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**COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

COM(79) 420 final

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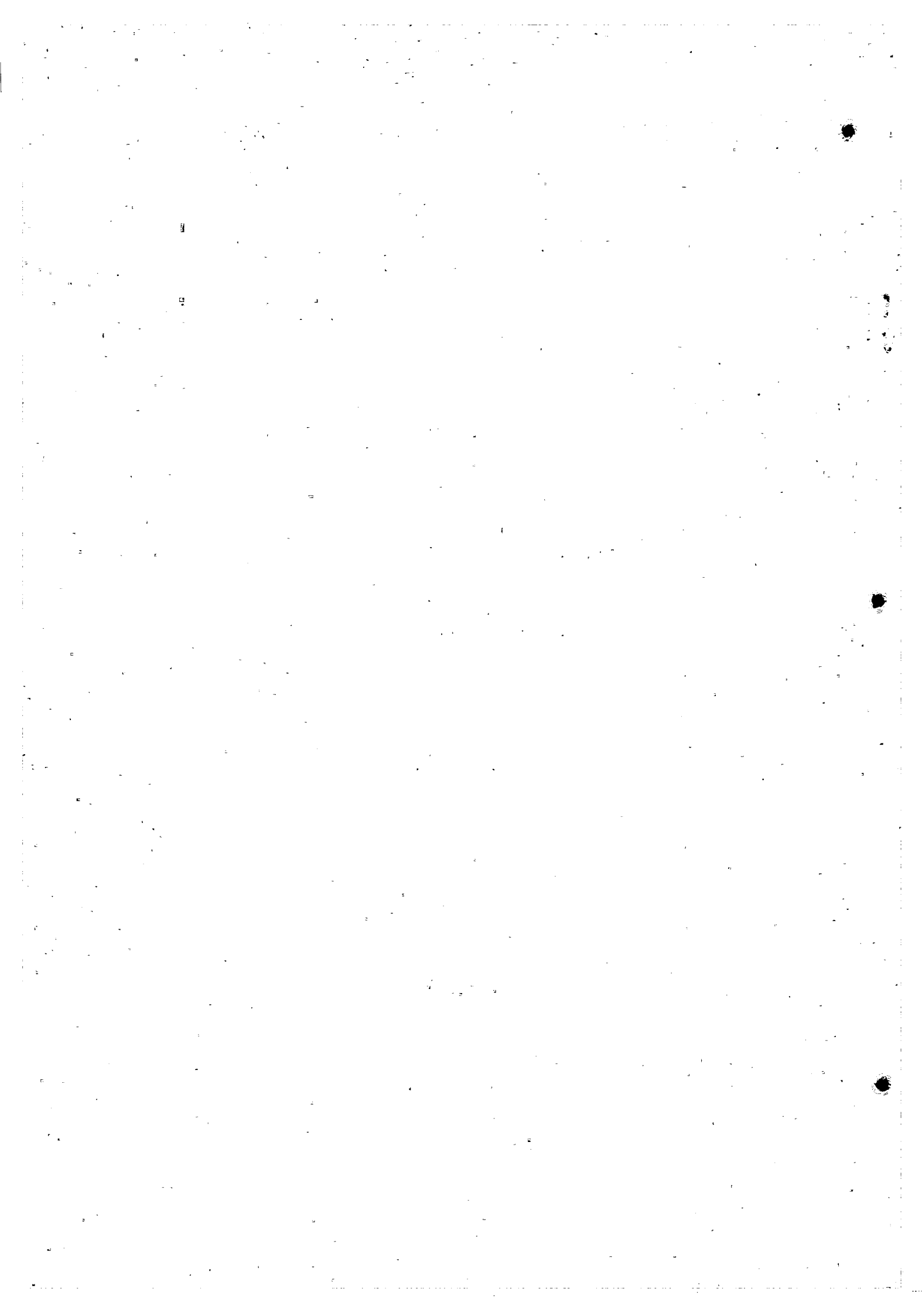
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AID TO KAMPUCHEAN REFUGEES IN VIET NAM

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

COM(79) 420 final



AID TO KAMPUCHEAN REFUGEES IN VIET NAM

1. On 4 July the Commission decided provisionally to suspend direct food aid to Viet Nam under the 1979 programmes (86 000 t cereals, 15 000 t milk powder, 4 000 t butteroil).
2. It was agreed at that meeting, however, that the Office of the UNHCR would be contacted to see whether it would be possible to channel food aid via that organization to Kampuchean refugees still on Vietnamese territory.
3. Contact was duly made and it appears that, since the UNHCR has received a request from the Viet Nam Government for food aid for 30 000 Kampuchean refugees who are in the area of Ho Chi Minh Ville, it is perfectly willing to take responsibility for distributing any quantity of aid the Community might wish to place at its disposal for that purpose.
4. The request involves the supply of cereals (rice), milk powder and butteroil for the period from 1 July 1979 to 31 December 1980. The UNHCR is asking, however, that only the requirements for the first six months, that is, until the end of the year, be taken into consideration to start with because of the uncertainty of the situation. The situation and the requirements will be analysed in the next few months so that additional proposals can be made if necessary.
  - (a) The rice requirements are of the order of 15 kg per month per person, which would mean 2 700 t for six months.
  - (b) Allocations of milk products for Kampuchean refugees had already been planned under the 1979 programme - as part of the UNHCR allocation - and involved 1 000 t of milk powder and 500 t of butteroil.

In practice, the Kampuchean refugees' requirements for the coming six months are far lower than the quantities decided; they amount to 108 to of butteroil and 90 to of skimmed-milk powder.

5. In view of the above, 2 700 to of rice (approximately 7 300 to of cereal equivalent) should be released and placed at the disposal of the UNHCR for distribution to the Kampuchean refugees. As stated in COM(79) 373, an unspecified portion of the 86 000 to of cereals provided for under the 1979 programme for Viet Nam was set aside to meet the needs of Kampuchean refugees. The proposed decision does not therefore imply that there has been a formal reallocation of the quantities earmarked for Viet Nam.

No proposal is being made for the time being as regards milk products in view of the quantities already earmarked to meet the needs of these refugees under the 1979 programme.

6. In view of the above, the Commission proposes that the Council decide:

- (i) to grant emergency food aid in the form of 2 700 t of rice to Kampuchean refugees in Viet Nam via the UNHCR, to be delivered free at destination;
- (ii) to charge this quantity - as proposed when the 1979 cereals food aid programme was drawn up - against the 86 000 t of aid earmarked for Viet Nam under that programme.