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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to the Comoros

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 33/123 of 19 December 1978 on assistance to the Comoros, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to the Comoros. The Secretary-General was also requested to arrange for a review of the economic situation of the Comoros and the progress made in organizing and implementing the special economic assistance programme in time for the matter to be considered by the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.
2. The Secretary-General arranged for a review mission to visit the Comoros to consult with the Government on the economic situation in that country and on the progress which had been made in implementing the special economic assistance programme. The report of the mission (see annex below) reviews the economic and financial position of the country and summarizes the progress which has been made in implementing the projects included in the special economic assistance programme.
3. In General Assembly resolution 33/123, the Secretary-General was also requested to pursue with the Government of the Comoros the question of organizing a meeting of donors and, in this respect, to co-ordinate efforts with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the World Bank. Initial consultations with the Government took place during the visit of the review mission. After discussions with the three offices cited above have been completed, it is planned to transmit the results to the Government for its consideration before pursuing the matter further.
4. In paragraph 6 of resolution 33/123, the General Assembly requested a number of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to

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bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the assistance they were rendering to the Comoros and to report "the results of that assistance and their decisions to the Secretary-General in time for consideration by the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session".

5. Further, the appropriate specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were requested to report to the Secretary-General "on the steps they have taken and the resources they have made available to assist" the Comoros.

6. The text of General Assembly resolution 33/123 has been communicated to the agencies and organizations concerned and their attention drawn to the specific requests addressed to them by the Assembly. Their replies will be issued as an addendum to the present report.

ANNEX

Report of the review mission to the Comoros  
7 to 14 April 1979

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 31/42 of 1 December 1976, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to mobilize financial, technical and economic assistance from the international community with a view to meeting the short-term and long-term development needs of the Comoros. Accordingly, a United Nations mission visited the country in May and September 1977 to assess the nature and extent of the needs. In its report (A/32/208/Add.1 and 2), the mission recommended a programme of economic assistance which identified a number of critically urgent projects, costing about \$20 million; a number of projects necessary for accelerated development, estimated to cost some \$6 million; and several areas requiring urgent small-scale technical co-operation.
2. At the conclusion of its consideration of the item on assistance to the Comoros, the General Assembly, in resolution 32/92 of 13 December 1977, endorsed the assessment and recommendations of the United Nations mission cited above and urged the international community to respond generously and continue to provide the Comoros with economic, financial and material assistance. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to continue his efforts for mobilizing the necessary resources for the country, to keep the situation under review and to report on the question to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.
3. The Secretary-General's report of 7 July 1978 on assistance to the Comoros (A/33/170) described the action taken in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/92 and included a document which reviewed the response of donors to the United Nations appeal for the Comoros and the progress made in project implementation in the programme of assistance. The General Assembly considered this report on 19 December 1978 and adopted resolution 33/123, in which it expressed satisfaction over the response to its appeal for assistance to the Comoros, noted that much additional assistance was still needed and called on the international community to continue and, where possible, to expand their assistance. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, inter alia:
  - (a) To continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for the programme of assistance;
  - (b) To arrange for a review of the economic situation of the Comoros and the progress made in organizing and implementing the assistance programme and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.
4. The Secretary-General arranged for a mission to visit the Comoros from 7 to 14 April 1979 to consult with the Government and obtain information relating to the economic situation in the country and the status of implementation of the special economic assistance programme. The mission was led by the Director of the Office for Special Political Questions.
5. The mission was received by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abdalla; by the Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Salim Ben Ali; by the President of the National Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Taki; by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation,

His Excellency Mr. Ali Mroudjae; and by the Minister of Finance, Economy and Planning, His Excellency Mr. Said Kafe. The mission met with many government officials and held several working sessions, most of which were chaired by the ministers concerned.

6. The mission wishes to place on record its appreciation of the guidance and general hospitality extended to it by His Excellency the President and by his ministers. The mission is particularly indebted to the Director of Planning for his major effort and full co-operation in preparing all the information required for its work and to the Acting Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme for his co-operation.

## II. GENERAL SITUATION OF THE COMOROS

7. The report of the first mission recounted the circumstances of the Comoros at the time the country became independent, on 6 July 1975, together with the subsequent sequence of events. It described the main problems faced by the country, with its unbalanced, deficit-ridden economy. The report highlighted the poor natural resource endowment, the inadequate infrastructure, the colonial pattern of agriculture, the inadequate education and technical training, the poor health conditions and deficient health services, the chronic trade deficit and the huge gap in the government budget. The special programme of assistance recommended by the mission was designed to help the Government make a start with the approach which it had outlined for overcoming these obstacles and developing the country.

8. After the government change of May 1978, the new administration confirmed to the United Nations that it did not at that time wish to alter either the content of the programme or the general orientation and the priorities within it (see A/33/170, para. 5). Discussions concerning the programme between the Government and the review mission have confirmed that the general orientation of the programme still holds good and that its order of magnitude remains the same. There are, however, detailed changes in some projects; some items have been completed or are nearing completion, and two new items will be added.

9. In its discussions with the review mission, the Government described the problems which it was facing and indicated its general approach to the development of the country. The problems are very much the same as those described in the report of the first mission. Two urgent problems which have been resolved are the reconstruction of the village destroyed by the 1977 volcanic eruption on Grande Comore, and the resettlement of the Comorians repatriated from Madagascar. These needs have been met partly by self-help and partly with the aid of the European Development Fund.

