



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
RESTRICTED

A/CN.2/R.287  
18 March 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS  
Thirty-first session  
New York

REPRESENTATION BY ROMANIA

The following communication dated 25 February 1971 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions is submitted to the Committee for consideration:

Under the instructions of my Government and following the debates held as well as the decisions taken at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, recorded in the report of the Fifth Committee (A/8183), I have the honour to request, through Your Excellency, the Committee on Contributions, at its session in April this year, to reduce the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations which have been assessed to Romania for the years 1971, 1972 and 1973, taking into account the very serious damage brought about to her national economy by the catastrophic floods that struck her in May and June 1970.

A note is attached, herewith, expounding the nature and volume of the damage.

(Signed) G. DIACONESCU  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of the Socialist Republic of Romania  
to the United Nations

### Note

In the year 1970 Romania was struck by great floods, not to be met with anywhere else in her recorded history. In fact they were all the more serious as floods of ample scope are not a common phenomenon in Romania.

The ample scope of the floods was due to the unusually large quantities of precipitations which in some regions reached even 300 litres per square metre, as well as to the sudden melting of snow in the mountains, which caused a twofold to threefold increase in the discharge of the Someş and Mureş rivers and their tributaries in the north-west of the country.

A mighty growth of the waters was also recorded in the basins of the Olt, Prut, Siret, Suceava, Tîrnava Mare, Tîrnava Mică, Aries, Jiul and Criş rivers as well as of some rivulets which overflowed their banks, flooding large areas and populated centres, some of which were inundated even two or three times.

During the same period, the Danube levels were growing to some 80 cm higher than ever before, menacing the whole south of the country.

One should underline that, practically speaking, the period of inundations lasted intermittently from the beginning of May through the first ten days of July, that is 70 days, shifting its centre of weight now in the north then in the south of the country, thus keeping under strain and blocking up numerous material and human means, also disturbing the whole national economy.

Concomitantly there was a rise of groundwater levels, which caused exaggerated humidity and swamps on large agricultural areas. During the same period, big landslides over 20,500 hectares occurred.

The damages caused by the floods are enormous: more than 1,500 localities suffered directly from the disaster; about 85,000 houses were flooded, out of which nearly 45,000 buildings collapsed or suffered serious damage; about another 20,000 buildings - storage space, warehouses, sheds for animals, etc. - were also destroyed, fully or partially.

Over 1,700 km of railways were destroyed or damaged, as well as 6,700 km of national, local and industrial roads, about 30,000 linear metres of bridges and footbridges, nearly 10,000 km of electric power transport and distribution lines, as well as over 2,000 km of telecommunication lines, and numerous buildings serving for social and cultural purposes, and for public facilities.

As many as 621 industrial units and sub-units and 309 building sites were flooded and great damage was caused following the destruction and deterioration of installations, machines, raw material and auxiliary material, as also in consequence of the fact that big amounts of commodities could not be manufactured as productive activities had stopped.

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In agriculture, over one million hectares of land were inundated, including some 700,000 hectares sown to wheat, maize, sugar-beet and vegetables, and the crops destroyed totally on most of this area. Scores of thousands of cattle and fowls were drowned and important quantities of grain and fodder were damaged seriously; hothouses, solaria, irrigation systems, vineyards and orchards were destroyed as well as piscicultural facilities, etc.

The direct damages caused by those floods have been estimated as amounting to more than ten thousand million lei. The process of assessing the indirect and collateral damages has not been finished as yet, but it is estimated that their sum total also amounts to a very big figure.

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