

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 24th June 1976

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

concerning a supplementary emergency food aid programme for
Niger and Mali

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (E.E.C.)

on the supply of butteroil as food aid to the Republic of
Mali under Regulation (EEC) No 1542/75

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council)

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This Communication contains proposals for food aid operations in Niger and Mali formulated in response to requests from their respective Governments.

I. NIGER

A. Request from Niger

1. In view of Niger's problems in obtaining supplies of foodstuffs, the Commission decided on 9 February 1976 to grant it 10 000 t of cereals¹ as food aid to be delivered in July, and on 1 June 1976 to provide 1 100 t of skimmed-milk powder², which is at present being delivered.
2. As there is still cause for concern as to whether supplies of foodstuffs will last out until the next harvest (in October), the Commission hereby proposes that Niger's request for further food aid from the Community in the form of cereals be granted.
3. The analysis of requirements given below shows that Community aid must reach Niger by the end of September at the latest if it is to be fully effective. Given the time needed for the negotiations, mobilization procedures and transport by sea and land, the Council must take a decision by mid-July at the latest.

¹Charged to the 1974/75 programme.

²A further 2 100 t has been proposed to the Council as part of the second instalment of the skimmed-milk powder food aid programme for 1976.

B. Requirements

Following the supplementary request presented by Niger, the Commission, in conjunction with the OSRO (Office of the Sahelian Relief Organization), FAO and the EEC Delegate in Niamey, examined the food supply situation in the country; detailed facts and figures on this are to be found in Annexes I and II.

Over the five months between June and October, the date of the next harvest, cereal consumption requirements will total 90 000 t¹.

Food aid and purchases planned in neighbouring countries (70 970 t in toto) represent the only supplies available over this period as there were no stocks on 1 June.

There is therefore a shortfall of some 19 000t or about one month's consumption. In addition, the Government would like to establish a standby stock of 20 000 t, as the shortage may continue after October if the crops are not available for consumption until later, particularly in the event of a poor harvest.

Aid from France totalling 9 000 t and scheduled to arrive after October will cover these additional requirements. Taking this factor into account 30 000 t would therefore be needed after the end of September.

¹ On the basis of 1 125 000 persons to be fed by free distribution or sale during the period in question, the monthly requirement per person being 16 kg, i.e., a total of 18 000 t per month.