

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(80) 248 final

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Preparation of a
COMMUNITY PLAN FOR AID
FOR ZIMBABWE

(Communication to the Council from the Commission)

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I. Preparation of plan for aid for Zimbabwe

1. Before Zimbabwe became independent the British Government had already drawn the attention of the Commission and the Member States, and of other governments, to the country's needs and had asked for immediate assistance. The urgent request for Community assistance - even before accession to Lomé II - was presented to Mr Cheysson when he went to see the Prime Minister at the beginning of April and was repeated again later on 18 April, when the independence celebrations took place.
2. At the same time, in response to a request from the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, the United Nations Secretary-General asked the High Commissioner for Refugees to assume responsibility during an initial period for coordinating a United Nations programme of humanitarian assistance for displaced persons and repatriates. The UNHCR launched an appeal for international aid on 13 April 1980.

All the information necessary for a Community decision was sent to the Commission on 2 May 1980.
3. At its meeting in Luxembourg on 22 April, the Foreign Affairs Council agreed in principle to substantial aid for Zimbabwe. The European Parliament, for its part, adopted a resolution on 14 March 1980 in which it stressed the importance it attached to seeing the Community contribute to the process of re-establishing peace and normal economic conditions in the country.

II. Requirements

Emergency requirements are the requirements the UNHCR has said will be needed to settle 660,000 displaced persons and refugees. They amount to 108 million dollars, divided as follows:

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	<u>million US \$</u>
1. <u>Resettlement</u>	
inland transport	3.1
shelters	16.0
household utensils	17.2
farm inputs	30.0
veterinary measures	1.5
training	1.5
2. <u>Foodstuffs</u>	
on-the-spot purchase of basic provisions	24.0
powdered milk food aid	4.0
supplementary provisions	1.6
3. <u>Welfare work</u>	1.5
4. <u>Vaccination campaign</u>	2.5
5. <u>Reserve and administrative expenses</u>	4.6
<u>TOTAL</u>	107.5

In addition to these emergency requirements, the UNHCR has said that 31 m EUA will be need for reconstruction projects, with other projects still being worked out by the Government and certain international organizations. In all, reconstruction requirements as indicated by the Zimbabwe Government will amount to some 113 million dollars. All the projects in this field are to be executed directly by the Government and work must begin as quickly as possible.

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III. Covering the requirements

According to the information obtained by the Commission under the coordination procedures laid down by the Council in November 1977, some of the Member States have already decided to grant emergency aid, as follows:

Federal Republic of Germany	DM 2 million	i.e. \$ 1.0 million
Italy		0.1 "

The Netherlands is studying the possibility of contributing to the UNHCR's emergency plan. Assistance is also under consideration in Belgium (BF 6 million, i.e. \$ 0.2 million) and in Denmark (DKr 10 million, i.e. \$ 1.6 million). If it were decided to grant this assistance, emergency aid from the Member States would amount to some \$ 2.9 million.

According to certain initial indications, contributions from other donors could amount to \$ 19 million:

U.S.A.	\$ 10.0 million
Norway	2.0 "
Sweden	2.3 "
Australia	1.6 "
World Council of Churches	3.0 "

At the moment, emergency requirements still to be covered thus amount to some 86 million dollars.

As regards reconstruction aid, the Member States have already decided on the following sums:

United Kingdom	£ 7 million	i.e. \$ 15.2 million
Netherlands	Fl 20 million (10 as a loan)	9.4 "
F.R.G.	(loan)	26 "

Other donors are expected to take part in the programme, the main one being the U.S.A., which is contemplating some \$ 30 million in financing.

IV. Proposal for a Community action plan

In view of the above, the Commission thinks that, in addition to food aid in the form of 250 tonnes of skimmed milk powder, on which a decision is in the process of being taken¹, provision should be made for Community aid amounting to 12 m EUA, 8 m EUA of which to be charged against Article 950² of the budget and 4 m EUA against Article 930³. Thus Community emergency aid and reconstruction aid would amount to \$ 15.8 million and the Nine's total contribution to \$ 69.3 million, bearing in mind the \$ 53.5 million in bilateral aid (including the loans from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands).

As regards the 4 m EUA, it will be possible to find them under the provisional twelfths system. They will be charged against the 1980 programme and used to finance projects which will be decided on and prepared as quickly as possible by the local authorities and the Commission departments⁴.

When it comes to Article 950 of the budget, the 8 m EUA cannot be made available under the provisional twelfths system, even partially, since the sums available month by month (twelfths of 3 m EUA) are hardly enough to cover limited assistance, such as that decided on for India (170,000 EUA) and the people of Angola (200,000 EUA). It is necessary, therefore, to make provision for budget measures similar to those proposed by the Commission for aid for the Cambodians:

¹ equals 160,000 EUA at world prices or 375,000 EUA at internal prices

² Community aid to disaster victims in developing and other non-member countries

³ Financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries

⁴ During Mr Cheysson's visit to Salisbury, the Zombabwe authorities drew his attention to the importance of the action needed to combat the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease on the frontier with Botswana. A meeting was held between the two countries' veterinary services on 24 April which will make it possible to decide in the next few days precisely what must be done. It is understood that the part of the financing for this operation, on the Zimbabwe side, to be paid for by the Community will be taken out of the 4 m EUA and/or the 8 m EUA earmarked under Article 950.

- transfer of 8 m EUA to Article 950 from Chapter 92 - Food Aid, for which a formal proposal will be made;
- inclusion of this sum in the next letter of amendment, so as to reimburse Chapter 92.

In conclusion, with a view to arriving at a 12 m EUA aid programme for Zimbabwe, the Commission proposes that the Council and the Parliament:

1. decide to have the sum of 8 m EUA transferred from Chapter 92 - Food Aid to Article 950 for payment to the UNHCR to cover emergency requirements;
2. agree to 4 m EUA in aid being granted under Article 930 of the budget for carrying out reconstruction projects to be finalized in the next few weeks after discussion between the Commission departments and the Government of Zimbabwe.