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ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER AND  
OTHER DISASTER SITUATIONS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Aykut BERK (Turkey)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its 2123rd meeting, on 21 September 1973, allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 68 entitled "Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations: report of the Secretary-General".
2. The Committee considered the item at its 2040th and 2041st meetings, on 27 and 28 November 1973. The summary records of these meetings (A/C.3/SR.2040-2041) contain the views of representatives of Member States on the item.
3. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (A/9063) and the report of the Secretary-General on preventive measures, disaster contingency planning and preparedness (A/9221). The Committee also had before it the relevant part of the report of the Economic and Social Council. 1/
4. At the 2040th meeting, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator made an introductory statement supplementing the report submitted by the Secretary-General.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/L.2082

5. At the 2040th meeting, the representative of Iran introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2082) sponsored by Afghanistan, Bahrain, Barbados, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela and Yemen. Subsequently, Algeria, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Gambia, Guyana, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Yugoslavia and Zaire joined the sponsors.
6. At the 2041st meeting, the representative of Peru, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the text by adding a new third preambular paragraph which read:

"Having heard with satisfaction the introductory statement made by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the Third Committee (2040th meeting) and in particular his reference to the need for a concerted global action to combat natural disasters,".
7. At the same meeting, the representative of Iran, on behalf of the sponsors, accepted an oral proposal made by the representative of the United Kingdom and further revised the draft resolution by adding the words: "as an interim measure" after "Authorizes the Secretary-General" in operative paragraph 1.
8. At the 2041st meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2082), as orally revised, by acclamation (see paragraph 12 below, draft resolution I).

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9003 and Corr.1), chap. XXIV, sect. I.

III. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/L.2085

9. At the 2040th meeting, the representative of Yugoslavia introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2085) sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, the Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zaire. Subsequently, Egypt, Pakistan and the United Republic of Tanzania joined the list of sponsors.

10. At the 2041st meeting, the representative of Yugoslavia, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 2, which in the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2085) had read:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps (having regard to decision A/C.5/L.1121) to enable the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to provide the most effective possible material and financial assistance, in co-operation with the organs and agencies concerned, in particular FAO, to those countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region which request such assistance;"

was changed to read as follows:

"2. Requests the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to take all necessary steps to provide the most effective possible material and financial assistance in co-operation with the organs and agencies concerned, to those countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region which request such assistance;"

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 3, the words "with specific reference to the joint appeal for emergency assistance issued on 26 November 1973 by the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;" were added.

11. At the 2041st meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2085), as orally revised, by acclamation (see paragraph 12 below, draft resolution II).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

12. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations

The General Assembly,

Recalling previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to disaster relief, in particular resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator 2/ and his report on preventive measures, disaster contingency planning and preparedness, 3/

Having heard with satisfaction the introductory statement made by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the Third Committee, 4/ and in particular his reference to the need for a concerted global action to combat natural disasters,

Noting with satisfaction the action taken by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator during the past year,

1. Authorizes the Secretary-General as an interim measure to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$45,000 for 1974 and \$60,000 for 1975 for assistance to Governments, at their request, in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Red Cross Societies, where appropriate, in the elaboration of national preparations to meet natural disasters;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore various means, including support from the United Nations Development Programme, of making adequate provision for this purpose in the future;

3. Calls upon all Member States and all organizations concerned with disaster-related matters to continue to give the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator their full co-operation and support.

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2/ A/9063.

3/ A/9221.

4/ See A/C.3/SR.2040.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Aid to Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972 and 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973,

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 and 1797 (LV) of 11 July 1973,

Welcoming the spirit of solidarity shown both by countries and regional agencies as well as by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator <sup>5/</sup> and of the relevant part of the report of the Economic and Social Council, <sup>6/</sup>

Noting with concern the observation by the representative of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations drawing attention to the fact that the state of emergency resulting from the drought will continue in 1974 and that donors should therefore give serious consideration to renewed requests for outside assistance and to the timely dispatch of relief aid,

Taking note also of the joint appeal made on 26 November 1973 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for aid to the countries affected by the drought in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

1. Expresses its deep sympathy to the peoples and Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to take all necessary steps to provide the most effective possible material and financial assistance, in co-operation with the organs and agencies concerned, to those countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region which request such assistance;

3. Appeals once again to the Governments of Member States, to United Nations organs and programmes and to the specialized agencies, calling upon them,

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<sup>5/</sup> A/9063.

<sup>6/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9003 and Corr.1), chap. XXIV, sect. D.

inter alia, to continue and consider increasing their assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian countries within the framework of the emergency relief operations, with specific reference to the joint appeal for emergency assistance issued on 26 November 1973 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the development of the situation.
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