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ASSISTANCE TO BENIN

Report of the Secretary-General

This report is submitted to the Council in compliance with Security Council resolution 419 (1977) adopted on 24 November 1977 to assist Benin to repair the damage caused by the act of aggression. The report contains information on the kinds of aid required by Benin, including details of commodity and project assistance that could be furnished as alternatives to cash contributions. The substantive part of the replies received from the international community to the Secretary-General's letters of appeal dated 16 and 22 February 1978 are also included. Any further replies received will be issued as addenda to the present document.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. On 24 November 1977, the Security Council adopted resolution 419 (1977) which, in paragraph 5, appealed "to all States and all appropriate international organizations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to assist Benin to repair the damage caused by the act of aggression". In paragraphs 6 and 7, the Secretary-General was requested "to provide all necessary assistance to Benin for the implementation of paragraph 5", "to watch over the implementation" of the resolution, and "to report to the Security Council not later than 30 September 1978".

2. In furtherance of paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Secretary-General arranged for a mission, led by the Assistant Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, to visit Benin from 20 to 23 January 1978 to consult with the Government on details of its requirements and the most effective manner in which the international community can assist in meeting them. It will be recalled, in this regard, that an estimate of the damages and losses caused, directly or indirectly, by the act of aggression, amounting to approximately \$28 million, was given in the letter dated 13 October 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/12415).

### I. NATURE OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

3. The mission was briefed on the situation, in separate meetings, by the Dean of the Government and Minister of Industry and Handicrafts and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. These meetings were followed by daily discussions with an interdepartmental committee appointed by the Government to liaise with the mission.

4. During its consultations, the mission was informed of the serious economic losses which had been suffered by Benin as a result of the attack. It was indicated that, considering the general economic circumstances of that country, the most desirable form of assistance would be cash contributions, possibly in the form of grants or soft loans. It was recognized, however, that some donors might not be in a position to provide cash contributions. In such cases, the Government of Benin proposed, as an alternative, aid in the form of commodity and project assistance. The Government of Benin provided the mission with details of what could usefully be contributed under these alternative forms of assistance. These details are given in annexes I and II.

5. It will be noted in annex I that the commodity aid requested consists of food, petroleum products, building materials and pharmaceutical products.

6. The assistance detailed in annex II involves a number of urgent development projects already forming part of the national development plan. The selected projects are designed to benefit the poorer sections of the population by supporting agricultural production, promoting village settlement, and by

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processing and marketing agricultural products. Approximate costs are given in the annex. Project documents relating to these projects, as well as to a number of other projects in the national development plan, can be obtained from the Government.

## II. RESPONSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

7. The findings of the mission, as summarized above, were conveyed by the Secretary-General in his note dated 16 February 1978 addressed to all States and by his letter dated 22 February 1978 addressed to all appropriate international organizations. These communications recalled the appeal by the Security Council and requested Member States and international organizations to provide the Secretary-General, before 1 August 1978, with all information relating to the implementation of Security Council resolution 419 (1977), including details of any financial, material or development assistance they may provide in response to this appeal.

8. A further note requesting pertinent information on the implementation of Security Council resolution 419 (1977) was addressed to all States and all appropriate international organizations on 16 August 1978.

9. Responses by the international community to the two communications are reproduced in annex III. Any further replies received subsequent to the date of the present report will be issued as addenda.

Annex I

List of commodities requested by the Government of  
Benin, as an alternative to cash assistance

1. COMMODITIES

1.1 Food

Sugar, rice, wheat and canned evaporated milk are requested in quantities equivalent to 80 per cent, 50 per cent, 100 per cent and about 66 per cent, respectively, of 1976 imports:

Commodity	Quantity	Million \$
Sugar	2,000 metric tons	1.44
Rice	3,000 metric tons	0.73
Wheat	6,000 metric tons	0.62
Canned evaporated milk	1,000 metric tons	0.60

1.2 Petroleum products

These are requested in quantities representing the equivalent of two months' imports:

Commodity	Quantity	Million \$
Jet fuel A.1	12,000 metric tons	1.60
Low-test gasoline	11,000 metric tons	1.56
Gas oil	10,000 metric tons	1.22
High-test gasoline	5,000 metric tons	0.63
Asphalt	2,000 metric tons	0.25

