

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(83)252 final

Brussels, 6 May 1983

CONTINUATION OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO POLES  
JUNE-DECEMBER 1983 INCLUSIVE

Commission communication to Council and  
European Parliament

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As regards food supplies, meat, fats, cheese, poultry, coffee and fruit (with the exception of apples) are practically unobtainable, and cleansing products (particularly detergents) and washing powder are hard to find or prohibitively expensive. As regards health and medical supplies, the NGOs unanimously consider the situation exceedingly serious: the position of the hospitals, which are dependent 50-80% on Western deliveries for their equipment, has been further worsened by the growing shortage of medical and surgical necessities, cleansing products and medical apparatus.

Those hardest hit by the deteriorating health and food situation are the elderly and chronically sick, the families of persons under arrest, and children, among whom mortality is everywhere on the increase.

3. The Foreign Ministers at their Political Cooperation meeting on 1 March 1983 were in favour of continuing Community humanitarian aid to the Poles, and noted with satisfaction that the matter was to be further discussed at Community level.

The European Parliament likewise remains in favour, as it stated in its resolution of September 1982 and has several times re-emphasized since. It should be noted, incidentally, that the United States will be providing \$45 mn worth of humanitarian aid in 1983.

4. On these grounds the Commission proposes to proceed urgently with raising the necessary funds through a Supplementary Budget. If necessary, to make sure that there is no interruption in the flow of aid, the required amounts, to a maximum of 2 mn Ecus per month, could temporarily be taken from another Budget heading, settlement to follow later after the Supplementary Budget was adopted.

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The aid would be channelled through reliable distribution conduits in Poland, principally the Church, without recourse to the Polish authorities, and would be confined to relieving human distress.

