

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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EMERGENCY AID FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE
EVENTS IN KAMPUCHEA AND FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES
IN PAKISTAN

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

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I. VICTIMS OF THE EVENTS IN KAMPUCHEA

1. The Commission recently received a further request from international organizations (UNICEF, ICRC, UNHCR, FAO, WFP) for its participation in the financing of their 1981 emergency programme to help the victims of the events in Kampuchea.

This request was backed up by urgent representations from the United Nations Secretary-General, who drew the Community's attention to the need for the Western countries to continue their efforts in this field.

2. The situation of the different categories of victims of the events in Kampuchea is as follows :

- a) In Kampuchea itself, the recent FAO mission found a probable rice shortfall for 1981 of around 220 000 t, 90 000 t of which is likely to be covered by the Eastern-bloc countries. According to FAO estimates large quantities of seed (23 000 t), fertilizer (30 000 t) and other agricultural inputs will apparently be necessary to ensure harvests over a minimum cultivable area (1 700 000 ha). Furthermore, the existing medical infrastructure still seems unable to do without outside support in the form of staff, medicines and medical equipment. It is planned that the ICRC's medical staff (40 or so people) will stay on until June.
- b) In Thailand, the number of refugees living in the "holding centres" run by the UNHCR has now fallen, from a maximum of 177 000 in June 1980, to 135 000, the drop resulting from schemes to resettle refugees in other countries, the return of some of them to Kampuchea and the fact that some have left for transit camps prior to resettlement. On the frontier, despite the fact that people began to return home

in 1980, it is still essential to cover the food and medical needs of 80 000 to 90 000 people living in the camps (1). This figure includes 3 000 Vietnamese who, having sought refuge in Kampuchea, fled to Thailand following the events of 1979. Furthermore, 70 Thai villages, with an overall population of about 120 000, are still feeling the effects of the movements of Kampuchean at the frontier.

c) In Vietnam emergency assistance is still necessary for the 35 000 Kampuchean refugees.

3. In order to meet the needs of the different categories of people referred to above, the international agencies concerned have drawn up a \$ 163.8 million programme (2) for the period February-December 1981. This figure takes account of the \$ 37.4 million cut made by the agencies in accordance with the wishes of the donors.

The programme is broken down as follows :

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- (1) These are the camps in the North Western zone alone (around Aranya Prathet), which receive direct assistance from humanitarian organizations. The Thai Government reports that in the Northern and Southern sectors some 70 000 people are living along the frontier ; these people are fed by the Thai army with products delivered by the WFP.
 - (2) At this stage it has not been possible to quantify the exact requirements of the non-governmental organizations, as some of them have merely stated that they intend to take action. These requirements will, however, be minimal compared with the figure of \$ 163.8 million.

INDICATIVE GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

PRODUCTS	PEOPLE IN KAMPUCHEA	REFUGEES IN THAILAND (Holding Centres)	PEOPLE AT FRONTIER	THAIS AFFECTED	REFUGEES IN VIETNAM (net require- ments)	TOTAL
Foodstuffs	35.800	16.900	11.800	8.200	-	72.700
Medicines, medical equipment, teams of doctors and nurses etc...	7.500	4.400	6.100	3.000	-	21.000
Equipment for training, education, technical assistance, etc...	2.700	1.500	-	-	-	4.200
Agricultural inputs, fishing gear, etc...	23.200	-	-	-	0.525	23.725
Shelters, construction materials, etc...	-	7.100	-	-	0.700	7.800
Logistics : fuel, spare parts, tyres, etc...	6.300	0.800	1.400	-	-	8.500
Miscellaneous (clothing, household utensils, etc...)	5.200	3.400	4.600	-	-	13.200
Operational costs	7.794	1.000	3.900	-	-	12.694
TOTAL	88.494	35.100	27.800	11.200	1.225	163.819

In order to meet the requirements of the programme, contributions totalling US \$ 73.8 million have been paid or promised, including the US \$ 6 million pledged at the New York Conference of 6 March 1981. (1) Some US \$ 90 million therefore still remains to be found.

The United States has pledged US \$ 20 million, provided that additional contributions are made by other donors.

4. In view of the need to consolidate the results achieved, notably in the food, health and agricultural fields, which could be jeopardized for lack of fresh funds, the Community must again show its support for the people concerned. However, in view of the effort already made by the Ten and the fact that the last Community contribution - 20 million ECU - approved in December 1980 - is largely intended for meeting requirements in 1981, the new aid contribution should be restricted to emergency aid of 5 million ECU, to be implemented via humanitarian organizations (2), and 10 000 t of cereals as food aid, worth 1 826 000 ECU at world prices and 2 386 000 ECU at internal Community prices, to be channelled via the WFP. The food aid will be drawn from the reserve of the 1981 programme and will be proposed to the Council by the Commission in accordance with the customary procedures.

With these new aids, total emergency and food aid by the Community for victims of the events in Kampuchea would reach US \$ 116 million for 1979-1981.

If the Member States' bilateral contributions (totalling \$ 71 million) are added to the Community's contribution, this makes the Ten the leading donor (\$ 187 million), ahead of the United States (\$ 160 million) and Japan (\$ 86 million).

