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## REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 5 September 1984 from the Permanent Representative of  
Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to your urgent appeal of 16 February 1984 concerning the economic and social crises besetting Africa, and to inform Your Excellency of the various measures which Japan has taken in response thereto.

Japan fully shares the grave concern and deep sympathy of the international community for the peoples of Africa who have been suffering from the effects of severe drought and famine for the past 10 years. As a measure of this concern, Japan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Shintaro Abe, announced at the OECD Ministerial Conference in May that this year Japan would extend food-related assistance to Africa amounting to more than \$100 million.

Major steps taken by the Japanese Government in the months since your appeal include the following:

1. The Government of Japan decided, on 16 March, to provide emergency food assistance amounting to \$2 million to Ethiopia, Somalia, Ghana, Senegal and Mozambique.
2. On March 9, the Government of Japan decided to channel through the World Food Programme approximately \$7.3 million in food aid to refugees in Somalia, the Sudan and Chad.
3. At the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa held at Geneva this past July, Mr. Ishimatsu Kitagawa, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, made a pledge of \$6 million for

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African refugee assistance to UNHCR, earmarked as follows: (a) approximately \$1.5 million for General Programmes, (b) \$1.2 million for Somalia, (c) \$1 million for the Sudan, (d) \$0.7 million for Zaire, (e) \$0.3 million each for Uganda and Ethiopia, and (f) \$0.5 million each for Burundi and Zimbabwe. He also made a pledge of \$6.5 million for WFP-channelled food assistance to refugees in Somalia, the Sudan and Chad.

Moreover, in the area of refugee-related development projects he indicated that Japan attaches particular importance to projects in such fields as water supply and health and sanitation, which would directly benefit refugees as well as the local population.

4. At the 17th meeting of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme, the Japanese delegation stated that it would consider earmarking Japan's 1984 contribution of \$2 million to the International Emergency Food Reserve for countries in Africa.

5. On 10 August, the Government decided to offer, for distribution through UNICEF and the World Food Programme, 400,000 meals of hard biscuits, stocked by municipal governments as emergency rations, to the victims of drought in Senegal, Mali and Ethiopia. The Japanese Government will also contribute \$100,000 for transportation and other related expenses.

6. In addition, the Government of Japan has been dramatically increasing food aid and food production assistance to African countries on a bilateral basis.

In order to promote a deeper understanding of Africa and its problems among the Japanese people, relevant non-governmental organizations have designated the one-month period starting from 28 September as the "Month of Africa". During the month, a number of Africa-related events, such as a film festival, an exhibition concerning the preservation of Africa's natural environment, and seminars on Africa, will be held throughout Japan.

Campaigns to raise funds to aid the victims of severe droughts in Africa are also being undertaken, and will reach a climax during the "Month of Africa". For example, a group of volunteers within the Japanese Foreign Ministry are holding "hunger lunches" twice-monthly. (Very simple meals are provided, and participants contribute to an African relief fund the amount they would normally spend for lunch.) This effort has caught the attention of the public, and similar gatherings are now being organized in towns and cities all over Japan. Other fund-raising activities are also under way, eliciting a response among the Japanese public that is almost without precedent.

I would greatly appreciate it if Your Excellency would circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly under item 12 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Mizuo KURODA  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of Japan  
to the United Nations

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