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## **Agriculture News Release - 1994-09-27a**

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture

E. De la Garza

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# news release

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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(NR94-081)

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## **SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW CARGO PREFERENCE REQUIREMENTS IN FOOD AID SHIPMENTS**

For immediate release, Tuesday, September 27, 1994

WASHINGTON -- The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Foreign Agriculture and Hunger, chaired by Rep. Tim Penny, D-Minn., will hold a hearing to review a forthcoming report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) evaluating cargo preference requirements in U.S. food aid programs.

The hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 29, in Room 1302 of the Longworth House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

GAO initiated its study of cargo preference requirements at the request of Chairman Penny and Senator John Breaux, D-La., Chairman of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Merchant Marine. Current law requires that 75% of U.S. food aid tonnage be transported on U.S.-flag ships.

"At a time when food aid needs in Rwanda, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere challenge our ability to address the problem of global hunger, cargo preference requirements in food aid merit closer examination," Rep. Penny said.

Rep. Penny noted that a number of other developments make the GAO report timely.

"At the same time that Congress has begun consideration of reforms to U.S. maritime and agricultural policy, we are marking the 40th anniversary of Public Law 480, the primary law authorizing international food assistance," Rep. Penny said. "In a time of severe budget constraints, we have to take a very close look at cargo preference requirements, which add to the costs of delivering food aid, and which may not be serving their stated purposes."

The GAO report, entitled: **CARGO PREFERENCE REQUIREMENTS: Objectives Not Significantly Advanced When Used in U.S. Food Aid Programs** will be released at the hearing.

For additional information, contact Subcommittee Staff Director Jane Shey at 202-225-2171.