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Agenda item 84 (b)SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE:
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCEAssistance for the reconstruction and development of LebanonReport of the Secretary-GeneralAddendum

1. In the context of his efforts to provide an urgent response by all possible means to Lebanon's need for assistance in its reconstruction and development, the Secretary-General, in a meeting on 28 February 1991, raised the issue with Mr. Bettino Craxi, in his capacity as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General. Mr. Craxi accepted the Secretary-General's request that he join him in his efforts to mobilize all possible resources to help the Government of Lebanon in its task of reconstruction.
2. In undertaking this task, Mr. Craxi first met with various international and Lebanese personalities, including the President of France, the Patriarchs and Bishops of the Catholic and Christian Communities of the Middle East, the Secretary of State of the Holy See, the Foreign Minister of Lebanon and the Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee of that country. In order to evaluate the data he received from these contacts, Mr. Craxi subsequently sent to Beirut, in March 1991, a technical delegation that met with the Lebanon Reconstruction Committee. The technical delegation concluded that emergency measures were necessary to restore telephones and transportation services and water supply; that, at the same time, it was necessary to institute urban planning and to quantify energy needs; and that, furthermore, plans were needed for medium and long-term reconstruction of industry, agriculture and civil engineering. It provided some preliminary indications as to the work that should be undertaken for the implementation of emergency plans as well as structural medium-term interventions, and the investments this would require from the international community.

3. At the Secretary-General's request, Mr. Craxi himself visited Lebanon on 9 and 10 June 1991 and had meetings with the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the President of the National Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President and the members of the Committee for Reconstruction, the political leaders, and economic experts, both public and private. These meetings enabled Mr. Craxi to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the evolving situation in Lebanon and the emergency needs of the country as they were perceived by the Lebanese authorities at the highest level. It was reconfirmed to Mr. Craxi that the Government of Lebanon saw an absolute need to prepare a development plan at the national level for the basic economic and social needs of the population (in particular with regard to electricity, telecommunications, water and public services). It was clear that an urgent international financial input would give the Government a helpful boost by allowing it to begin some public works. This would also create jobs so much needed upon the demilitarization of the militias and the return of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese citizens.

4. On the basis of this information, Mr. Craxi immediately intensified his contacts with various potential donors, in particular a number of Western European Governments and the European Community. As a result, these donors have activated the necessary internal procedures and a considerable amount of resources has been actually mobilized to respond at the bilateral level - as requested by the Lebanese Government - to some of the most urgent needs. The efforts of Mr. Craxi have thus spearheaded the determination of the international community to come to the assistance of Lebanon.
