

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 1st April 1981

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

on emergency food aid for Somalia under
the 1980 food aid programmes

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A. APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Following the marked worsening of the food supply situation in Somalia, the Somali Government has applied to the Community for emergency food aid.
2. The number of refugees from Ethiopia is now estimated to have reached 1 300 000 in the camps, plus several hundred thousands who have sought refuge outside the camps with local people.
3. An exceptional drought currently affecting the country has had a disastrous effect on crop yields.
4. According to the latest FAO information, Somalia needs to import 525 000 t of cereals for 1981, only 140 000 t of which is so far provided for.

Since commercial imports this year are bound to be very limited owing to the country's financial position, the bulk of the cereals shortfall will have to be met from outside donations.

B. COMMISSION PROPOSAL

1. The Commission proposes that 11 000 t of cereals should be supplied, delivered to the port of unloading.

2. This food aid would be sold on the local market, as commercial stocks have been practically exhausted by the distributions made to refugees over the last few months.
3. The proposed aid would come from the general reserve under the 1980 food aid programme for cereals and would exhaust the reserve.
4. The cost of the aid can be estimated at 2 625 000 ECU on the basis of Community prices (2 009 000 ECU on the basis of world prices) and transport cost estimates.

It will involve the Community in no expenditure additional to what has already been approved under the 1980 programme.

C. CONCLUSION

The Commission therefore proposes that the Council take the decision to supply Somalia with 11 000 t of cereals, to be taken from the reserve of the 1980 food aid programme and delivered CIF.