

No. 15/1980

March 18, 1980

## EC EMERGENCY AND EXCEPTIONAL AID FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN 1979

Continuing its efforts to help developing countries stricken by natural calamities or international crises in 1979, the European Community has intensified the granting of emergency aid to the Third World.

In 1979 the European Community committed 122.5 million ECU\*(1) in emergency aid.

The means available to it for providing rapid assistance for those developing countries - associated and non-associated - which are faced with exceptional difficulties are:

- emergency aid funds for disaster victims - 41.5 million ECU (2)
- emergency food aid : 55 million ECU
- exceptional aid under the Lome Convention : 26 million ECU (3)

A dominant feature in 1979 was the refugee problem, particularly in South-East Asia. Operations totalling 55 million ECU were carried out to help refugees in this region; they comprised food aid schemes (16 million ECU) and emergency aid (39 million ECU), the latter involving the supply of essentials such as food stuffs, medicines, clothing, trucks, and the provision of medical assistance, etc.. The Community also had to help refugees in other regions of the world : the refugees from Zimbabwe in Southern Africa, Angola and Mozambique; the refugees from Ethiopia in Somalia; the Ugandan

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(1) 1 ECU = \$1.44

(2) Art. 950 of the budget: the 3 million ECU entered for this purpose in the 1979 budget had to be raised to cover commitments of 42 million ECU by means of transfer (of which 0.5 million ECU for Portugal and Yugoslavia.

(3) 150 million ECU available for the duration of the first Lome Convention (1 April 1976 - 29 February 1980) (200 million ECU under Lome II).

refugees in the Sudan; the refugees from Nicaragua in Costa Rica and Honduras and the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. In all, emergency aid from the Community to the refugees in the Third World amounts to 65 million ECU, i.e., 52% of total emergency and exceptional aid.

#### EMERGENCY AID TO DISASTER VICTIMS

In 1979, 23 operations were undertaken at a total cost of 41.5 million ECU:

- for the refugees as described above;
- for victims of hurricanes and typhoons : Mozambique, India, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Saba, St. Kitts;
- for the victims of armed conflict (Yemen), floods (Thailand and Paraguay) and volcanic eruptions (St. Vincent).

#### EMERGENCY FOOD AID

The purpose of emergency food aid is to deal with exceptional situations caused by events which cannot be foreseen when the annual food aid programs are drawn up. In 1979 the operations involved some 186,000 tons of cereals, 6,800 tons of milk powder and 850 tons of butteroil, and exceptionally the supply of red beans to Nicaragua. Food aid was supplied to 21 countries and again most of it, i.e. 107,500 tons of cereals (58% of the total) and 3,000 tons of milk powder (44% of the total), was sent to Kampuchea and the refugees in South-East Asia. The overall cost to the Community of this aid was 55 million ECU, the value at world prices being 36 million ECU.

#### EXCEPTIONAL AID UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION

The Lome Convention also provides for exceptional aid (as grants) to be allocated to ACP States which are faced with serious difficulties as a result of natural disasters or comparable exceptional circumstances.

In 1979 the Community decided on 31 operations for a total of 26 million ECU. Apart from vagaries of climate such as drought, flooding, hurricanes and typhoons, etc., armed conflict is one of the most common reasons for requests for aid.

Furthermore, in addition to the refugee problem in a number of regions in Africa, certain countries have suffered as a result of their geographical position from troubles which have cut off their traditional supply routes. Landlocked countries such as Rwanda and Burundi have been given aid because of the conflict between Uganda and Tanzania, and Zambia and Malawi as a consequence of the events in Southern Africa.

Such conflicts also create emergency situations in the countries themselves, and for this reason the Community has granted aid to Tanzania, Chad and Uganda.

GEOGRAPHICAL ALLOCATION OF EMERGENCY AND EXCEPTIONAL AID IN 1979	
	<u>Cost Million ECU</u>
ASIA	71
of which South-East Asia and Kampuchea	39
MIDDLE EAST	1
LATIN AMERICA	19
AFRICA	35.5

During the first two months of 1980, the Community has already decided on emergency or exceptional aid totalling 14.5 million ECU for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan (10 million ECU), for the repatriation of the Zimbabwean refugees (3 million ECU) and for Mauritius (hurricane Claudette - 1.15 million ECU) and Senegal (drought - 300,000 ECU).

Requests from the following countries are at present being examined by the Commission :- Jamaica, Grenada (flood), and India (drought).

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