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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Assistance to Uganda

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/122 of 14 December 1979, in which it, inter alia, urgently appealed to all Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international economic and financial institutions to contribute generously, through bilateral or multilateral channels, to the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development needs of Uganda.
2. The Secretary-General was requested by the resolution to mobilize an international programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Uganda to meet its reconstruction, rehabilitation and development needs, arrange for the effective co-ordination of the efforts of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this respect; dispatch a mission to Uganda to consult with the Government on the country's most urgent assistance needs; to communicate the report of the mission to the international community; and to report to the Assembly at the thirty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.
3. The resolution also called upon various United Nations specialized agencies and organizations to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the steps they had taken and the resources they had made available to assist Uganda. In addition, they were invited to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for consideration, the special needs of Uganda and to report the decisions of their bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 August 1980.

Action taken by the Secretary-General

4. The text of the resolution has been brought to the attention of all Member States as well as regional and interregional organizations and international financial institutions. In addition, an appeal has been addressed to the international community by the Secretary-General calling for urgent assistance to help the Government of Uganda to meet the short-term and long-term needs of the country.

5. On the question of humanitarian assistance, the United Nations has continued to be actively involved in emergency relief operations in the drought-stricken areas. It has been able to provide food, medicines, vehicles, seeds and agricultural implements and other urgent needs for the affected populations. However, the over-all amount of humanitarian assistance being provided by the international community is well below the country's urgent needs, particularly in the northern region where severe drought has destroyed the livelihood of several hundred thousand people. The situation has been compounded by security problems which have hampered relief efforts. A major effort on the part of the international community is required to save life and prevent suffering. In addition to food, medicines, blankets and shelter, urgent assistance is required for the rehabilitation of essential community facilities and services in the affected areas.
 6. At the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General recently sent a special interagency mission to Uganda to consult with the authorities on the drought situation. Its report, which will be circulated to the international community, will include more precise information on the number of people affected and the country's urgent food and relief needs.
 7. For the purpose of ensuring the effective co-ordination of the over-all United Nations efforts in Uganda, the Secretary-General has appointed the UNDP Resident Representative in Kampala to serve also as Special Representative for Emergency Relief Operations. This assistance is in addition to the programmes which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has continued to provide.
 8. During the earlier part of the year unsettled conditions in the country did not make it possible for the Secretary-General to dispatch a United Nations interagency mission to Uganda to identify, in co-operation with the authorities, urgent rehabilitation and reconstruction needs. However, the situation has improved and provisional arrangements have now been made for the mission to visit Uganda in October 1980. As soon as the special programme for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country has been formulated arrangements will be made to ensure the effective co-ordination of the United Nations input.
 9. Meanwhile, it should be recalled that some of the country's most urgent requirements were presented to the Consultative Group organized in 1979 under the auspices of the World Bank in Paris, and a number of Member States and international financial institutions responded with pledges of assistance. However, the situation in Uganda has made it difficult to implement development programmes and projects, and even the assistance pledged at Paris has not yet been provided.
 10. Some information has been received from various specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system concerning the steps they have taken and the resources they have made available to Uganda. Moreover, several have reported to the Secretary-General on the action taken by their governing bodies with regard to Uganda's special needs. This information has been incorporated in a separate report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/35/497.
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