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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) is written in response to General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, which called for an annual report to be prepared by the Co-ordinator for the Secretary-General, and for it to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly. The report covers the period from 1 April 1978 to 31 March 1979.

2. The report also gives information about the subaccounts for emergency relief and technical assistance set up pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 within the framework of the voluntary trust fund for the strengthening of UNDRO, established pursuant to Assembly resolution 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974. Details of the financial situation of the trust fund will be found in annex I; annex II contains information about funds used following disasters.

3. Proposals are also put forward in the report in order to ensure a sound financial basis for the core programme of UNDRO. This information is given to supplement that contained in the estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, which were made in conformity with General Assembly decision 33/429 of 19 December 1978.

II. ORGANIZATION AND FINANCING

A. Core programme

4. In the light of the experience gained since January 1978 it can be said that the new organization of the internal structure of the Office of the Co-ordinator has, in principle, proved successful. The vertical integration of all aspects of disaster matters, made possible by the grouping of activities in one division with geographic regional sections, has improved efficiency in all three areas: disaster relief co-ordination, preparedness and prevention. Moreover, the increased flexibility of the system has more readily enabled the temporary reallocation of staff to cover particularly heavy workloads falling upon particular sections.

5. The Secretary-General believes that, when all the posts in the Office are filled, this improvement will accelerate. Delays in recruitment on fixed-term contracts of the candidates selected to fill important posts have detracted from the Co-ordinator's ability fully to discharge the duties mandated to him by the General Assembly in its resolution 2816 (XXVI). The choice of persons to fill all the vacant Professional posts was completed in January 1979, but at the time this report was written none had been appointed. It will be realized that the tasks to be performed remain at a constant level, so that very considerable pressure has throughout the year under review been imposed upon members of the existing staff.

6. By its resolution 32/56 of 8 December 1977, the General Assembly decided to examine at its thirty-third session the question of future financial arrangements for ensuring a sound financial basis for the core programme of UNDRRO with a view to including in the draft programme budget for 1980-1981 proposals for a further transfer of appropriate costs from voluntary funding to the United Nations regular budget. It further requested the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to take that resolution into consideration when formulating its recommendations on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983.
7. In its report on the work of its eighteenth session, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination recommended that the General Assembly approve a below-average rate of growth for the biennial programme budget of the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983. However, the Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should affirm that the relative growth rates determined by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the light of the advice of the Committee are intended to be guidance to the Secretary-General on the priorities to be accorded to programmes in the preparation of the programme budget proposals, and that a measure of discernment in their interpretation might be necessary in some cases, with the understanding that the growth rates of certain programmes could be brought to zero or negative. 1/
8. In paragraph 18 of its report on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 (A/33/345), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions drew attention "to the potential for mutually incompatible decisions", inter alia, in the case of the Disaster Relief Programme because of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/56 and recommended that the Assembly should provide necessary guidance to the Secretary-General in that area.
9. At its thirty-third session, the General Assembly, by decision 33/429, requested the Secretary-General, in pursuance of resolution 32/56, to include proposals in his estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 for the transfer to the regular budget of a substantial portion of the cost of the remaining administrative activities of the core programme which are financed from extrabudgetary funds in the current biennium.
10. In his report to the Fifth Committee the Secretary-General advised that the cost of such a transfer at the then currently projected 1979 prices could be estimated at \$1,310,200 for the biennium, of which \$1,038,600 would relate to salaries and common staff costs, and the balance of \$271,600 to other recurrent expenditures. The Secretary-General noted that on the same basis of costing the sum of \$1,544,000 would still need to be raised by voluntary contributions in the biennium 1980-1981 (A/C.5/33/60 and Corr.1, paras. 15 and 17).
11. The Secretary-General's proposals for 1980-1981 will now include the transfer of seven Professional and two General Service posts from voluntary funding to

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/33/38), para. 53 (a).

the regular budget, as well as certain associated costs. He wishes to re-emphasize that he is not proposing any increase in the total resources for the programme of disaster relief as a whole, taking both regular and extrabudgetary funds into account.

B. Financing of emergency assistance activities

12. Only very slow progress has been made in gaining support for this subaccount of the UNDRO trust fund. Contributions received from two Governments remain at a total of \$6,545, and a pledge of an additional \$4,500 has been made by a third. All three donors are Governments of countries which are liable to be affected by disasters. The Co-ordinator has written to Member States drawing attention to the General Assembly's invitation to Governments to support the trust fund. For several years past, the pressure upon the monies available from the regular budget (\$200,000 each year, with a normal limit of \$20,000 for each grant) has been such that it has not been possible to meet all requests in full. Even with this restriction the funds were exhausted well before the end of the year. In deference to the desire of the Assembly to restrict growth in the regular budget, no proposal is being made for extra provision for the biennium 1980-1981. Assuming, however, that Governments wish the Co-ordinator to continue to be able to make a practical though limited demonstration of the concern of the international community for the plight of the survivors of a disaster, it is all the more important that contributions be made to the subaccount of the trust fund.

13. Information in tabular form on the use of the regular budget allocations and other emergency assistance channelled by donors through UNDRO will be found in annex II of this report.

C. Financing of technical assistance activities

14. The subaccount of the UNDRO trust fund devoted to programme costs of technical assistance to Governments in disaster prevention and pre-disaster planning was established by the General Assembly in resolution 3532 (XXX). This method of financing replaced that of drawing on the Working Capital Fund each year, a method which had been in force since 1973.

15. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976, requested the Economic and Social Council to undertake in 1978 a review of alternative sources of funding for technical co-operation activities. When this matter was considered by the Council, the Secretary-General indicated that there were available four possible kinds of sources: (a) United Nations bodies, notably the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), (b) bilateral aid, (c) earmarked contributions from Governments to or through UNDRO for particular projects, and (d) continued gifts to and operation of the UNDRO trust fund's subaccount.

