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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Assistance to Tonga

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/132 of 14 December 1979, in which it called the attention of the international community to the special problems confronting Tonga as a developing island country with a small population. The Assembly, inter alia, appealed to Member States, regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental bodies to provide financial, material and technical assistance to Tonga to enable it to establish the social and economic infrastructure that is essential for the well-being of its people.

2. The relevant paragraphs of resolution 34/132 which call for or envisage action on the part of the Secretary-General are as follows:

"5. Invites the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the special needs of Tonga and to report their decisions to the Secretary-General by 15 August 1980;

"6. Requests the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to maintain and increase their current and future programmes of assistance to Tonga, to co-operate closely with the Secretary-General in organizing an effective international programme of assistance and to report periodically to him on the steps they have taken and the resources they have made available;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Tonga;

(b) To establish a special account under the United Nations Trust Fund for Special Economic Assistance Programmes for the purpose of facilitating the channelling of contributions to Tonga, and urges Member States to contribute generously to this account;

(c) To ensure that adequate financial and budgetary arrangements are made to continue the organization of the international assistance programme for Tonga and the mobilization of assistance;

(d) To keep the situation in Tonga under constant review, maintain close contact with Member States, regional and other intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and international financial institutions concerned, and apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1980, of the current status of the special economic assistance programme for Tonga;

(e) To arrange for a review of the economic situation of Tonga and the progress made in organizing and implementing an assistance programme for that country in time for the matter to be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session."

3. Arrangements were made to bring the text of the resolution to the attention of Member States as well as various regional and interregional organizations and international financial institutions.

4. Information has been received from the concerned agencies and organizations of the United Nations system on the nature and extent of their assistance to Tonga as well as to the action they have taken to bring the special needs of Tonga to the attention of their governing bodies. Full details of the replies received have been incorporated in a separate report of the Secretary-General contained on document A/35/497.

5. On the question of mobilization of resources, as requested in paragraph 7 of the resolution, the Secretary-General has informed the Government of Tonga of his readiness to send a technical mission to that country to consult with the Government on the country's needs and to prepare a report which will help donors to identify areas of possible assistance. The Government of Tonga has still to inform the Secretary-General of the most appropriate time for such a mission to visit the country.

6. Arrangements were made by the Secretary-General to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session in 1980, of the current status of the economic assistance programme for Tonga.