10. On the other hand, a major new problem has arisen over the marketing of ylang-ylang essence, which is one of the main exports. The mission was informed that for various reasons it had become difficult to sell the essence. The Government hoped that the difficulties could soon be overcome. In the meantime, however, the stocks of essence in the Comoros were excessive and represented as much as 10 months' production. The Government was, therefore, at the time of the mission's visit, restraining essence production, but compensating the cultivators.

11. The budget deficit, however, remains by far the biggest single economic problem. The financial stringency which it engenders permeates every sector of government activity - and government activity is vital in virtually every field of development. In this connexion, the Government informed the mission that their policy was to return the country to normal financial and administrative procedures and to establish a satisfactory budget system. Since coming to power, the new administration has at once tackled the problems of restructuring the administration, of introducing satisfactory budgeting and accounting procedures and of reorganizing state enterprises.

12. The Government said that it had proved very difficult to carry out this reorganization and yet keep expenditures down. The administration could not function without adequate staff. The Government described to the mission how the initial expenditure estimates for 1979, totalling nearly \$50 million, had been pared down in successive stages to about \$18 million; yet this would still leave a deficit of nearly \$10 million without including any capital investment. The Government said further efforts would be made to reduce expenditure whenever possible.

13. Financial statements made available to the mission show that, during the second half of 1978, the recurrent budget deficit was about \$3.4 million. Given the inevitable increases in running costs associated with economic and social development, it is unlikely that the Government will be able to achieve a lower deficit for 1979, that is, it is unlikely to be less than \$7 million for the year.

14. For succeeding years, a strengthening of the fiscal system may help to effect the further growth of recurrent expenditure as development progresses. Nevertheless a substantial budget deficit can be expected to continue for some time. The Government told the mission that it expected to have a budget deficit for five years and the mission, on the evidence available, tended to agree with this assessment.

15. The Comoros are very poor, and much effort and many resources will have to be expended for their development to gain momentum. Although some projects, for example, in agriculture, may produce returns quite quickly, a great deal of investment will be needed in such fields as infrastructure, education and health services, where there is a long time-lag between the expenditure and the resultant increase in material income. The continuing budget deficit is a reflection of this situation.

16. The balance of trade is equally in deficit, and this is a problem of long standing. For the past decade, the value of exports has rarely been much more than half the value of imports. Table 1 shows the figures for recent years.

Table 1  
Balance of trade

		1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Exports	metric tons	5,400	4,263	6,304	2,099	3,500
	\$000	8,908	9,256	9,265	8,991	9,127
Imports	metric tons	75,115	55,425	40,776	39,812	45,429
	\$000	25,845	22,612	12,994	16,546	21,330
Import coverage ratio						
$\left( \frac{\text{export value}}{\text{import value}} \times 100 \right)$		34%	41%	71%	54%	43%

Source: Statistique du commerce extérieur et de la navigation: 1977 (Republique fédérale islamique des Comores) and additional government figures: converted to United States dollars at contemporary rates of exchange.

17. The exceptionally high export/import percentage in 1976 was owing to the severe restrictions on imports and associated running down of stocks. This was followed by two years in which the value of imports rose sharply, while that of exports diminished slightly. Unless the market for ylang-ylang essence recovers quickly, it is difficult to see how the balance of trade can improve significantly in the near future.

18. Another looming problem is that of steadily accumulating debt. The Government finds that it has large debts outstanding from the past and now due for immediate payment, both externally and internally. The figures supplied to the mission show \$3.2 million of external debt now outstanding, plus \$576,000 due for contributions to international organizations. For internal debt, the total outstanding is almost \$22 million, of which nearly one third is unpaid salaries and wages.

19. In 1978, the total debt servicing in the Government's recurrent accounts was \$365,000. That amounted to only 3.5 per cent of the year's total recurrent expenditures. In the provisional estimates for 1979 shown to the mission, debt service already rises to \$544,500 for interest alone (the capital repayments, at \$769,000, not being included in this recurrent budget).



20. The Government gave the mission a schedule of servicing for the existing external loans already obtained, that is, as distinct from the debts due for immediate payment. It shows the annual figure rising from the \$365,000 of 1978 to \$1,670,000 by 1986; it then jumps to \$3,760,000 in 1987 and continues at about that level until 1991, thereafter slowly diminishing. Moreover, the burden of debt servicing is liable to rise even more rapidly as additional external finance is obtained for development, even though it is on a concessionary basis.

21. Faced with financial and economic problems of such magnitude, the Comoros have, in fact, been able to maintain some minimum degree of services and of development effort only as a result of generous external aid. Government data provided to the mission indicate that the total non-project aid received since the first mission reported at the end of 1977 has been about \$9.5 million. In addition, project financing totalling several million dollars has been provided or promised.

22. It is clear that assistance on at least this scale will be needed for a number of years. The need will be both for general financial assistance not tied to projects and for specific project finance. Moreover, the burden of debt servicing will become intolerably heavy, even if interest rates are zero, unless there are long periods of grace followed by long repayment schedules.

23. It was against this background that the mission reviewed with the Government the progress made in implementation of the projects recommended by the 1977 mission. The details of each project, including changes in objectives or in methods where these have occurred, and also including the two new projects, are described in section III below.