16. The outcome of the Council's review was expressed in its resolution 1978/41 of 1 August 1978 and was not conclusive. The Council recognized the need for the effective promotion of technical co-operation for disaster preparedness and prevention. This was to be achieved by making use of UNDP country programming (with UNDR0 acting as executing agency when appropriate); by continued contribution to the UNDR0 subaccount; by assistance channelled through UNDR0 or bilaterally; and for projects developed by countries themselves or in conjunction with UNDR0. In its resolution 33/22 of 29 November 1978 the General Assembly noted the Council's resolution. In the same resolution the Assembly requested the Governing Council of UNDP to give consideration at its 1979 session to the inclusion of technical co-operation activities for disaster preparedness and prevention in its regional and interregional programmes.

17. The United Nations Development Programme is, however, already funding many regional projects. At 30 June 1978 there were 15 existing schemes to assist meteorological services in the regions, at a total cost to UNDP of \$10.8 million; two regional projects in seismology had a value of almost \$1.5 million; country projects in these two disciplines alone amounted to almost \$20 million. It is clear therefore that there is nothing new about the involvement of UNDP in disaster preparedness and prevention, and the work itself has been going forward.

18. It is less clear that everything necessary is being done. The most efficient meteorological service can only forecast with the highest practicable degree of accuracy the approach of a potentially disastrous hurricane; it cannot itself provide the organization on the ground to deal with the storm's effects, and if there is no such organization, forecasts will lose much of their value. Equally, the most carefully structured preparedness organization will be much less than effective if it does not receive timely and accurate forecasts. It is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator to assist in providing advice to Governments on pre-disaster planning, and, as well as concentrating upon organizational matters, this advice often points to the need for supporting improvements in other related areas. To make those improvements projects must be undertaken which often have development benefits in addition to their effect upon pre-disaster planning and organization. Such projects are almost always the responsibility of other agencies in the United Nations system.

19. There is therefore a division of responsibility which justifies the need for the Co-ordinator to have the means to carry out a technical co-operation programme, limited though it may be, and which emphasizes the need for a central office aware of all those technical assistance activities which touch upon any aspect of disaster preparedness or prevention. It is this central role which UNDR0 is uniquely fitted and designed to provide.

20. For these reasons, the Secretary-General feels that it would be more appropriate in this instance to continue to use different methods of funding for technical assistance concerned with pre-disaster matters.

21. The case for a measure of flexibility is strengthened because of the diversity of views on the subject expressed in both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. This diversity may explain why neither body

has been able, so far, to define a funding policy. No formula has been found which would respect countries' rights to determine their own priorities for the UNDP country programmes and at the same time avoid the need for yet further calls upon the generosity of donor nations.

22. In past years UNEP has provided funds to UNDR0 for a series of studies designed to form a compendium of current knowledge about various aspects of disaster prevention and mitigation. UNEP contributions have also enabled UNDR0 to publish three manuals on the implications of natural disasters on the planning, building and management of human settlements. The Governing Council of UNEP has defined the field of natural disasters as a priority subject area. The Executive Director of UNEP is proposing to the seventh session of the Council (April 1979) the revised objective of co-operating in carrying out co-ordinated activities aimed, inter alia, at establishing and implementing appropriate measures or preparedness for and prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. For 1980-1981, however, the proportion of the UNEP Fund allocated to natural disasters is about 0.5 per cent or a little over \$300,000. The possibility of obtaining any substantial new assistance from that source is therefore rather remote, the more so because the money will perforce be divided between more than one executing agency, and provision has to be made within the total amount for the needs of continuing projects.

23. More attention must be given to the preparedness and prevention needs of countries whose own resources make it less probable that they will be able to carry into effect the recommendations of technical assistance missions. It is precisely to the countries in this category - the disaster-prone among the "most seriously affected" and "least-developed countries" - that the Co-ordinator is according priority. The very factors which have led to the placing of a country in one or both of those classifications operate also to reduce the likelihood of space in the country's indicative planning figure for projects without a direct and visible economic benefit. Much might have been done to overcome this difficulty had a tentative initiative made during 1978 been carried through into action. This initiative suggested the establishment of a special trust fund administered by UNDP. In its use UNDR0 would have been most closely involved in order to ensure that an effective programme was carried out by the means most appropriate to fill the particular need.

24. Such a source of concrete assistance would have gone far to counter the often expressed opinion that advisory missions lead only to reports and almost never to action. Some improvements can of course be made without any very large expenditure. For example, the Co-ordinator's current practice of using his own staff to undertake short preliminary exploratory missions makes it easier to send, at a later stage, experts in particular disciplines to meet specific requirements. This is a more effective way of operating than sending consultants for much longer periods in an attempt to cover the whole preparedness field. Consultants of this kind, widely experienced and competent though they may be, face one very real problem: because their field is so wide they cannot work sufficiently closely with each of the many individuals in government who have responsibilities for one or another aspect of preparedness. This militates against any one of the counterpart officials feeling really responsible for taking action on the recommendations of the consultant.

25. Most improvements in a country's state of preparedness do, however, call for investment in new equipment, buildings or non-perishable supplies. If these cannot be provided within the framework of multilateral or bilateral assistance programmes, then, assuming the Government so requests, the Co-ordinator is uniquely placed to appeal to donors generally or individually to offer whatever is required. This is the course of action which was adopted for Bangladesh, where the need for rescue boats was one of the points emphasized in the report of an UNDRO consultant. The progress of this project is recorded in paragraph 101 below.

III. CO-ORDINATION

A. Memoranda of understanding

26. As a further response to the request contained in the Economic and Social Council decision 253 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, the Co-ordinator has concluded memoranda of understanding with the Director-General of the World Health Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He has also indicated his readiness to sign the multi-agency agreement between UNEP, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and UNDRO.

