafran Government in refusing to facilitate the reception of the food and movement of it through the lines. The Federal Government has made clear its willingness to move in this direction.

The Red Cross, I believe, accepts this as being a genuine offer and has been trying to persuade the Biafrans to cooperate from their side to receive it.

There are great limitations in movement by air.

Mrs. BOLTON. I know; but I am in great sympathy with the Biafrans. They don't trust the Nigerians.

Mr. PALMER. I think this is a factor and obviously a very important factor. But this food would go in under the auspices of the International Red Cross which certainly—

Mrs. BOLTON. They can do all kinds of things to it on the way.

Mr. PALMER. Mrs. Bolton, I must say that I don't think there would be any effort on the part of the Federal Government to tamper with that food.

Mrs. BOLTON. I am not at all sure. On the part of the Biafrans as well as the Nigerians there is not the same regard for human life that we have. They don't consider it as we do at all.

Mr. PALMER. I think that they do, Mrs. Bolton.

Mrs. BOLTON. You do?

Mr. PALMER. I think they are seriously disturbed. I think all Nigerians are disturbed about the loss of life.

Mrs. BOLTON. Thousands upon thousands have died.

Mr. PALMER. I think they are trying their best to minimize it but I think a civil war in any context is probably the most bitter of conflicts.

Mrs. BOLTON. And of course some Biafrans have been very arrogant. Some of the ones that I know.

They are very certain of their point of view.

Mr. PALMER. I think all people have their characteristics; but I really think, Mrs. Bolton—I do not believe for a minute, there would be any conscious effort to deliver anything other than food. I am sure—

Mrs. BOLTON. I am glad to have your sense of it. It has been disturbing.

Mr. PALMER. What may well have happened is that supplies of milk—which if it is not properly prepared can give diarrhea and other intestinal upsets; and there may have been some incorrect preparation of things of this kind which may have given rise to reports of this kind.

Mrs. BOLTON. I know that is possible, too.

Mr. PALMER. But I do not believe that there is any directed effort toward this end at all. On the contrary I found humanitarian concern very strong in Lagos.

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Diggs?

Mr. DIGGS. Mr. Secretary, are you saying that you do not believe that there is any basis for the pathological fear on the part of the Biafrans that reintegration would result in a genocide or something comparable to it?