### III. PROJECTS IN THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

#### A. Critically urgent projects

##### 1. Essential budgetary support

24. The continuing need for support to the recurrent budget has been described in section II above. A minimum of \$7 million is likely to be needed to meet the 1979 deficit and, as noted in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, substantial support will very probably be needed each year through 1983. The effective use of such budgetary assistance will be promoted by the establishment of budgetary and accounting procedures.

25. As indicated in the report of the first mission, some portion at least of the budgetary support could take the form of substantial food aid (A/32/208/Add.1, para. 71), provided the Government could sell the food-stuffs in order to use the counterpart funds for specified purposes. The commodities which it would be appropriate to supply remain as indicated in the report of the first mission. Those commodities, with the maximum annual tonnages which could probably be used in this way, are as follows:

Rice or maize (not more than 25 per cent maize)	15,000 metric tons
Sugar	3,000 " "
Canned meat and fish	1,000 " "
Canned milk	400 " "
Edible oil	600 " "

##### 2. Development of food crops

26. This project has already started, with financial assistance from the European Development Fund which provides for maize development. In addition, an African Development Fund/African Development Bank loan will help to develop the cultivation of bananas (along with other crops).

27. The present framework for the project is somewhat different from that described in the report of the first mission. The structure to be created will comprise a Federal Agricultural and Rural Development Centre together with 16 local Agricultural and Rural Development Centres. The 16 local centres are to be established in phases. The principal functions of the centres will be to inform and to train small cultivators, and to provide them with seeds and other inputs.

28. In addition to the assistance of the African Development Fund and the European Development Fund, the initiation of this programme will be aided by a UNDP/FAO project entitled "Support to rural development", with UNDP financing

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over a period of five years. The final cost of this project cannot yet be estimated, and the original round figure of \$1,100,000 has been retained.

### 3. Development of Nioumakéli area

29. Some progress has been made with the initial stage of this project. Financing for the construction and subsequent upkeep of the road programme is to be provided by the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Construction is expected to start in the latter half of 1979.

30. The approach to the over-all development of the area has been modified with the aim of accelerating progress. Instead of preparing at once a fully detailed development programme and a feasibility study, an outline plan is to be drawn up. This plan is expected to cost only \$100,000 (instead of the \$500,000 for a detailed programme and feasibility study). The outline plan will, however, still provide sufficient detail for approaching possible sources of finance. The UNDP has agreed to finance a small project for drawing up the outline plan.

### 4. Coconut improvement and rat extermination

31. The project, which has been elaborated for World Bank financing, now covers Anjouan and Mohéli besides Grande Comore. The total cost is estimated at \$5 million. The project has, however, not yet been finally approved and the mission understood that the next step was for the Government to ask the World Bank to send an evaluation team.

### 5. Agricultural training

32. It is now planned to meet these training needs within the UNDP-financed project for support to rural development (see para. 27 above). The project is to provide fellowships for the higher-level training of 15 Comorian technicians. Middle-level staff are to be trained in Mohéli also within the framework of the project.

### 6. Agricultural development credit

33. Instead of providing agricultural credit through the National Bank of the Comoros, the Government now intends to have a separate development bank. It is already seeking technical advice on the establishment of such a bank.

34. No contributions have been received towards the capital needed for agricultural credit, which was originally estimated to call for \$800,000, initially for crop financing alone.

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7. Agricultural tools and equipment

35. Having received the tools and equipment now available to the country, including the items which have been supplied from bilateral assistance, the Government provided the mission with an up-to-date list of current needs (see appendix II below). The mission estimates the total cost of the items now listed to be about \$1,500,000.

8. Malaria eradication

36. A request has been made to WHO for a preliminary study of this project. It seems likely that the cost may well exceed the original estimate of \$550,000 by a large margin. A provisional figure of \$1 million is therefore now included for this project.

9. Equipment and supplies for El Maarouf Hospital, Moroni, and Mutsamudu Hospital

37. Besides the restoration of the hospital buildings, the European Development Fund has also financed the provision of some major items, such as radiological and sterilization equipment. In addition, considerable medical equipment and supplies have been funded by UNICEF itself and through UNICEF from bilateral sources (Switzerland and Canada). Consequently, the list of items now urgently needed has changed somewhat as compared with the list included in the first mission's report. The current list, which reflects revised quantities and prices and some new items, is set forth in appendix III below. The total cost is estimated at about \$270,000.

10. Supplementary Hospital feeding

38. The Government informed the mission that the food-stuff supplied by WFP would be sufficient to meet all needs under this project. They, however, added that some of the items were apt to be unsuited to local taste even though nutritionally valuable.

11. Airport improvement and development

39. Under this heading are now grouped the projects which were numbered 11, 12 and 28 in the report of the first mission, together with several additional elements.

(a) Anjouan Airport

40. The Government is expecting bilateral financing to be available for the

repair of the Anjouan runway (project 11 in the first mission's report), the cost of which is now expected to be about \$1 million.

(b) Anjouan Airport equipment

41. This airport, which averages two flights a day and a total of 500 passengers a year, is seriously deficient in equipment. It has no fire-fighting or rescue apparatus and its equipment for aerial navigation and aeronautical meteorology is very limited. The improvements needed are divided into two phases. Phase I would cover the equipment which is essential for a minimum of safety and for essential meteorological work. Phase II would provide for subsequent improvement of aerial navigation and also for runway maintenance equipment.