27. The memorandum between UNDRO and UNHCR is of particular value as it defines clearly and for the first time the responsibilities of the two organizations in "other disaster situations". The Secretary-General feels it right to say that no conflict of jurisdiction ever arose between UNHCR and UNDRO: the question of the definition of responsibility resided more in the public mind than in the minds of those whose day-to-day work lay in the relief or avoidance of unnecessary human suffering.

B. Other co-operative arrangements

28. At the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1978 several delegations expressed interest in being more fully informed about UNDP/UNDRO relationships and activities. Since the establishment of UNDRO in March 1972, a particularly close relationship has existed between that Office and UNDP. Specifically, the Resident Representatives of UNDP have acted ex officio as representatives of the Co-ordinator. To give them some guidance in the duties they were expected to perform UNDRO wrote and UNDP issued sets of instructions. The first version appeared in 1972 and the second in 1975. These instructions have now been brought up to date, and at the time this report was prepared the texts were being discussed by the two organizations.

29. Two courses of action are being followed in order to ensure, so far as practicable, that Resident Representatives are and remain aware of their responsibilities. First, UNDRO has now completed the initial cycle of training

seminars for those Resident Representatives stationed in disaster-prone countries. The last of these four seminars was held in Senegal in June 1978. A new cycle is being planned which will extend into the biennium 1980-1981. In addition, all Resident Representatives who pass through Geneva on their way to or from disaster-prone countries (and sometimes other countries as well) call upon UNDRO to discuss matters of common interest. Thirty visits of this kind were made in 1978 alone. They are of great help as well to the UNDRO staff, who not only get to know their counterparts but are often able to settle in a conversation of a few minutes questions which could take weeks to handle by correspondence.

30. Meanwhile, the Co-ordinator himself takes every opportunity to address Resident Representatives at regional meetings of UNDP. At the Administrator's invitation, he visited Sri Lanka in April 1978 for that purpose.

31. Resident Representatives are of great assistance not only during post-disaster emergencies but also to UNDRO staff and consultants engaged upon pre-disaster planning missions. From knowledge of local conditions they can help to orientate the activities of investigatory and advisory missions into those areas which are likely to prove most productive of useful results. There are often many reasons why the most urgent need, apparent to a visiting expert, may not in fact be that most readily satisfied. It can be more valuable sometimes to use the opportunity to meet the requirements in less urgent but still extremely important areas.

32. During emergencies the Resident Representative in the country hit by the disaster is not the only one likely to have to take action. Those in neighbouring countries are often asked to purchase relief supplies on behalf of UNDRO or other United Nations agencies and to arrange transport to the disaster area. These duties can easily require considerable amounts of extra work from Resident Representatives and their staffs, yet the duties are invariably discharged willingly, efficiently and cheerfully.

33. It is becoming apparent that more and more Resident Representatives are realizing the value of engaging the country representatives of other United Nations agencies in the tasks of damage assessment and relief need assessment. More must be done by these members of the "country teams" in the field of joint preparedness planning and the gathering of information. This is a subject addressed in some detail in the draft of the new version of the instructions mentioned in paragraph 28 above. To the extent that these preparedness tasks are undertaken in any disaster-prone country, so will the eventual relief operations be conducted more rapidly and efficiently. It is realized that it will not always be possible for the in-country representatives of the various agencies, and more especially for the Resident Representative himself, to do everything necessary in the wake of a disaster. It is for this reason that arrangements exist for the reinforcing of the country teams by staff from UNDRO and from the headquarters or regional offices of other agencies. Even before a Government decides to ask for international help, and sometimes even if no such decision is ever made, a Resident Representative can benefit from the advice and assistance of an UNDRO officer. The latter's presence in the country at that time

does not imply anything more than that the Co-ordinator, in order to enable him to play his own role as a focal point for the exchange of information, has felt it necessary to give some extra support to his permanent representative on the spot.

34. It will be recalled that in 1977 a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Co-ordinator and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). As part of its specialized tasks in disaster preparedness, IAEA is revising and bringing up to date its document "Mutual Emergency Assistance for Radiation Accidents". Together with the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, UNDRO has made proposals for additional information to be included in the new documents which, it is expected, will serve as vital reference material.

35. UNDRO has assisted UNEP in its plans for thematic joint programming on natural disasters and related subjects and in the preparation of the relevant sections of the UNEP Programme Document which will be presented to the seventh session of the UNEP Governing Council in April 1975.

36. Co-operative activity has also continued with the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO). In May 1978 the Co-ordinator addressed the Eighth World Civil Defence Congress, which was held in Tunis. UNDRO staff members assisted in the Second International Advanced Staff Course organized by ICDO at Geneva in January 1979.

IV. MEASURES DESIGNED TO EXPEDITE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE

37. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 2102 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, requested the Co-ordinator to continue the efforts he and others had been making to identify and then to remove obstacles impeding rapid delivery of international relief assistance. Governments and others concerned were called upon to give due consideration to the recommendations which had been made and set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/32/64, annex II). The same recommendations were later considered and endorsed by the twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, and adopted by the General Assembly in paragraph 3 of its resolution 32/56.

38. The Co-ordinator then circulated a letter and brief questionnaire to Member States with the intention of ascertaining what restrictions, if any, States placed upon the movement of relief personnel and supplies out of, through or into their national territory. It had been hoped that States would reply in time to allow the Co-ordinator to report, as he had been requested, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1978. By that time only nine replies had been received, and when the matter was discussed at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly only 22 completed questionnaires had been returned. In an attempt to elicit the necessary information, the Co-ordinator formally reminded Member States of his earlier letter, and by the end of March 1979 the number of completed questionnaires received had grown to 28.