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### 1.3 Building materials

Galvanized sheet-iron, cement-reinforcing rods, cement and sheet glass are requested in the following amounts:

Commodity	Quantity	Million \$
Galvanized sheet-iron	600,000 sheets	0.76
Cement-reinforcing rods	3,000 metric tons	0.63
Cement	20,000 metric tons	1.01
Window glass (grey)	70,000 square metres	0.59

### 1.4 Pharmaceutical products

These are requested to a total value of \$1.05 million. Not individually identified here, they consist of items in common use for major endemic diseases: antibiotics, vaccines, aspirin, various forms of quinine, veterinary products, etc.

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Annex II

Selected list of development projects requested by the Government  
of Benin, for support by the international community

2. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

2.1 Irrigated multicrop co-operative farms

Assistance is requested in establishing two of these, of 300 hectares each - at Hinsi (southern region) and at Wama (north-western region) - at a cost of about \$1.265 million each. As part of the planned national programme for improving the use of water resources in agriculture and the level of agricultural technology, the farms will not only add to farm production but will also serve for research, training and demonstration purposes.

2.2 Expansion of cultivation of selected oil palms

In accordance with the high priority given to this sector in the national development plan, assistance is requested for an expansion amounting to 3,250 hectares at Takon-Yoko, zone of Agonvy (Oueme province, south-eastern region). The cost of the plantings and equipment is estimated at \$843,900.

2.3 Equipping of mechanized farms

Equipment estimated to cost \$1.7 million is requested to contribute to the already-existing programme for establishing six 1,000-hectare and six 500-hectare mechanized farms in the six provinces. The equipment includes (estimated cost in parentheses): 10 bulldozers (\$422,000); 40 tractors (\$422,000); 60 ploughs with ploughshares (\$127,000); 60 disc ploughs (\$152,000); 60 "gyrobroyeurs" (\$177,000); 60 trailers (\$228,000); 20 motorpumps (\$168,000).

3. PROJECTS TO PROMOTE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Well drilling

For implementing national plans to improve rural levels of living, assistance amounting to \$1,265,000 is requested for well-drilling programmes to provide drinkable water. One third of the cost is attributable to the programme for medium-depth wells of 60 metres depth on average and 1.80 metre diameter, which requires an excavation conveyor belt equipped with five hemispheric buckets, and also requires related equipment. The remainder of the cost is attributable to the programme for deep wells (400 metres), which requires two well-drilling machines and related equipment.

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### 3.2 Electricity supply

Since all villages, regardless of size, require electricity to support (i) agricultural efficiency, (ii) the establishment of small-scale industries, and (iii) an adequate level of living, 45 electricity-generating sets are requested, the estimated cost being \$1.18 million. To accommodate villages of different sizes, four types of sets are needed (estimated cost in parentheses): 20 30-KVA units (\$211,000); 10 90-KVA units (\$254,000); 10 120-KVA units (\$336,000); 5 300-KVA units (\$379,000).

## 4. PROJECTS FOR PROCESSING AND MARKETING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

### 4.1 Plant for compounding fertilizer

To make different mixes of fertilizer available for different purposes at costs lower than those of imported already-mixed fertilizers, and thereby reduce the financial burden to the State of the fertilizer subsidy and help improve the country's foreign exchange position, assistance is requested to set up a unit capable of mixing 20,000 tons annually, at an estimated cost of \$1,265,000.

### 4.2 Plant for compounding insecticides and pesticides

To reduce the farm cost of these products by more than a quarter while simultaneously reducing the financial burden of the corresponding subsidy and helping to improve the country's foreign exchange position, assistance is needed in establishing a plant estimated to cost about \$844,000.

### 4.3 Cassava flour plant

To liberate farm women from the time-consuming task of making cassava flour, and thereby make much more of their time available for other purposes, there is need to establish a plant capable of manufacturing 10,000 tons of cassava flour annually. The estimated cost is \$422,000.