(1) Conference on humanitarian aid for the people of Kampuchea.

(2) Although some emergency aid has in the past been allocated via the UNHCR to Kampuchean refugees who sought refuge in Vietnam (3 150 000 ECU) it no longer seems desirable to continue this assistance.

II. AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

1. In the past few months some 80 000 to 100 000 Afghan refugees have been arriving in Pakistan, particularly North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Baluchistan, each month.

At 28 February 1981 (1) a total of 1 650 000 refugees (2) was recorded and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that a figure of 2 000 000 will soon be reached.

Also, a number of people have crossed the frontier without being registered.

The steady increase in the number of refugees, of which some 45% are children and 30% women, is causing serious difficulties as regards feeding and accommodating them and attending to their health requirements, as climatic conditions in the host regions are particularly harsh.

2. Faced with this situation, the Pakistani Government has recently submitted to the UNHCR a preliminary draft programme which, excluding food products, will cost US \$ 192 million; it has also made representations to the Commission for further Community aid to help the refugees. At the same time, a request along these lines has been made to the Community by the UNHCR.

(1) The number of refugees was around 550 000 in February 1980 when the decision was taken on the Community's first emergency aid operation to help them (totalling 10 million ECU).

(2) NWFP : 1 310 000; Baluchistan : 310 000; other provinces : 30 000.

3. On the basis of a figure of 2 000 000 refugees, the priority requirements for 1981 can be estimated at some \$ 285 million, broken down roughly as follows :

	<u>US \$ million</u>
- Cereals	87.6
- Milk powder	23.7
- Oil	57.8
- Sugar	11.7
- Tea	2.8
- Shelters	31.0
- Clothing, blankets, household utensils, etc.	40.0
- Health	10.0
- Water supplies	3.5
- Education, training	3.1
- Agriculture	4.2
- Logistics	9.1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>284.5</u>

The contributions approved so far towards meeting these requirements amount to US \$ 81 000 000, broken down as follows :

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cash aid</u> <u>\$'000</u>	<u>Food aid</u>
USA	39 230	18 000	21 230
F.R. GERMANY	2 950	550	2 400
FRANCE	2 160	-	2 160
UK	350	350	-
Unallocated contributions from the UNHCR's general programme for 1981	7 100	7 100	-
Food aid deliveries approved in 1980	29 210	-	29 210
	<u>81 000</u>	<u>26 000</u>	<u>55 000</u>

A considerable sum - US \$ 203.5 million - remains to be found. Furthermore, the US \$ 26 million in cash has been spent and the UNHCR has no more resources available.

4. In the light of this situation and given the extent of the requirements the Community ought to respond rapidly and adequately. Emergency aid of 15 million ECU (approximately \$ 18 million) should therefore be allocated; this amount, to be set off against Article 950 of the Budget, would be in addition to the 5 000 t of cereals food aid recently approved, to be drawn from the emergency reserve allocated to the WFP in 1980; the 15 000 t of cereals currently up for approval, to be supplied under the 1981 programme by the UNHCR; and aid currently being studied consisting of 3 000 t of milk, 500 t of butteroil and 1 000 t of sugar. This food aid is valued at \$ 10.2 million (8.5 million ECU at world prices and 13.25 million ECU at internal prices).

The emergency and food aid would therefore total \$ 28.2 million, compared with \$ 22 million in 1980, the increase being justified by the dramatic worsening of the situation.

For this reason the Commission is urging the Member States to increase their bilateral aid, which totalled US \$ 11.3 million in 1980 (1) and has so far amounted to only US \$ 5.5 million for 1981 (2).

(1) Denmark : \$ 1.5 million; F.R. Germany : \$ 5.1 million;
France : \$ 0.5 million; Greece : \$ 10 000; Ireland : \$ 39 000;
Italy : \$ 0.5 million; Luxembourg : \$ 18 000; Netherlands : \$ 2.1 million;
United Kingdom : \$ 1.5 million.

(2) F.R. Germany : \$ 2.95 million; France : \$ 2.16 million;
United Kingdom : \$ 0.35 million.

III. THE FINANCING OF EMERGENCY AID

Although the financing of the planned food aid operations does not raise any particular difficulties, the proposed amount (20 million ECU) will have to be transferred to Article 950 in order to finance the emergency aid. The appropriation for the present financial year is only 3 million ECU (1) and this amount must be held back in order to be able to respond immediately during the year to less serious emergencies.

The transfer can be made from the EAGGF Guarantee Section (Chapter 78 : monetary compensatory amounts). Savings are possible on this chapter, particularly because of the positive monetary compensatory amounts attributable to the increase in the value of sterling since the beginning of the year.

(1) of which 2 300 000 ECU remains available to date.

IV. IN CONCLUSION

The Commission considers that emergency aid of 20 000 000 ECU should rapidly be made available to humanitarian organizations for the victims of the events in Kampuchea (5 million ECU) and for Afghan refugees in Pakistan (15 million ECU) by transferring the relevant amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section (Chapter 78 : monetary compensatory amounts) to Article 950. The Commission will very shortly be transmitting a formal proposal regarding this transfer.

In conclusion, the Commission requests the Council and Parliament to make a policy statement as soon as possible in favour of implementation of the operations described above.