39. It will be realized that without governmental co-operation it will be impracticable for the Co-ordinator to comply with the request made by Governments themselves in the Economic and Social Council. More important still, international relief assistance may well continue to be subjected to unnecessary delays if the Co-ordinator cannot advance the project for some kind of international accord on this humanitarian question.

40. Examination of the replies which have been received shows that all too many countries still require entry visas for emergency relief personnel, even for United Nations personnel. During 1978 there were two instances in which, although the Co-ordinator had received official requests from Governments for disaster relief assistance, entry of his representatives to the countries in question was delayed until visas could be issued. Although every effort is made to employ on relief missions nationals of countries with which the requesting State has reciprocal no-visa entry agreements, the urgency of these occasions and the status of international civil servants are felt worthy of special consideration during disaster emergencies.

41. In order to try to overcome the difficulty, at least until some more permanent accord or arrangement can be reached, the Co-ordinator wrote to the Governments of 48 Member States judged to be especially prone to natural disasters. He asked that one-year visas be issued to those members of his staff most likely to be involved in helping the Government after a disaster. At the time of writing the report, seven replies had been received, all accepting the Co-ordinator's request.

42. Since the discussion in the International Conference of the Red Cross in 1977, the formulation and eventual adoption of the kind of accord foreseen in paragraph 39 above has been a matter exercising both the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Both bodies are co-operating with a Commission set up by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law, with the particular intention of establishing which provisions of existing international legal instruments could be applied in natural disasters and then discovering what existing national legislation provides protection for individuals in countries affected by disasters. The Henri Dunant Institute is co-operating in these studies, and an UNDRO officer sits as a member of the Commission.

43. This concern for the human rights aspects of disasters stems from the internationally felt disquiet at the number of Governments who appear reluctant to appeal for international aid, even when the scale of the disaster is manifestly beyond the scope of the country's own resources. On occasion even the country's national Red Cross Society is unable to ask for help from sister societies using the machinery available in the League. The paramount concern in responding to a disaster should be to ensure that human suffering is relieved by all the means available, including aid offered from outside the country.

44. A different kind of obstacle to the rapid and effective delivery of relief arises when a Government, having asked one country or an international agency for help, also makes a direct request to a number of donors for the same items

of relief supplies. It is counterproductive to make appeals to many countries or international agencies for the same items. It has occurred that co-ordinated appeals have been made among one group of donors, while private approaches are made to a second group. When this happens the nature of the approaches and the size of the responses are usually not made known to the Co-ordinator.

45. These difficulties were partially recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/22 of 29 November 1978. That resolution reaffirmed the central role of UNDR0 in the mobilization, direction and co-ordination of relief assistance, called upon donors to inform the Co-ordinator of their actions and plans and upon recipient Governments to report contributions offered and received; it did not, however, remind recipient Governments to co-operate with the Co-ordinator in order that parallel, sometimes even conflicting, appeals should not be made. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator exists to serve both donors and recipients. More specifically, it exists to serve the interests of the survivors of disasters. All can benefit if the resources of the Office are properly used. All will tend to lose if they are not.

V. RELIEF CO-ORDINATION, PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION

A. Latin America

1. Disaster emergencies

Peru

46. Heavy rains at the end of March 1978 caused serious flooding in the San Martin region. The floods affected 26 localities between Juanjui and Tarapoto and extensively damaged cultivated land; two deaths occurred. By the end of March, the flood waters had receded and the Civil Defence and health service authorities had sent relief. The Peruvian authorities requested assistance from UNDR0 and \$20,000 were provided to purchase urgently needed locally available supplies for the relief operation.

Honduras

47. Hurricane Greta struck the northern coast of Honduras in mid-September 1978. Warnings were broadcast to the people of the area, and the casualties and damage were much less than those caused by hurricane Fifi four years earlier. Even so, about 1,500 houses were destroyed and there were heavy losses of subsistence crops in places where access by relief workers was not easy. In nearby Belize there was considerable flooding. Relief operations were organized by the authorities in both Honduras and Belize, and supplies were contributed by several donors, including the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and major non-governmental organizations. UNDR0 provided \$20,000 for the local purchase of emergency medicines.

Bolivia

48. During the latter part of January 1979 widespread floods occurred in south-eastern Bolivia in an area located between San José de Chiquitos and Puerto Suarez in the department of Santa Cruz. Twenty-five people lost their lives and some 8,000 were made homeless; the total number of people affected was officially estimated at 16,500. The railways sustained heavy damage, and extensive crop and cattle losses were reported.

49. The Civil Defence Committee, with the assistance of the United Nations, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Bolivian Red Cross, USAID and other organizations, was able to provide the necessary help. The Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, acting upon Government request, allocated \$15,000 from his emergency funds for the purchase of medicines and other supplies in Peru and Bolivia, as well as for the purchase abroad and transport to Bolivia of 30,000 doses of anti-typhoid vaccines and 60,000 syringes and needles. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization assisted the UNDRO effort.

Brazil

50. During the latter part of January and the first days of February 1979, widespread flooding occurred in Brazil, mainly in the states of Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo and Rio de Janeiro. Many casualties were reported; at least 200 people were known to have died and about 160,000 were made homeless. The Government did not request any external aid. The Ministry of the Interior provided federal assistance to the flooded areas and a mass anti-typhoid vaccination programme was organized in some regions.

