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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 1916 (LVIII) of 5 May 1975, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the developments which had taken place in Somalia concerning the relief and rehabilitation measures following the drought.
2. At that time, almost 250,000 people were being cared for in 20 relief camps and, owing to a partial failure of the spring rains, the harvest prospects for 1975 were giving rise to some concern. Later in May 1975, however, a marked improvement occurred and within a very short time the numbers in the camps began to fall, as people started to return to their traditional nomadic life.
3. During the period from May to August, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization continued their programmes in Somalia with particular reference to the situation which had been created by the drought and its aftermath and, as occasion required, special airlifts of medicines and dried milk powder were arranged by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO). Many bilateral donors continued to give generous assistance.
4. In mid-May, the Government of Somalia announced plans for the resettlement of 168,000 people in agricultural and fishing areas and appealed for international assistance in that operation. The operation began on schedule in mid-June, with massive and timely assistance from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which provided air and surface transport and other facilities as part of a large technical and economic co-operation agreement. The Government of Somalia, for its part, made available 18,000 hectares of land with irrigation facilities in each agricultural area and has provided temporary shelter until permanent houses can be built. For the moment, there is still a need for building

materials and heavy equipment for the agricultural settlements, and details of these were made known to potential donors by UNDRO on 1 July 1975.

5. Such good progress was made that by mid-August all the relief camps had been closed and some 120,000 people transported to the new settlements. A rather larger number than had been expected elected to continue nomadic life. In these circumstances, UNDRO has now ceased its direct involvement in the Somalia operation, although it has undertaken to continue to assist individual bilateral donors as necessary, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971.

6. The value of contributions from the international community for emergency relief in the drought-stricken areas of Somalia, as reported to UNDRO up to 22 August 1975, is as follows:

United Nations system	\$US 7,582,000
Governments	38,294,114
Inter-Governmental Organization (EEC)	18,004,000
Red Cross/Red Crescent	782,340
Governments/Red Cross/Red Crescent jointly	439,333
Voluntary agencies	85,388
International voluntary agencies	49,718
Private and miscellaneous	18,348
Total	<u>\$US 65,255,241</u>

An information paper containing the detailed breakdown of the foregoing contributions according to source is available on request.

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