### 4.4 Livestock and poultry-feed plant

In support of its programme for improving the quality of the national diet, the Government wishes to encourage livestock and poultry raising on small-scale farms and on co-operative farms. To meet the corresponding demand for animal feed and more efficient use, in this connexion, of readily available by-products of other agricultural activities (the cultivation of peanuts, oil palms, cotton, and, eventually, sugar) one plant, with a capacity of 1,400 tons annually, is to be established in each of the six provinces. The six plants are estimated to cost \$422,000.

### 4.5 Expansion of modern sawmills

Despite the existence of two modern sawmills in the north-western region in the Atakora area, the demand for wood results in continual increases in wood

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imports. The country's forest resources are, by and large, sufficient to make possible the elimination of this burden on the country's foreign exchange position, provided the capacity of the two sawmills is increased. Accordingly, additional equipment having an estimated value of \$422,000 is sought.

#### 4.6 Plant for manufacturing plastic pipes for irrigation

Much greater use of irrigation is a key element in the Government's plans for the agricultural sector. The resulting demand for plastic pipes for this, and for other additional uses as well, can be most economically satisfied by establishing a pipe-manufacturing plant having an annual production capacity of a million metres of pipe. The estimated cost is \$1,265,000.

#### 4.7 Grain storage silos

In order to have adequate cereal reserves on hand for the sake of ensuring continuity of supply to consumers, it is planned to double storage capacity, bringing it to a level of 40,000 tons. The first stage of this programme calls for the construction of one 2,000-ton silo at Natitingou (north-western region) and one 3,000-ton silo at Bohicon (central region), at an estimated cost for the two of \$928,000.

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Annex III

REPLIES TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTERS OF APPEAL  
FOR ASSISTANCE TO BENIN DATED 16 AND 22 FEBRUARY 1978

A. AS NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. Replies of Member States

CHINA

/Original: Chinese/

/9 May 1978/

An agreement on economic and technical co-operation has been concluded between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the People's Republic of Benin. Under that agreement, the Chinese side is providing assistance to Benin by undertaking certain projects of economic and technical co-operation, which are now under way.

CYPRUS

/Original: English/

/15 September 1978/

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus decided to make a token contribution of \$500 towards the collective effort for assisting Benin to repair the damage caused by the act of aggression.

ETHIOPIA

/Original: English/

/11 July 1978/

Ethiopia has always stood by and assisted, within the limits of her resources, sister African States in their struggle against colonial, neo-colonial, racist and imperialist aggression, domination and exploitation. In spite of the fact that she is currently experiencing severe economic hardship as a result of the aggression and the policy of subversion pursued against her by the reactionary ruling circles of some neighbouring States, the provisional military Government of socialist Ethiopia wishes to affirm that it stands resolutely behind the People's Republic of Benin and will do its utmost to assist the sister republic to repair the damage caused by the imperialist aggression of 16 January 1977.

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FIJI

/Original: English/

/11 May 1978/

Because of its economic difficulties, Fiji regrettably will not be in a position to contribute to the appeal for assistance to Benin.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

/Original: English/

/13 July 1978/

The people and the Government of the German Democratic Republic provide all-round assistance to the People's Republic of Benin. In accordance with Security Council resolution 419 (1977) they also granted direct material assistance to overcome the consequences of the aggression. In 1977, solidarity consignments worth 2 million marks, consisting of medicaments, clothing, food-stuffs, technical goods and other were sent.

Further relief consignments to the People's Republic of Benin have been or will be dispatched in 1978. A first shipment worth about 800,000 marks was sent on 20 May 1978. This consignment contained, among other things, medicaments, medical instruments, fabrics, clothing, photographic recorders and phototechnical goods.

Moreover, a six-week seminar providing further training to 300 economic officials of the People's Republic of Benin was held by a group of lecturers from the German Democratic Republic in Cotonou in the first quarter of 1978. For 1978/79 the German Democratic Republic is offering scholarships for improving the theoretical and practical qualifications of personnel of the People's Republic of Benin in the fields of agriculture, medicine, pedagogics and pharmaceuticals.

GUINEA

/Original: French/

/14 September 1978/

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the firm support of the people of Guinea for the brother people of Benin, the victims of aggression on 16 January 1977.

The Government of the Republic of Guinea is prepared to support the efforts of the Secretary-General aimed at re-establishing justice and providing Benin with all the assistance necessary in such circumstances.

