

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
RESTRICTED

A/CN.2/R.308
2 May 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
Twenty-third session

REPRESENTATION BY ROMANIA

The following communication dated 5 February 1973 from the Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions is submitted to the Committee for consideration:

"Under instructions of my Government and according to the debates held at the twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly, as well as on the basis of the decisions taken thereafter and recorded in the reports of the Fifth Committee (A/8183, A/8489 and A/8952), I have the honour to request, through Your Excellency, the Committee on Contributions to take into account, at its forthcoming session, while calculating the scale of the assessment for Romania for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations for the period 1974-1976, the disastrous losses caused to the national economy by the catastrophic floods that struck Romania in the spring of 1970.

"In this connexion, I would only like to mention the pertinent provisions contained in document A/8952, paragraph 3, which read as follows:

"Several delegations referred to the earlier decision of the Fifth Committee that special consideration should be given by the Committee on Contributions to the countries which had suffered heavy losses as a result of catastrophic natural disasters which adversely affected their capacities to pay. Attention was drawn to the pertinent paragraphs of relevant reports on the matter. In this connexion, the Fifth Committee took note of the statement of the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions that the Committee would give sympathetic consideration to the plight of countries that had suffered major disasters."

"Similar approaches are provided for in the other reports of the Fifth Committee mentioned above (A/8183 and A/8489).

"In March 1971 the Romanian Government addressed a similar appeal (A/CN.2/R.287 and Add.1) to the Committee on Contributions, which, after

consideration of the matter, 'recognized that the effects of the disasters would in any case be reflected in the triennial review of the scale in 1973, on which occasion the Committee will also have the opportunity to give additional consideration to the special circumstances of the countries that had suffered major disasters' (A/8411, paragraph 13).

"As already stated by the Romanian Government (A/CN.2/R.287/Add.1), the total amount of direct and indirect damages brought about by the catastrophic floods that struck Romania in 1970 represent more than 1 billion dollars.

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

"I am confident, Your excellency, that under your wise leadership the distinguished members of the Committee on Contributions will give a favourable consideration to the legitimate request of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania and reduce its scale of assessment for the period 1974-1976 accordingly."

NOTE

In 1970, Romania was struck by disastrous floods which caused damages amounting to more than 10,000 billion lei, that is more than 1 billion dollars.

The ample scope of the floods was due to the unusually large quantities of precipitation, which in some regions reached over 300 litres per square metre, as well as to the sudden melting of snow in the mountains. These caused a twofold to threefold increase in the discharge of the Somes, Mures, Olt, Prut, Siret, Suceava, Tîrnava Mare, Tîrnava Mică, Arieş, Jiul and Criş rivers, flooding twice or three times large areas and populated centres.

During the same time, the Danube River levels grew higher than ever before, menacing the whole south of the country.

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 from the north to the south of the country, keeping under strain and blocking up numerous material and human means and also disturbing the whole national economy.

Concomitantly, there was a rise of ground-water levels which caused exaggerated humidity and swamps on large agricultural areas and also large landslides over 20,500 hectares.

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

The floods also destroyed or damaged more than 1,700 km of railways, 6,700 km of national and local roads, 30,000 linear metres of bridges, 10,000 km of electric power transport and distribution lines and 2,000 km of telecommunication lines.

As many as 621 industrial units and 309 building sites were flooded, and the destruction and deterioration of installations, machines, raw material and auxiliary material stopped the production activity of manufacturing important amounts of commodities.

In agriculture, over 1 million hectares of land, including some 700,000 hectares sown to wheat, maize, sugar beet and vegetables, were inundated, and the crops were totally destroyed in most of this area. Thousands of cattle and fowl were drowned; important quantities of grain and fodder, large numbers of hothouses, solaris, irrigation systems, vineyards and orchards and piscicultural facilities were destroyed.
