



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

JUN 3 1970

Address Reply to the
Division Indicated
and Refer to Initials and Number
JL:TRE:MHS:dcr
DJ 144-35-0

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
Chairman, American GI
Forum of the U.S.
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Chrsti, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

This is in response to your letter of April 2 regarding the lawsuit that has been brought challenging the operation of the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Distribution Program in the State of Texas. I apologize for the delay in responding.

As my letter of February 20, 1970, indicated, this action is being handled by the Civil Division rather than the Civil Rights Division. Though the matter of which Division of the Department of Justice is involved is secondary to the basic question that you have raised as to the appropriateness of the position the Department has taken in the case, nevertheless since this Division has not been involved in the case it would not be appropriate for me to discuss the merits of the Department's position. So I have forwarded your letter to Assistant Attorney General Ruckelshaus of the Civil Division.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

By: *Thomas R. Ewald*
THOMAS R. EWALD
Attorney
Civil Rights Division