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IRAQ

/Original: English/  
/28 September 1978/

The Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations ... has the honour to inform him that the Government of Iraq will contribute the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to assist Benin to repair the damage caused by the act of aggression.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

/Original: English/  
/8 May 1978/

In addition to the support and assistance extended by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the context of the bilateral relations between the two countries, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has made the following contributions in the context of said appeal:

A grant in the amount of \$500,000 (five hundred thousand United States dollars) was made in August 1977, as assistance from the Libyan Arab people to the people of Benin;

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has decided to allocate the amount of 70,000 Libyan dinars to cover the expenses of a training course in public administration for 38 students from Benin at the National Institute for Public Administration in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has decided to approve the training of 150 students from Benin in all educational fields and in all schools, universities and institutes in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

LUXEMBOURG

/Original: French/  
/21 March 1978/

Owing to budgetary constraints, the Government of Luxembourg does not propose to provide Benin with material or financial assistance.

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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

/Original: English/

/29 September 1978/

The United Kingdom, as a member of the Security Council, voted for resolution 419 (1977) concerning the complaint by Benin, and made clear that it condemned the attack launched against Benin on 16 February 1977, as well as any act of aggression against any State.

So far as concerns the provision of assistance by the international community, you will already be aware, as a result of the communication you have received from the Commission of the European Communities, that Benin has been informed of the possibilities whereby aid could be provided under the Lomé Convention and other aid programmes operated by EEC, of which the United Kingdom is a member. As the Government of Benin has already been informed, the United Kingdom does not itself have any plans to contribute directly.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

/Original: English/

/25 September 1978/

I have the honour to ... inform you that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has made a contribution of \$50,000. This amount has been paid directly to the Government of Benin.

In view of Tanzania's own economic circumstances this sum should be regarded as a token contribution in full solidarity with the Government and people of Benin.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

/Original: English/

/8 April 1978/

The Representative of the United States of America wishes to advise the Secretary-General of the United States' concern upon learning of the situation which precipitated conditions referred to in Security Council document S/12415. As a result of this concern, the United States supported Security Council resolution 419 (1977). The United States hopes that Benin, through the determined efforts of the Beninese people and such international assistance as may be forthcoming, will be enabled to repair any damages stemming from the attack of 16 January 1977. The United States, however, will be unable to make a contribution to this effort.

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2. Replies of United Nations bodies, specialized agencies  
and organizations

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

/Original: English/  
/19 June 1978/

I wish to inform you that UNEP, not being a funding organization, is not involved in technical assistance as such. It has thus unfortunately no contribution to make in connexion with resolution 419 (1977) adopted by the Security Council on 24 November 1977 concerning the complaint of Benin.

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

/Original: English/  
/13 September 1978/

Our Regional Director has been in direct touch with the Benin officials concerned to discuss the possible contributions that Unicef can make in response to the appeal. Of the list of commodities listed in annex I, only the last item (1.4 - Pharmaceutical products) is within the mandate and possibility of Unicef to provide. Although a large amount of such products, such as vaccines, drugs and health equipment and transport are currently being provided to Benin under our expanded programme (a formula Unicef applies to least developed countries) we mentioned to the officials concerned that Unicef stands ready, within its budgetary possibilities, to provide any additional urgent supplies which may be required.

The projects listed in annex II fall largely outside the mandate and competence of Unicef, except well-drilling (item 3.1). In this area of assistance, Unicef, in co-operation with FAO and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has committed itself to a programme of assistance costing about \$750,000 from its regular resources and from special assistance. I am happy to report that the latter funds have since been largely pledged and are therefore available for implementing the water projects.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

I

/Original: English/  
/31 July 1978/

(a) The Government is now authorized to plan expenditures for the second indicative planning figure (IPF) cycle, 1977-1981, to the full level of its IPF.

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As you know, as a safety measure against possible shortfall in resources during the current IPF period, the present United Nations Development Programme policy allows programming for expenditure purposes of only 92 per cent of the total IPF. This decision now increases the expenditure ceilings available to the Government by \$707,000 in 1979, \$435,000 in 1980 and \$285,000 in 1981.

(b) The Government is exceptionally authorized to overprogramme the adjusted 1979 IPF expenditure ceiling of \$US 3,545,000 by 20 per cent. The authorized overprogramming level for other countries is only 10 per cent.