42. The items required for these two phases are listed in appendix IV below. The total cost of phase I would be about \$320,000. The mission recommends phase I for inclusion under the heading of Accelerated Development Projects; phase II, which would cost over \$100,000, properly belongs to the normal development programme.

(c) Hahaia Airport runway

43. Although UNDP arranged to obtain some technical advice from ICAO, little effective progress has been made with this project. The Government seeks further expert advice on the nature and extent of this problem, to be followed probably by detailed engineering investigation before the actual construction work is carried out. The notional figure of \$1 million is therefore retained for this item among the critically urgent projects.

(d) Hahaia Airport buildings and equipment

44. Hahaia Airport came into use in May 1975, but has never been completed. Moreover, because of the lack of some items, much of the equipment which was installed has either not functioned reliably, or has not functioned at all. In particular, many of the electronic aids for aerial navigation and for ground approach have been out of use and have, in consequence, deteriorated in the salt-laden atmosphere.

45. The Government has drawn up lists of the equipment and the building construction needed at Hahaia Airport. This is divided into two phases. Phase I would make the airport operational to a reasonably satisfactory standard. Phase II would complete the airport. These developments would cover aeronautical meteorology, aerial navigation, fire-fighting and rescue equipment, and passenger and freight-handling (for details, see appendix IV below). The costs are estimated at about \$2,200,000 for phase I and \$1 million for phase II. The mission recommends phase I for inclusion in the Accelerated Development Programme, but considers that phase II should be treated as part of the country's normal development.

(e) Mohéli Airport

46. This airport, with an average of 2,500 passengers a year, is at present little more than a landing strip. It has a 1-watt battery-operated radio, no meteorological equipment and no fire-fighting apparatus. The Government has drawn up lists of equipment needed to meet these deficiencies, again divided into phases I and II (see appendix IV below). The mission recommends phase I at an estimated cost of \$500,000 for inclusion in the Accelerated Development Programme. It again considers that phase II, estimated to cost \$60,000, should be regarded as part of the country's normal development programme.

(f) Technical assistance needs for airport operation

47. In support of the airport developments described above, the Government is seeking technical assistance experts in the following five fields:

- (a) ILS/VOR technician;
- (b) Aerial navigation engineer;
- (c) Meteorological engineer;
- (d) Installation technician;
- (e) Fire-fighting and rescue instructor.

48. Each of the first four are required for two years; the fire-fighting and rescue instructor is required for one year. In addition, training outside the country will be needed for a considerable number of Comorian technicians.

12. Hahaia Airport runway

See paragraph 43 above, project 11 (c).

13. Water development

49. Some progress has been made with the initial steps for this project and a water development corporation is now being established. Advice on the over-all water situation and on water development has been provided by the United Nations system, and a proposal for a general water resource study costing \$345,000 has been drawn up. The Government hopes to obtain multilateral financing for this water resource study. However, financing is not yet certain. Moreover, the Government feels that this study would not cover all water needs. The mission has therefore retained this project in the programme at the original estimate of \$500,000.

50. Meanwhile, a primary water supply system for Moroni has been installed, with

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European Development Fund financing. The benefit of this installation would be further enhanced by the provision of a secondary distribution system.

#### 14. Food-storage capacity

51. WFP has already agreed to finance the construction of two storage warehouses, on Grande Comore and on Anjouan, at a total cost of about \$130,000. The mission understands that these warehouses will be available only for food-stuffs supplied by WFP.

52. The Government reported that another multilateral agency was interested in helping with storage construction, possibly for a larger sum than the WFP contribution. As this further assistance is not yet certain and as there is need for strategic reserve storage over and above the capacity to be provided for WFP supplies, this project has been retained in the programme at the original estimate of \$150,000.

#### 15. Reconstruction and resettlement

53. The villagers whose homes were destroyed by the 1977 volcanic eruption on Grande Comore have built new homes for themselves on a site a few kilometres away. The Comorians repatriated from Majunga, Madagascar, have mostly been reintegrated into Comorian society. Substantial assistance for these resettled repatriates was provided by the European Development Fund. The Fund financed the preparation of sites and the provision of one-room nucleus dwellings, to which each occupant could make additions on an individual basis. The Government told the mission that these needs for reconstruction and resettlement had thus been satisfied.

#### B. Accelerated development projects

##### 16. Small livestock development

54. The Government informed the mission that this project was in progress and was being financed partly by UNICEF and partly by the European Development Fund. The contributions of these two agencies have been increased and now total \$610,000.

##### 17. Maize milling

55. This project has now in effect become part of the general maize development scheme, which is being financed by the European Development Fund.

18. Pilot project, reforestation

56. The report of the first mission included the pilot operation and starting phase of a reforestation programme. It was estimated that the pilot and starting phase would cost about \$300,000, out of a total programme cost of \$2 million.

57. A pilot project, financed by UNDP, was completed in 1979 at a cost of \$25,000. Using the experience thus gained, the Government now proposes to go ahead with a forestry programme. This programme will incorporate three projects proposed by a UNDP/FAO mission. These projects are for silvi-pastoral improvement of the high plateaux, for protection and development of a mountainous drainage basin in the Nioumakéli area, and for support to the water and forest service. The Government now proposes to make an addition to this last project to provide for 600 hectares of reforestation operations. The total cost of all these projects, for which finance is needed, is estimated at \$2,150,000.