2. Pre-disaster planning

51. At the request of the Government of Sweden an UNDRO officer joined a mission sent by that Government to visit Guatemala, Costa Rica and Peru during November 1978. The mission was also accompanied by one representative each of the League of Red Cross Societies and of the Pan-American Health Organization. It had as its chief task that of informing the authorities about the plans made by the Swedish Army Staff for a specialized stand-by force to be available for use in the wake of a disaster. The unit would, however, operate under the aegis of the United Nations. The mission's secondary task was to learn at first-hand the problems which had been encountered after the major earthquakes in Peru (1970) and Guatemala (1976) so that appropriate dispositions might be made in the arrangements for the stand-by force, particularly in the light of the existing national preparedness machinery. The opportunity was therefore taken to study this, as well as the disaster prevention policies in the countries visited. The Co-ordinator himself later had talks in Stockholm with representatives of the Swedish Government, and the results of the mission were then further examined.

52. At the conclusion of the joint mission the UNDRO representative took the opportunity to proceed to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. His purposes were to investigate, in collaboration with the UNDP Resident Representatives and national authorities, what further assistance UNDRO might be able to offer in the fields of disaster preparedness and prevention, to ascertain the use made of the recommendations of the disaster preparedness missions undertaken by UNDRO consultants at various times between 1975 and early 1978, and to bring up to date UNDRO's knowledge of the current status of activities for disaster preparedness and prevention in the region.

3. Meetings

53. An UNDRO officer attended the meeting of the World Meteorological Organization Regional Association IV Hurricane Committee, which was held in Puerto Rico in May 1978.

54. The Co-ordinator was represented during part of a seminar in Brazil in October 1978 on the use of satellite technology for application to disaster programmes. At UNDRO's request, a technical expert from the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance took part in the seminar and presented papers. The seminar was sponsored by the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Division. UNDRO, together with others, contributed to the costs incurred.

B. Africa, Middle East and Europe

1. Disaster emergencies

Mozambique

55. In late March 1978 the lowland provinces near the Zambezi River were extensively flooded. At least 250,000 people were made temporarily homeless; 45 deaths were reported. The cost of the damage to houses, crops and communications was estimated at about \$63 million. UNDRO had offered assistance from the outset and had transmitted to potential donors situation reports giving the requirements for external help. In addition to agencies in the United Nations system, several Governments responded to these appeals, as did major non-governmental organizations. Total assistance reported to UNDRO was \$10,250,000, of which just over \$6 million was given in the form of food by the World Food Programme.

Lebanon

56. On 2 April 1978 the Government, faced with continuing turmoil and fighting on Lebanese soil and the problems created by large numbers of persons displaced from their homes in the south of the country, asked the assistance of the Resident Representative of UNDP, who acted also as the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Lebanon. An adviser was needed to help in setting up a relief

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organization which would be sufficiently flexible to respond to the rapidly changing needs. This request was sent to the Co-ordinator, who accordingly dispatched one of his staff members to Beirut. In addition, a grant of \$20,000 was made to meet some of the most pressing needs in advance of the mobilization of major assistance from donors and other elements in the United Nations system. Through situation reports, UNDR0 made known the requirements which were established by the authorities after the new relief system had begun operations.

Benin

57. On 10 April 1978 the village of Aguegues was completely destroyed by fire caused by lightning during a thunderstorm. Between 3,000 and 4,000 people were left homeless. Food reserves were also destroyed. The Benin Red Cross Society used all its limited relief stocks and the Government appealed for further assistance. UNDR0 allocated \$10,000 to be used for local purchases of relief supplies by the UNDP Resident Representative. The Co-ordinator also offered the services of an architect planner so that the necessary preventive measures could be incorporated in plans for the reconstruction of the village.

Sudan

58. Parts of the Sudan were affected by serious flooding in July and August 1978. As the extent of the problem became apparent the Government requested help from the international community. The flooded area included parts of the Gezira and White Nile provinces. Serious difficulties were experienced in bringing relief because so many roads were impassable; the railway from Khartoum to Port Sudan was also cut. The transport of relief by air was delayed because of shortage of aircraft fuel. These difficulties were overcome thanks to the arrival at Khartoum of more aviation fuel, forward area refuelling elements, relief vehicles and inflatable boats with outboard engines. Aircraft were supplied by the Governments of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom to remain for some time in the Sudan to help in the distribution of relief supplies. UNDR0 allocated \$20,000 for immediate relief needs and dispatched a staff member to the Sudan to assist the UNDP Resident Representative in local assessment and co-ordination.

Gambia

59. For some months difficulties had been experienced in maintaining the power generating capacity of the country, and by July 1978 it had fallen to a critically low level, with serious actual effects on all areas of life and much more serious potential effects, in particular, on health. The Government appealed to the United Nations for help and an emergency rescue operation was mounted by UNDP, UNDR0, and the Government of the United States. Two generators were flown from the United States to Dakar, Senegal, and moved by road from there to Banjul. Shortly thereafter, an officer from UNIDO joined in an UNDR0 mission to the Gambia to evaluate problems related to the power failure and to help in planning a more permanent solution.

Guinea-Bissau

60. The Government of Guinea-Bissau alerted UNDRO in mid-October 1978 to the existence of locust swarms which threatened crops in the northern and north-eastern regions of the country. The experts agreed that treatment of the crops should be organized rapidly, and the Government requested immediate assistance. Most of the emergency equipment and chemicals necessary were bought in Senegal with funds provided by UNDRO, UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Government of Senegal released some equipment from its own stocks in order that the operation might proceed with the minimum of delay.

Mozambique and Madagascar

61. On 23 December 1978, tropical cyclone Angèle struck Nampula province in Mozambique and, on 26 December, Tulear province in the south of Madagascar. In both countries few casualties were reported but several thousand people were displaced. Food, blankets and clothing were required by the Government of Mozambique, whereas the authorities of Madagascar requested emergency aid dealing especially with the repair of a river dike, a barrage, a major road bridge and irrigation works.

62. UNDRO granted \$20,000 to Mozambique to buy in Swaziland 2.5 tons of cowpeas and 2 tons of sunflower seeds, which were an immediate need. The Government of Madagascar reported that it was able to cope with the other immediate emergency needs.