(c) The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), following our request, has agreed to explore possibilities of financing, from its own resources, one or two additional projects included in the list submitted by the Benin Government, as attached to your letter of 22 February 1978 (project 2.1 and 2.2 of annex II).

II

/Original: English/  
/13 September 1978/

The Government of Benin has sent to UNCDF documentation describing global plans relating to project No. 2.2 - Expansion of cultivation of selected oil palms at Takon-Yoko, as listed in annex II, of your letter to Mr. Bradford Morse dated 22 February 1978. UNCDF will shortly be in touch with the Government of Benin asking for further clarification on the specific Government request for UNCDF aid for /this/ project.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund is still awaiting information from the Government concerning project 2.1, Irrigated multicrop co-operative farms, listed in annex II.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

/Original: English/  
/13 April 1978/

Under project 2096 "multi-purpose project", the World Food Programme is already assisting co-operative farms (subproject 2.1), oil palm plantations (subproject 2.2) and well digging (subproject 3.1). The project, which was approved for a period of four years, will cost the programme \$US 10,910,700, of which \$US 7,870,200 is for food only.

I wish to point out that WFP would be ready to consider an acceleration of the project in all the above-mentioned fields to the extent that financial means and equipment are supplied from other sources.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

/Original: English/

/14 July 1978/

A high-level delegation from the Government of Benin visited FAO headquarters on 12 May 1978, to discuss possibilities of special food aid and assistance by means of a number of the development projects listed in annexes I and II.

In the case of the food aid, discussions were held with the World Food Programme (WFP), and it was agreed that the Programme's representatives in Benin would formulate projects under quick procedural arrangements, in consultation with the responsible governmental authorities. Under these arrangements, projects must be limited to food supplies and related activities within a one-year period, the total WFP contribution per project not exceeding \$US 1 million.

In the case of the projects in the field of agricultural development, the delegation was informed that, being a technical agency, FAO has limited financial means at its disposal, and that it could not provide direct financial assistance nor, from its own resources, finance large-scale technical assistance projects. It was pointed out, however, that if donor agencies, and in particular, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), were to indicate an interest in funding these projects, FAO could contribute by financing project preparation activities if so requested.

In this context, I referred to the system of "country allocations" under the FAO technical co-operation programme (TCP) and agreed to make additional allocations over and above the ceiling fixed for Benin. I also agreed to give favourable consideration to the financing of certain other activities under the FAO newly established scheme for the prevention of food losses (PFL).

A positive response has already been given to the Government's request for assistance in the field of grain storage silos (project proposal No. 4.7 in annex II). A combined TCP/PFL and Food Security Mission visited the country at the end of May this year and the Mission's report, which includes concrete assistance proposals, will be submitted within the next few weeks to the Government for its approval.

In the meantime, an amount of \$US 250,000 has been earmarked under the PFL scheme for the setting up of village-level and regional storage facilities for cereals, the training of personnel in the use of these facilities, and the development of commercial procedures to promote better utilization of both existing storage facilities and those to be created.

Further, a three-months' mission to study the feasibility of creating a processing plant for root and tuber crops has been recommended and scheduled for the end of 1978 (cf. project proposal No. 4.3, annex II).

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In addition to the above, FAO is implementing an extensive and well-balanced assistance programme in Benin, covering several fields such as land and water improvement, food crop production and conservation, phytopathological plant protection, forestry development and the promotion of forest industries, nutrition, agricultural planning, agricultural extension and the development of rural youth.

FAO has a strong and efficiently organized field force in Benin, capable of rendering a significant amount of assistance in co-operation with the responsible governmental authorities and of contributing to the rehabilitation of the country's economy so gravely disrupted by aggression. Further, I have agreed with the Government of Benin to establish an FAO office in Cotonou in charge of a representative of the Organization.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

/Original: English/

/3 April 1978/

Please be advised that this Organization is in a position to provide assistance for civil aviation, but only through funding by the United Nations Development Programme. At the present time a UNDP/ICAO project is in the final stage of formal signature by UNDP. This is for provision of civil aviation operational equipment for which UNDP input is \$US 252,296. A project for UNDP-funded fellowship training is also being considered by the Government of Benin.