19. Production of agricultural hand tools

58. At the time of the mission's visit, the Government was expecting a UNIDO advisory team to go to the Comoros to examine the possibility of manufacturing agricultural hand tools there.

20. Salt production

59. The Government told the mission that a feasibility study for salt production was being prepared by UNDP and UNIDO and that the technical report was expected within a few weeks. However, no source of finance has yet been found.

21. Strategic food reserve

60. Although some progress has been made in creating food-storage capacity, as noted under project 14 above, no progress has been made in establishing the actual reserve of food. Indeed, the Government has not even received promises of assistance with this important precaution against the uncertainties of marine transport, weather conditions and agriculture.

22. Strategic reserve of petroleum fuels

61. No assistance has been received for this project. Meanwhile, the Government has been informed that in one year's time the existing storage tanks will have deteriorated to such an extent as to be unusable. The Government has therefore had a technical study prepared, which envisages the establishment of stocks both on Anjouan and on Grande Comore, with a sufficient total to provide for six months' reserve.



62. The proposed increase to six months, instead of two as proposed in the programme, arises from a change in the supply circumstances in this part of the Indian Ocean. The Government fears that the change may result in further uncertainties about delivery and in the delivery of larger quantities at longer intervals.

63. The cost of the storage tanks and related installations was estimated in the study at \$10 million. This sum is so much larger than the original figures that the Government is considering what technical options may be available. Whatever solution is adopted, very substantial external assistance would be needed. The original figure of \$600,000 in the first mission's report has, therefore, been revised to a notional figure of \$2 million.

### 23. Training in technical trades

64. Because of changes in the approach to technical and vocational training, the major project, which was formerly receiving UNDP/ILO assistance, has been stopped. A scheme has been proposed in which technical training would be more closely integrated with the general education system, and for which external assistance would be needed. The mission was informed that the Government wished to consider the matter further before deciding the exact course to be followed.

65. The Government confirmed that it wished to continue an existing programme on Grande Comore for training office personnel and to expand it to other islands. This programme has United Nations assistance and the mission supports the proposal for its continuation.

### 24. Training of paramedical personnel

66. UNICEF is providing the technical and teaching equipment required for this project.

### 25. Training of dental assistants

67. WHO is providing a dental-surgeon instructor and Switzerland has provided the dental and the teaching equipment in order to carry out a training programme in the Comoros.

### 26. Ambulances

68. Two ambulances and two light trucks are being provided through UNICEF by Swiss assistance. A further three ambulances are still needed, their approximate cost being \$40,000.

27. Interisland marine transport

69. A second flat-bottomed beachable vessel was purchased, but it has proved unreliable in service and costly to operate and maintain. Meanwhile, the first vessel has been shipwrecked. Thus, the Government is now unable to assure any regular interisland sailings, and marine transport is dependent on irregular sailings by relatively small privately operated vessels. Thus there is need for a suitable vessel in good condition, probably costing about \$500,000.

28. Meteorology and meteorological telecommunications

70. The needs which were originally listed separately under this project have now been included in the revised project 11 within sections 11 (b), 11 (d), 11 (e) and 11 (f).

29. Hydroelectric development

71. The mission was informed that an expert from the African Development Bank had made an evaluation of the hydroelectric potential on Anjouan and Mohéli, and that his report was awaited. It appears likely that the report will be favourable and that the hydroelectrical and geological studies and detailed design will be needed. The original estimate of \$400,000 for this project is therefore retained in the programme.

30. Geothermal energy

72. UNDP has agreed to finance a study of the geothermal energy potential. There is, however, a brisk demand for expertise in this field, and the study is still awaited.

73. Since there are no trained Comorian geologists in the country, the mission recommends that two or more Comorians be sent abroad for training in this field as soon as suitable candidates are available.

C. Urgent small-scale technical co-operation

31. Consultant on agricultural development project preparation

74. In November 1978, a UNDP/FAO agricultural programming and project identification mission visited the Comoros. Its final report is expected to recommend over 20 projects in agriculture, water development, forestry, fisheries and nutrition, and in related technical training. Consequently, the Government no longer needs a consultant in this field.

32. Reinforcement of the project study office of the National Centre for Planning, Finance and Methods

75. This need will now be met as part of a UNDP/United Nations project for "Assistance in the management and planning of development", which will reinforce the Planning Directorate.

33. Management of refrigeration complexes

76. The refrigeration complexes are now to be incorporated in a project for artisanal fisheries development, which has been studied by the African Development Bank and FAO. The Government is expecting to receive the final report soon. It is proposed to assign the management of the refrigeration complexes to two refrigeration engineers, who will initially be provided as technical assistance within the project.

77. The Government told the mission that they also wished to have Comorian refrigeration engineers trained outside the country and that this appeared not to have been included in the fisheries project. In that case, additional training fellowships would be needed, probably for three persons for at least two years.

34. Assistance with systems of financial control and accountability

78. Considerable progress has already been made in this field with the assistance of the IMF adviser on public finance. A basic federal budget law and a federal tax code have now been introduced and a treasury accounting system established. A comprehensive public accounting code, however, has yet to be prepared, and for that task expert advice is needed. Given the continuing presence of the IMF adviser, the accounting adviser should not be required for more than a year.

