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ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER AND OTHER DISASTER SITUATIONS

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

Strengthening the Office of the United Nations Disaster
Relief Co-ordinator

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its 1624th meeting on 6 November 1974 the Second Committee approved the draft resolution contained in A/C.2/L.1364, as orally amended, on strengthening the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator.
2. In the second preambular paragraph of the resolution, the Second Committee endorsed ECOSOC resolution 1891 (LVII), which recommended "that at its twenty-ninth session the General Assembly, taking into account the discussion on this item at the fifty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council, reconsider, in the light of the biennial nature of the budget, the proposals of the Secretary-General for additional staff resources, as initially requested by him for the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in section 17 of his budget estimates for 1974-75". 1/
3. Included in the Secretary-General's initial estimates for 1974-75, but not approved by the General Assembly, were two professional and two general service posts.
4. Should the General Assembly decide to reconsider its decision in the light of ECOSOC resolution 1891 (LVII) and should the post in question be established, the additional costs under section 17 would amount to \$56,500 for salary and common staff costs for the remainder of the 1974-1975 biennium. Furthermore, an

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/9006).

additional amount of \$13,000 for staff assessment would be required under section 34, offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1.

5. The draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1364, while calling on the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, decides that during the years 1975 through 1977 the cost of this strengthening should be met from voluntary funds. During the course of the 1976-1977 biennium, the method of financing would be subject to review. The Secretary-General can, therefore, confirm that during the years 1975 through 1977 the expenditures and obligations for the purposes envisaged by the draft resolution will be kept within the limit of whatever voluntary funds are made available. The General Assembly should be aware, however, that the decision embodied in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution may well have implications for the 1978-1979 budget, and for succeeding budgets, as it seems unlikely that the Assembly - having once decided to strengthen the capability of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator - would wish to see that capability considerably diminished in the event that voluntary funds should no longer be available.

6. Adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution would be deemed by the Secretary-General to constitute the approval required under the terms of Financial Rule 107.7 to accept gifts which may involve an ultimate financial liability for the Organization.