Further assistance is provided to the Government of Benin by the ICAO African Regional Office, located in Senegal, which provides technical advice to States in the region within its function of promoting the installation of air navigation facilities necessary for the safe operation of civil aviation.

However, in view of the nature of its mandate, ICAO is not in a position to offer the commodity or development assistance described in annexes I and II to your letter.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

/Original: French/

/2 May 1978/

I wish to inform you that a Beninese mission headed by Mr. François Dossou, Minister of Planning, visited UPU headquarters on 24 April 1978 to discuss the assistance which our organization could give Benin to repair the damage caused by the act of aggression suffered by that country on 16 January 1977.

In the course of the talks which the mission held with me and my staff, possible sources of financing for assistance in the postal sector were reviewed: it was decided that the responsible Beninese authorities would prepare for UPU a list of projects deemed necessary, which we shall study with a view to determining what steps should be taken.

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INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

/Original: English/

/29 March 1978/

I note that none of the projects mentioned falls within the area of activity of IMCO. Accordingly, it would not be possible for IMCO to contribute to the implementation of these or related projects. I wish, however, to assure you of our readiness to co-operate with your office and other agencies in connexion with any future projects which may fall within the field of work and competence of IMCO.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

/Original: English/

/14 March 1978/

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, under its charter, can provide assistance only to member nations for agricultural development projects on request. Benin became a member of IFAD on 28 December 1977, when it acceded to the Agreement establishing IFAD, and is therefore entitled to seek assistance from IFAD for specific development projects in accordance with the Fund's policies and criteria. Financing from the Fund is normally provided on highly concessional terms at 1 per cent for 50 years with a grace period of 10 years, or in the form of grants for technical assistance. But the Government of Benin has to submit to the Fund one or more development projects which, in its view, deserve high priority and are suitable for financing by the Fund.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

/Original: English/

/20 March 1978/

Due to the highly specialized and technical nature of the Agency and its programmes dealing only with peaceful uses of atomic energy, the kind of assistance that IAEA could provide would not be relevant to the needs of Benin and would be outside the scope of useful assistance indicated in annexes I and II to your letter.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

/Original: English/

/28 March 1978/

We have taken note of this resolution. It would appear, however, that there is no action which GATT can take in response to the appeal to assist Benin, as the matter falls outside this organization's area of competence.

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3. Replies of regional and intergovernmental organizations

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

/Original: French/  
/18 April 1978/

I have noted all the forms which the assistance that the international community might provide to the Beninese Government could take.

With regard to the African Development Bank group, it should be noted that since January 1977 it has disbursed 13 million units of account, that is, \$US 15.7 million, in loans on favourable terms. Other economic projects are being considered and some have reached a very advanced stage of preparation or even evaluation.

ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

/Original: English/  
/30 June 1978/

In November 1975, the BADEA Board of Directors has approved a loan of \$US 8 million to Benin for the construction of a cement factory (clinker grinding) with a capacity of 200,000 tons. This project is progressing satisfactorily and the plant is expected to start its operations in the coming weeks. This action surely conforms perfectly with the preoccupation expressed in annex 1 to your letter concerning the supply of 20,000 tons of cement to Benin.

In November 1976, BADEA accepted to contribute an amount of \$100,000 for the preparation of a feasibility study on the extension of the port of Cotonou which, as you may know, plays a fundamental role in Benin's imports. This study has been completed with favourable conclusions. BADEA is considering participation in the financing of the extension works and is planning to present this project to the forthcoming Board of Directors of June 1978.

I would also like to mention that the Special Arab Aid Fund for Africa, which is now under the control of BADEA, extended a loan amounting to \$US 2.4 million to Benin in 1974.

Within the framework of Afro-Arab co-operation, and in conformity with an equitable distribution of assistance between the different African countries, BADEA will continue to assist Benin through participation in the financing of well-defined projects.

I am not at present in a position to precise the fields of the BADEA future interventions in Benin; BADEA will, however, always aim at promoting a rapid economic development in this country.