35. Primary-school teacher-training adviser

79. A UNESCO Educational Programming and Project Identification Mission visited the Comoros in January 1979. It made recommendations for reorganizing the training of teachers as part of general educational reorganization. The original proposal for a short-term adviser to work as a matter of urgency within the secondary/technical education programme of the previous administration has thus been superseded. The new proposal is effectively part of the normal development of the country, and is no longer an emergency need which can be met by providing small-scale technical assistance. It has, therefore, not been included in the mission's programme.

36. Statistical development adviser

80. Within the project for assistance in the management and planning of development, there will be provision for support to statistical development both at the federal and at the island level.

37. Advice on a system of national accounts

81. As no progress has been made in this field, the mission again recommends that the Government should approach the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

D. New projects

38. Air transport

82. The Comoros is very dependent on air transport both for interisland traffic and for communication with the mainland. Hahaia Airport can accept intercontinental jet aircraft, and communications to the mainland have so far been provided by foreign airlines. Air Comores has also operated its piston-engined aircraft both between the islands and to the mainland. At the time of the mission's visit, however, two of its three aircraft were grounded and the third was temporarily out of service.

83. The Government attaches importance to the provision of new modern aircraft for Air Comores. After discussion with the mission, it was considered that the optimum solution would appear to be two short-range propeller-turbine aircraft with about a 20-seat capacity. They should have an optimum range well suited to the distances between the islands, but be able to reach the mainland in case the international services are for some reason interrupted or inadequate.

84. The mission understands that at least two types of aircraft with the required characteristics are available. The cost, with a supply of spares, would probably be about \$5 million. Provision should be made for training air crew and maintenance staff as part of the project.

39. Postal services and telecommunications

85. As reliable communications are vital in an archipelago country, a programme of postal and telecommunications development has been drawn up with the assistance of the International Telecommunication Union and the Universal Postal Union. The basic element of this programme is a system of interisland radio/telephone links. The cost is estimated at about \$4 million, to which the European Development Fund is to contribute about \$3 million. The mission understands that a bilateral source may finance the balance.

86. In order to make use of the interisland radio/telephone links, it will be essential to replace the existing manual exchange at Mutsamudu on Anjouan. The Government has been given a cost estimate of \$1,200,000 for this scheme.

87. In addition, in order to make the radio/telephone system economically viable, it will be necessary to expand the existing automatic exchange capacity at Moroni and to install automatic exchanges at a number of places which now have only manual switchboards. The most urgent of these schemes is the expansion at Moroni, which would provide 2,000 lines at once with an ultimate capacity of 10,000 at an estimated initial cost of about \$1,700,000.

APPENDIX I

List of projects requiring urgent  
 international assistance

A. Critically urgent projects

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Project	Original cost estimate in A/32/208/Add.1	Revised cost estimate	Balance of finance still to be obtained	Technical co-operation staff now required	Source of assistance provided or promised since 1977
	US \$000	US \$000	US \$000	Person/months	
1. Essential budgetary support	10 000	7 000 <u>a/</u>	7 000 <u>a/</u>	-	-
2. Development of food crops	1 000	1 000 <u>b/</u>	unknown	-	EDF:ADB: UNDP/FAO
3. Development of Nioumakéli area	500	100	nil	-	UNDP
4. Coconut improvement and rat extermination	2 000 <u>c/</u>	5 000 <u>c/</u>	nil <u>c/</u>	-	World Bank
5. Agricultural training	60	- <u>d/</u>	nil	-	UNDP/FAO
6. Agricultural development credit	800	800	800	<u>e/</u>	-
7. Agricultural tools and equipment	1 000	1 500	1 500	-	-
8. Malaria eradication	550	1 000	1 000 <u>f/</u>	48 <u>f/</u>	-
9. Equipment and supplies for El Maarouf Hospital, Moroni, and Mutsamudu Hospital	150	270	270	-	EDF:UNICEF Switzerland: Canada
10. Supplementary hospital feeding	100	100	nil	-	WFP
11. Airport improvement and development (part)					
(a) Anjouan Airport	550	1 000	1 000 <u>g/</u>	-	-
(b) Hahaia Airport runway	1 000	1 000	1 000	-	UNDP/ICA
(c) Technical assistance needs for airport operation	-	-	-	108	-
12. Hahaia Airport runway (now at 11 (b) above)	-	-	-	-	-

Project	Original cost estimate in A/32/208/Add.1	Revised cost estimate	Balance of finance still to be obtained	Technical co-operation staff now required	Source of assistance provided or promised since 1977
13. Water development	500	500	500	-	UNDP/FAO EDF
14. Food storage capacity	150	280 <u>h/</u>	150 <u>h/</u>	-	WFP
15. Reconstruction and resettlement	<u>1 600</u>	<u>1 600</u> <u>i/</u>	<u>nil</u> <u>i/</u>	-	EDF
	<u>19 960</u>	<u>21 150</u>	<u>13 220</u>	<u>156</u>	