63. UNDRO kept the international community informed of the development of the situation in the two countries.

Senegal

64. Torrential rains fell at the end of December 1978 and jeopardized the 1978 crops which had been relatively good. The Government estimated total crop losses to be as high as several million United States dollars; considerable damage was also done to human settlements. The UNDP Resident Representative recommended assistance from UNDRO in the amount of \$20,000, but because of the small balance remaining available UNDRO contributed only \$10,000, which was used for the immediate purchase of shelter materials.

Turkey

65. On 25 January 1979, at the request of the Turkish Government and the World Health Organization (WHO), UNDRO appealed to over 40 countries for international assistance in the continuing fight against the spread of malaria.

66. After the UNDRO and WHO appeal in 1978, the Turkish authorities were able to start an intensive campaign which has had encouraging results. Contributions were essential if the value of these results was not to be lost. The 1979 appeal for

\$4,500,000 will supplement the \$38,000,000 input planned by the Turkish Government; at the time this report was prepared some \$300,000 in cash, plus 100 tons of malathion, had been promised by various donors.

Tunisia

67. Early in March 1979, the Governorate of Medenine was seriously affected by floods that came in the wake of heavy rains. On 16 March the Civil Defence Directorate in the Tunisian Ministry of the Interior requested UNDRO to assist it in obtaining tents for 150 homeless families, as local supplies of suitable tents were exhausted. UNDRO launched a restricted appeal for assistance and the Swiss Government immediately replied with an offer of 150 family tents. The tents were flown from Switzerland by Tunis Air, free of charge, and then taken by road to the disaster area.

2. Pre-disaster planning

68. In June 1978, the fourth and last of the first series of meetings organized by UNDRO for UNDP Resident Representatives was held at Dakar. At these meetings, Resident Representatives accredited to disaster-prone countries were given further orientation in their duties as the Co-ordinator's representatives. Staff members from UNICEF, WFP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and the League of Red Cross Societies were also present at the meeting. Among the subjects discussed were the following: preparedness and relief co-ordination in the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel; drought, famine and the needs of displaced persons in the Horn of Africa; and food problems in East Africa.

69. Several missions are being planned for UNDRO staff members to evaluate the state of preparedness in the light of known hazards in various countries. If necessary, assistance will be given in the preparation of requests for technical co-operation to improve the level of pre-disaster planning.

70. In October 1978 and March 1979, UNDRO carried out disaster preparedness survey missions to Tanzania, Madagascar and Mozambique. The purpose of these missions was to evaluate the state of preparedness for floods and droughts and to review with the interested authorities their need for assistance to strengthen administrative and technical capabilities to investigate risk of natural disaster.

3. Meetings

71. In August 1978 the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences held a Regional Seminar on Earthquake Engineering for training specialists for the Balkan countries and the Near East. The meeting took place in Varna. UNDRO and UNESCO contributed towards the costs of the seminar.

C. Asia and the Pacific

1. Disaster emergencies

Afghanistan

72. Heavy rains early in July 1978 caused exceptional flooding in 13 central and eastern provinces. Official figures indicated that 130 people were killed, over 50,000 were made homeless and about 350,000 suffered some loss. Food crop losses were very heavy, aggravating an already unsatisfactory food situation in the country. Throughout the flooded area most of the irrigation channels, on which agriculture depends, were washed away or became silted up.

73. The Government of Afghanistan requested international assistance. An UNDRO representative went to Kabul and arrangements were made in conjunction with an appeal by the League of Red Cross Societies, on behalf of the Afghan Red Crescent, for the provision of tents, blankets and medical supplies. The emergency feeding problem was taken up by the Government with the World Food Programme and bilateral partners.

74. Contributions were made to the relief operations by the Governments of France, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States. UNICEF gave help worth \$100,000 and UNDRO made an immediate grant from its emergency funds of \$20,000 to buy water pumps.

Nepal

75. During July and August 1978, continuous monsoon rains caused serious flooding and landslides in Nepal, affecting six of the ten lowland zones bordering India. An aerial survey of the central Terai region by representatives of the United Nations, the Red Cross and several donor Governments, together with Nepalese government officials, showed that food crops had been destroyed, many animals had been lost and that from 20,000 to 30,000 people had lost their homes and possessions. To meet an urgent need for food, clothing and medicines, UNDRO was asked for an immediate grant of \$20,000 but because of the need to husband its resources was able to allocate only \$6,000 to the UNDP Resident Representative in Kathmandu for chartering helicopters and local purchase of clothing, and an additional \$4,350 to WHO for the procurement and airlift of emergency medical supplies. Immediate assistance was also given by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States and several national Red Cross Societies.

Thailand

76. In Thailand during August 1978 very extensive areas of cultivated land in the north and north-east of the country were flooded, with levels reaching the highest mark recorded since 1950. Material damage was caused to houses, roads and bridges. More than 180,000 people were reported to be homeless when the floods were at their worst. The Government, having allocated \$250,000 and requested

emergency budgetary provision of a further \$1,000,000, asked for help from the World Food Programme, UNICEF, FAO and UNDRO. The assistance given by these agencies was worth nearly \$673,000. Some countries spontaneously sent assistance to be used by the authorities. Further widespread flooding, affecting central provinces as well as the northern areas previously hit, occurred from the third week of September onwards, and parts of Bangkok itself were under water early in October.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

77. The country, which had in 1977 experienced a serious drought, was affected by the same weather system as Thailand. In mid-August 1978, the Mekong River had exceeded its danger level at points extending from the capital, Vientiane, to Pakse in the extreme south. The warning given by the meteorological service came in time to permit the authorities to establish a central relief committee which went into action before the floods arrived and was able to take certain measures to limit the extent of the damage. Nevertheless, in all at least 100,000 hectares of cultivated land were flooded. Food and seeds to allow a second planting of rice were urgently required. Variation in the reporting procedure between one province and another made it difficult to calculate other losses accurately, but between 15,000 and 20,000 families were eventually compelled to leave their homes, and many of those houses and other buildings were completely destroyed. Because of the difficulty of obtaining supplies locally, almost all relief had to be moved in from other countries, some of it by air but most by road. Assistance from the United Nations system amounted to over \$1,500,000, and the total international assistance was estimated at having a value of \$4,440,000.