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ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

/Original: English/  
/1 April 1978/

I regret to inform you that the activities of the Arab Fund are restricted to the Arab countries. Consequently, the Arab Fund is not in a position to consider any kind of assistance to Benin.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

/Original: English/  
/29 March 1978/

In accordance with the directives of Commonwealth Governments, Commonwealth secretariat assistance is normally earmarked for its member States. The only exceptions are the secretariat's programmes to Mozambique and Namibia specifically approved by Commonwealth Governments in view of the Commonwealth's deep commitment in the struggle against the racist policies of the white minority régimes in southern Africa. In the circumstances, it will therefore unfortunately not prove possible for the secretariat to accede to the request contained in Security Council resolution 419 (1977).

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

/Original: English/  
/5 June 1978/

I should like to inform you that a delegation of the Government of Benin came to Brussels on 3 May 1978 in order to discuss with the Commission the problems related to the implementation of Security Council resolution 419 (1977).

At that time I assured the delegation of the Commission's support of the above resolution, particularly in as far as it condemns the act of armed aggression perpetrated against Benin and all forms of external interference in the internal affairs of an independent State.

Furthermore, I informed the delegation of the possibilities existing under the Lomé Convention, and under other EEC aid programmes, where aid could be provided to assist Benin in repairing the damage caused to its economy.

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LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

/Original: Arabic/  
/21 March 1978/

I have the honour to inform you that the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance concentrates its activities, at the current stage, on providing Arab experts, scholarships, fellowships and training programmes in Arab countries. Direct financial and monetary assistance to States does not fall within its field of activity.

The Fund has received a request from the Government of Benin for technical assistance from the Fund in the field of education; and on 10 November 1977 the Board of Governors of the Fund agreed to provide Benin with 15 high-school teachers and 2 university lecturers. On 1 January 1978, a technical assistance agreement was signed between the Fund and the Government of Egypt to send eight teachers to Benin, at the expense of the Fund, for one year.

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

/Original: English/  
/28 September 1978/

I have the honour ... to inform you that the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, at its thirty-first ordinary session in Khartoum, adopted resolution CM/RES.639 (XXXI) on the aggression and invasion attempts by mercenaries against the People's Republic of Benin and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. This resolution was subsequently endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its fifteenth ordinary session and its full text circulated under cover of General Assembly document A/33/235.

I wish to reproduce for your information operative paragraphs 6 to 10 of the resolution relating to the kinds of assistance which the Organization of African Unity proposes to give to the People's Republic of Benin:

"The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,

...

"6. Reaffirms the solidarity of the African people and Governments to the People's Republic of Benin and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe;

"7. Recommends that immediate financial assistance be given to the People's Republic of Benin and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe from the OAU Special Fund;

/...

"8. Requests that this OAU Special Fund be increased in order to enable it to provide any financial assistance required by any African State threatened by or falling victim to an aggression;

"9. Proposes that the People's Republic of Benin and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe be exempted from payment of their contributions to the OAU for the next three years;

"10. Recommends the setting up of a Committee to be entrusted with the task of studying the requirements of the People's Republic of Benin and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe with a view to creating the conditions and providing them with the means for repelling any aggression or attempt to invade their national territory."

#### ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES

/Original: English/

/14 March 1978/

The OPEC Special Fund has so far given two loans to the Government of Benin. The first loan was for balance of payments support in the amount of \$2 million, which was utilized in 1977. The second loan, in the amount of \$1.6 million, is to be used to partly finance foreign costs of the Godomey-Bohicon-Abomey highway project. The Agreement for this loan was signed on 10 January 1978 between the OPEC Special Fund and the Government of Benin.

Both loans are interest free. The repayment period for the first loan is 25 years, including a grace period of five years, and the second loan has a repayment period of 20 years, including a five-years' grace period. A service charge of half of one per cent applies to the first loan and three quarters of one per cent to the second. The service charges are intended to cover the cost of administering the loans.

The new lending programme of the Fund for 1978-79 is under preparation and will be proposed to the Fund's Governing Committee for approval at the end of March. We hope that the Government of Benin will be able to benefit further from the OPEC Special Fund's assistance in future.

/...

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B. AS REPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BENIN

PERMANENT MISSION OF BENIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

/Original: English/

/28 September 1978/

I have the honour to inform you that I have just received information from Benin that the following country has contributed in cash for the reparation of the damages caused by the aggression: Liberia \$US 25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars).

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