

This kind of violence is occurring every day in so many places; yet, it seems to strike so much harder when it is close by.

The cruelty of starvation in Northern Kenya has been heightened by government inaction. Adults who can no longer hold onto life fall dead on the road. We send food for mothers and children. There is no food to buy for adults even if donated funds are available. Towns are bare shelved when one looks where the maize was. Better prices in Uganda increase smuggling UN food sets in Kenya for famine relief but it does not get out of the warehouse for some unknown reason. Bureaucracy is intolerable when it costs lives not just money.

Despite all this madness, I can still be enjoying myself here in Nairobi. Maybe things cannot be taken as seriously as they are. When I sit eating my salad at lunch, trying to lose weight, and the little parking boy (the children beggars) comes to tell me he is hungry and I turn him away, he sits down to finish my plate as we leave. This is madness, surely.

We are doing some interesting projects at work now to improve the use of the food aid. There is just so much famine in Africa these days, that one feels torn in not wanting to just give hand-outs when so many people are hungry because of drought, war, or displacement, not just poverty.

What can we expect from negotiations on Zambia with Botha a party? Can any Zimbabwe type resolution come about? We get scant news on that.

How is your mom? and Dewa's eye? What about Basil?

I will make no dates for my visit. It is certain I shall come but when is still open. It will not be before February. There are also problems in Sudan and Djibouti and I do not know who will go there yet.

Any news on George? I hope his leave went well.

I have had a real touch of NY lately. The new Program Asst (like Gladys' position) in CBS Kenya is a real New Yorker in all its good side, gossip, fun, and a real interest in people. Every time I am with her, I can almost hear my mother and childhood friends. It is strange how she stirs up all old feelings, fun in a lot of ways.

Cliff is off in India this month.

I am actually enjoying missing him. It is nice to care about someone that way.

Looks like no more double-talk from the U.S. Reagan and his troops will tell it like it is. It is frightening for South Africa, for Central America, and who knows where else.

Please write again soon.

A hug for
Suekhi.

All my love,
Chonda