Viet Nam

78. In early September 1978, the Mekong Delta south-west of Ho Chi Minh City suffered flooding and over a million people stood in need of help. Crop losses were made worse by insect infestation in areas north of Ho Chi Minh City. On 26 September the first of a series of tropical storms hit the north of Viet Nam. By 3 October more than two and a half million people were identified by the Government as needing emergency assistance, thus making this the worst flood disaster experienced by Viet Nam for several decades. Over half a million homes were destroyed and three million tons of rice lost. An UNDRO representative was sent to Hanoi to assist the UNDP Resident Representative in his assessment tasks. Some success was achieved in sowing rice for a second crop, but at the end of October new storm systems affected both the north and south of the country. The Government, faced with this new threat, made a renewed appeal through UNDRO to the international community for more assistance. At that time almost \$14,000,000 worth of aid had been reported to UNDRO, and much more help, for which no value had been notified, had also arrived. The final total value of aid reported to UNDRO reached more than \$34,000,000.

79. Considerable help was given by the UNDP Resident Representative and his staff in Bangkok in purchasing relief supplies for all these operations and arranging the necessary transport. The local staff of the Intergovernmental

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Committee for European Migration were also of great assistance throughout the operation.

India

80. In June 1978, the north and north-east of India began to suffer from monsoon rains which proved to be the most destructive the country had experienced this century. Flooding spread to 12 states, affecting some 40 million people of 50,000 villages. Casualties were officially estimated at over two thousand. Nine million hectares of cropland were inundated and the damage to West Bengal's coal mines and steel plants alone was estimated at \$1 billion.

81. Relief and rescue operations were carried out by the union and state governments and the Indian Red Cross with the help of logistic support from the army. A major problem was the outbreak of water-borne diseases in areas which had been under water for more than two weeks. Medical teams launched anti-malaria, anti-cholera and anti-typhoid campaigns. Two cities in Uttar Pradesh had to be temporarily closed as a preventive measure against the spread of epidemics. Medicine and boats with outboard motors to reach victims in marooned villages were supplied by UNICEF, WHO and bilaterally as spontaneous assistance.

82. At the end of September 1978 more heavy rains fell in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. In West Bengal about half of the population was affected and the state was cut off from the rest of the country. When in mid-October the major rivers receded to normal levels and road and rail links were reopened, the state governments were faced with the task of draining water and clearing debris from many thousands of villages. National and international voluntary agencies, having already been engaged in the earlier relief operations, gave further assistance for rehabilitation. Longer term plans were formulated by many of them, as well as by the local United Nations agencies.

83. The value of assistance reported to UNDRO totalled over \$20 million, divided almost equally between United Nations agencies, Governments and voluntary organizations.

Sri Lanka

84. The east coast of Sri Lanka was struck by a cyclone on 24 November 1978. More than 2,000 lives were lost and about one million people were affected. The greatest damage occurred in the districts of Amparai, Kalmunai and Batticaloa.

85. Relief operations were organized by the Government through the Department of Social Services, with support from the armed forces and the Sri Lanka Red Cross. The latter organization launched an urgent appeal through the League of Red Cross Societies for food, blankets and medicines.

36. UNDR0 was requested to mobilize and co-ordinate international relief assistance. A representative of the Co-ordinator left on 25 November for Colombo. Urgently needed requirements included water pumps to clear contaminated wells, generators for power supply to vital community services, food, shelter materials and medicines. The international community responded quickly and generously to UNDR0's reports on the situation and the relief requirements. By 10 December 1978 UNDR0 had been informed of contributions in cash and kind valued at more than \$6 million. Many other supplies are known to have been sent but the cash value was not reported. A collection was also made among the staff at United Nations Headquarters.

Solomon Islands

87. A cyclone hit the eastern and southern Solomon Islands on 18 February 1979, causing extensive damage in Makira-Ulawa province and leaving more than 6,000 people homeless. Buildings in Kirakira, a provincial capital, were damaged by wind and falling trees. The airfield was put out of service and bridges were rendered unusable by floods. Many villagers had their food gardens washed away and lost their animals. The main rice-growing region was largely under water, but there were no reports of damage to the rice crop. In Bellona two children died and several people were seriously injured.

88. The Government immediately allocated \$12,000 to ship rice, biscuits and tinned fish to the area. Acting upon a government request, UNDR0 allocated \$10,000 from the diminishing balance of its emergency funds for the local purchase of food, medicines, leaf-house materials and the transport costs of relief supplies. The cheque for this amount, drawn by the UNDP Resident Representative in Fiji, was handcarried to Honiara by the crew of a scheduled Air Pacific flight and delivered to the government authorities.

89. The Government of the United Kingdom and the Red Cross Societies of Britain and the Solomon Islands all provided rapid and generous assistance.

Indonesia

90. The long-dormant volcano Sinila in central Java erupted on 20 February 1979, taking the lives of 148 people who were killed by poisonous gases. Some 14,000 people were affected and approximately 10,000 evacuees were accommodated in temporary centres. The Minister of Social Affairs and a government task force visited the disaster site on 23 February and established plans for emergency relief and rehabilitation and relocation.