B. Accelerated development projects

Project	Original cost estimate in A/32/208/Add.1	Revised cost estimate	Balance of finance still to be obtained	Technical co-operation staff now required	Source of assistance provided or promised since 1977
	US \$000	US \$000	US \$000	Person/months	
11. Airport improvement and development (part)					
(b) Anjouan Airport equipment	-	320	320	-	-
(d) Hahaïa Airport buildings and equipment	-	2 200	2 200	-	-
(e) Mohéli Airport	-	500	500	-	-
16. Small livestock development	230	230	nil	-	UNICEF: EDF
17. Maize milling	250	250	nil	-	EDF
18. Reforestation	300	2 150 <u>j/</u>	2 150	-	UNDP/FAO
19. Production of agricultural hand tools	100	100	100	-	UNDP/UNIDO
20. Salt production	50	50	50	-	UNDP/UNIDO
21. Strategic food reserve	1 500	1 500	1 500	-	-
22. Strategic reserve of petroleum fuels	600	2 000	2 000	-	-
23. Training in technical trades	1 500	<u>k/</u>	<u>k/</u>	-	-
24. Training of paramedical personnel	30	30	nil	-	UNICEF
25. Training of dental assistants	100	110 <u>l/</u>	nil	-	Switzerland: WHO
26. Ambulances	100	100	40	-	Switzerland/ UNICEF
27. Interisland marine transport	500	500	500	-	-
28. Meteorology and meteorological telecommunications (now in 11 (b), (d) and (e) above)	300	-	-	-	-
29. Hydroelectric development	400	400	400	-	ADB
30. Geothermal energy	100	100	100	2	UNDP
	<u>6 060</u>	<u>10 540</u>	<u>9 860</u>	<u>2</u>	



C. Urgent small-scale technical co-operation

Project	Person/months of assistance still to be arranged	Source of assistance provided or promised since 1977
31. Consultant on preparation of agricultural development project	nil	UNDP/FAO
32. Reinforcement of the project study office of the National Centre for Planning, Finance and Methods	<u>m/</u>	UNDP/United Nations
33. Management of refrigeration complexes	<u>n/</u>	-
34. Assistance with systems of financial control and accountability	nil	IMF
35. Primary teacher training adviser	nil	-
36. Statistical development adviser	<u>m/</u>	UNDP/United Nations
37. Adviser on a system of national accounts	<u>1</u>	-
	<u>1</u>	

D. New projects

Project	Cost estimate	Balance of finance still to be obtained	Technical co-operation staff now required	Source of assistance provided or promised since 1977
	US \$000	US \$000		
38. Air transport	5 000	5 000	<u>o/</u>	-
39. Postal services and telecommunications	6 900	3 900	-	EDF
	<u>11 900</u>	<u>8 900</u>		

Abbreviations: EDF = European Development Fund

ADB = African Development Bank

a/ \$7 million minimum requirement for 1979; substantial further support very probably required each year through 1983.

b/ Original approximate estimate of \$1 million retained, but final cost uncertain: UNDP/FAO rural development support scheme will, inter alia, assist production of food crops, but the need for further assistance cannot yet be known.

c/ \$2 million was only for extension to Anjouan and Mohéli; \$5 million is for all three islands. If IBRD project is finally approved, financing will be covered for all three.

d/ To be assisted by UNDP/FAO rural development support scheme.

e/ Technical advice being sought on establishment of a development bank, which would include agriculture.

f/ Provisional estimates.

g/ Government expects bilateral financing to be available.

h/ World Food Programme will finance storage costing \$130,000, but additional storage will then still be needed.

i/ Much done by self-help, so cost figures notional.

j/ No longer a pilot project, as pilot stage was completed at cost of \$25,000: revised costs include considerable technical assistance element.

k/ Proposals being revised: costs and financing to be considered.

l/ \$110,000 for equipment alone: WHO providing instructor.

m/ Needs to be met by UNDP/United Nations planning project.

n/ This need to be met within a project for fisheries development, but training fellowships also needed.

o/ Training needed for air crew and maintenance staff.

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APPENDIX II

Revised list of agricultural tools and equipment required

Item No.	Quantity	Designation
1.	3 000	Shovels
2.	200	Hoes
3.	5 000	Hooks (with two teeth)
4.	3 000	Picks
5.	3 000	Spades
6.	10 000	Machetes
7.	10 000	Watering cans
8.	20 000	Jack-knives
9.	5 000	Wheelbarrows
10.	3 000	Axes
11.	5 000	Sprayers
12.	10 000	Rakes
13.	10 000	Angades (Malagasy type)
14.	3 000	Pitchforks
15.	20 000	Compass saws
16.	5 000	Crowbars
17.	10 000	Buckets (metal)

APPENDIX III

Revised list of equipment and supplies required for  
El Maarouf Hospital at Moroni and Hombo Hospital  
at Nutsamudu

No.	Quantity	Description
A. <u>Items</u>		
1	20	Delivery tables
2	4	Operating theatre lamps
3	4	Simpson forceps (32 cm)
4	4	Kjelland forceps
5	4	Tarnier forceps
6	4	Thom pelvimeters
7	4	Baudelocque pelvimeters
8	4	3-stage, electronically-controlled obstetrical vacuum extractors
9	2	Cardiotocograph - with accessories for taking intra-amniotic pressure and foetal electrocardiograms
10	4	Pumps for oxytocin infusion (PYE)
11	4	Ultrasonic foetal heartbeat monitors
12	4	Cold-light amnioscopes, with lenses and spare lamps
13	4	Fully automatic equipment for macroscopic and microscopic analysis of pH, potential CO <sub>2</sub> (pCO <sub>2</sub> ) and potential oxygen (pO <sub>2</sub> )
14	4	Oxygen tents for newborn babies (Saling or Cardiff models)
15	4	Oxygen tents for newborn babies
16	4	Colposcopes (normal and ultraviolet illumination)
17	4	Complete sets of stains for Papanicolaou tests
18	4	Automatic instruments to perform Papanicolaou tests
19	4	Coagulators or cauteries
20	4	Apparatus for hysterosalpingography

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No.	Quantity	Description
21	4	Coelioscopes
22	24	Otoscopes
23	4	Equipment for tubal insufflation
24	4	Endoscopes or laparoscopes with CO <sub>2</sub> equipment, biopsy forceps and observation eyepieces
25	1,600	Sheets (for full-size beds)
26	1,600	Sheets (for cots)
27	800	Blankets (for full-size beds)
28	800	Blankets (for cots)
29	300	Full-size beds
30	300	Single mattresses
31	400	Bedpans
32	400	Bedpan pads
33	4,000	Pyjamas (adult size)
34	4,000	Nightdresses
35	8 25-metre rolls	Rubber draw sheets
36		Layettes
37		Mercryl, Syntocion, Dettol, Methergin, etc.
38	24	Examination tables
39	4	30-kg capacity washing machines
		<u>B. Equipment</u>
1		Hospital incinerator (approximately 300-bed hospital)
2	2	Refuse collection lorries
3	40	Large-size dustbins with airtight seal
		<u>C. Furniture</u>
1	24	Doctors' desks
2	24	Armchairs
3	24	Glass-fronted cupboards
4	24	Filing cabinets
5	24	Filing cabinets for medical records with negatoscope

APPENDIX IV

Airport improvement and development

A. Anjouan airport equipment and ground facilities

Phase I (essential minimum for safety and for essential meteorology)

(a) Aerial navigation and ground installation

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Designation</u>
1	HF SSB 6-channel transmitter-receiver, 200 watt (for air-ground communications)
1	HF SSB 3-channel transceiver, 400 watt (for fixed aeronautical and meteorological communications)
1	Rescue boat, with engine and VHF radio (for marine search and rescue)
1	Rapid intervention (fire-fighting) vehicle (carrying 1,000 litres of water), with VHF radio
1	Cross-country service vehicle, with VHF radio
1	Standby diesel generating set, 120 KVA
1	General-purpose logistical support building for the security, fire and rescue equipment

(b) Meteorological equipment

1	HF SSB transceiver, 300 watt (for meteorological communications)
1	Evaporation station, complete
1	Wind speed/direction recording system
1	Thermograph temperature recorder
1	Set of calibration instruments

Phase II. Aerial navigation and ground installation

1	HF SSB 6-channel transmitter-receiver, 200 watt
1	VHF AM single-channel transmitter-receiver, 50 watt (single)
	Runway maintenance equipment

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B. Hahaia Airport equipment and ground facilities

Phase I. To bring Hahaia Airport up to a satisfactory operating level

(a) Aerial navigation and ground installation

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Designation</u>
1	Instrument-landing system category 2
1	Distance-measuring equipment, 1 kilowatt single monitor dual transponder
2	Transmitters, 6 kilowatt, complete
8	HF ISB/SSB synthesized receivers (with ancillary equipment needed for installation)
1	Communications recorder/reproducer; 6-channel dual tape-deck system
2	Rescue boats, with engine and VHF radio (for marine search and rescue)
2	High-powered foam fire-fighting trucks (10,000 litres)
1	Stand-by diesel generating set with automatic switch

(b) Meteorological equipment

1	Radiosonde receiving system
1	Automatic picture transmission, satellite/ground receiving station
1	Windfinding radar (for cyclones)
2	Wind speed/direction sensors, with remote indicating systems
2	Ceilographs (recording ceilometers)
2	Transmitters, 6 kilowatt, complete
12	HF ISB/SSB receivers, 6 channels
4	teletypewriter terminals
1	TOR/ARQ teleprinting over radio equipment

Phase II. To complete Hahaia Airport

Enlargement of airport buildings  
Construction of meteorological station building  
Construction of cargo depot  
Widening of access road  
Encasing of approach and runway lighting  
Construction of VIP lounge

C. Mohéli Airport equipment and ground facilities

Phase I. Basic operational requirements

(a) Aerial navigation and ground installation

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Designation</u>
1	Assembly with one VHF AM ground/air 50-watt transmitter and two VHF AM single-frequency receivers
1	HF SSB three-channel transceiver, 400 watt (for fixed aeronautical and meteorological communications)
1	Rescue boat, with engine and VHF radio (for marine search and rescue)
1	Cross-country service vehicle, with VHF radio
1	Rapid intervention (fire-fighting) vehicle (carrying 1,000 litres of water) with VHF radio
1	Stand-by diesel generating set
1	Technical block building
1	General-purpose airport building for security, fire and rescue equipment

(b) Meteorological equipment

1	Wind speed/direction recording system
1	Barograph, thermograph, rain gauge and radio theodolite; complete installation



Phase II. Completion of Mohéli Airport

(a) Aerial navigation equipment

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Designation</u>
1	HF transmitter-receiver station comprising: HF SSB six-channel transmitter, 200 watt, and HF mobile receiver
1	NDB dual 50-watt radio beacon installation, with antenna

(b) Meteorological equipment

1	SSB transceiver, 300 watt
1	Evaporation station, complete
1	Thermograph recording thermometer
1	Set of calibration instruments

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