91. The Government supplied food-stuffs for 20 days, but the rehabilitation and relocation phase was scheduled to last for six months. More than 4,000 inhabitants of three villages most vulnerable to dangerous gases are being relocated in nearby safe areas. UNDR0 allocated \$10,000 from its emergency funds for local purchase of clothing and lamps.

92. Serious floods and landslides occurred on the island at Flores at the end of February. Twenty villages in east Flores, where soil structures had been disturbed in the 1975 earthquake, were damaged by the landslides. Some 20,000

persons were affected, and 8,600 of them were temporarily evacuated. UNDR0 allocated \$8,000 from its emergency funds for emergency shelter and repairs to water supplies. Both of these emergency allocations had to be cut back to half the sums requested because of the need to retain some funds for disasters expected to occur in the rest of 1978.

Fiji

93. The eastern and southern islands of Fiji were struck by cyclone "Meli" on 27/28 March 1979. The Lau group was the worst hit but serious damage also occurred on Moala and Kadavu islands and in the Lomaiviti group. Storm surge was reported in some areas. At least 25 people were feared dead and over 1,000 families lost their homes. UNDR0 allocated \$10,000 for immediate relief needs, and the League of Red Cross Societies appealed for emergency assistance to be given to the Fiji Red Cross.

2. Pre-disaster planning

94. From 29 May to 9 June 1978, a representative of UNDR0 visited Burma to evaluate the present state of disaster preparedness and to discuss future technical assistance with the Government.

95. In the second half of June 1978, UNDR0 representatives made short visits to Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India in the course of travel on other missions in the region. These visits were planned to coincide with a tour by a team from the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in preparation for a regional seminar on disaster preparedness which took place in Delhi, India, in January 1979. Two UNDR0 representatives made presentations during the seminar, which was attended by participants from seven countries.

96. An UNDR0 representative attended the Seventh Session of the South-West Pacific Regional Association of the World Meteorological Organization held at Jakarta from 18 to 26 July 1978. In a statement to the session it was emphasized that UNDR0 welcomed the growth of regional associations of the various technical bodies concerned with natural phenomena that can cause disasters. UNDR0 co-operated with government departments having responsibility for national disaster preparedness and mitigation in order to assist in the development of an appropriate national and regional framework for the tasks of these technical bodies.

97. UNDR0, in collaboration with the League of Red Cross Societies, made arrangements for an expert in disaster preparedness to join in a review mission which visited member countries of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee in May and June 1978. The recommendations of the mission included a call for improved communications and early warning procedures for communities. Other areas designated by the review mission for increased mutual assistance were training of people working in the field of disasters and the development of better

techniques of post-disaster damage assessment. The report was considered at the eleventh session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee which met at Bangkok from 3 to 9 October 1978. An UNDRO representative participated as an observer. The Committee approved a disaster preparedness action plan containing the elements recommended by the mission. UNDRO and the League of Red Cross Societies agreed to take into account as much as possible the Committee's disaster preparedness objectives when formulating their own work programme for the region.

98. At the sixth session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, held at Rangoon from 27 February to 6 March 1979, UNDRO was able to announce its decision to finance overseas training fellowships in disaster preparedness for four member countries of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Burma.

99. Floods and landslides in Nepal in 1978 demonstrated the need for the further development of national pre-disaster planning. In consultation with the Government of Nepal, it has been decided that UNDRO will provide a consultant for five months to assist in formulating a national relief plan and establishing the necessary relief organizations at national and regional levels.

100. During March 1979, arrangements were completed by UNDRO to send a consultant to the Philippines in order to advise the Government on the establishment of a disaster research and training institute. The Government agreed to include the cost of the mission, which is scheduled for June 1979, in the UNDP country programme.

101. In the spring of 1978, UNDRO launched an appeal to potential donors for support for a project to build 100 wooden and 100 steel emergency rescue boats for the Government of Bangladesh. The total cost was estimated at approximately \$1.6 million in addition to the 200 engines which were contributed by the Government of Sweden. The Governments of Norway, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates responded to UNDRO's appeal with cash contributions totalling \$335,461, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund made a grant of \$1,376,000. Prototypes have been undergoing tests and it is expected that by September 1979 some of the craft will be ready for service.

D. Activities without specific regional application

1. Meetings

102. On 10 October 1978, the Co-ordinator addressed members of the Académie Diplomatique Internationale at Paris on the subject of the work of his Office. Many persons important in diplomatic and scientific circles attended the meeting. The Co-ordinator's presentation was followed by a film on tropical cyclones, which had been produced jointly by UNESCO, WMO and the League of Red Cross Societies.

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103. The second session of the UNESCO/UNDRO International Advisory Committee on Earthquake Risk, held at Paris from 9 to 12 October 1978, recommended the development of a global seismic data bank, seismological studies of two recent earthquakes and the preparation of an inventory of documentary films for public information on earthquake risk and mitigation. The Committee also discussed the establishment of an intergovernmental body to stimulate and co-ordinate action by Governments for the management and reduction of earthquake risk.

104. The main function of the Committee is to advise UNESCO and UNDRO, as well as other interested agencies, on the best way to apply a wide range of relevant disciplines to achieve the most effective scientific and administrative action for the assessment and mitigation of earthquake risk. The Committee is composed of 10 prominent scientists from different regions of the world appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO in consultation with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. It is also assisting UNESCO and UNDRO in the development of a long-term programme of interdisciplinary research and international co-operation in this field.

105. One outcome of the first session of the Committee was the holding in Mexico in December 1978 of an International Seminar on Earthquake Hazards and Insurance. The seminar, which was organized by UNESCO and at which UNDRO was represented, reviewed the present situation of earthquake insurance, loss assessment and prognosis (including vulnerability analysis), seismic zoning and the assessment of hazard, and a proposed pilot study of earthquake risk.

106. An UNDRO representative attended the 29th International Astronautical Congress, which was held in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, in October 1978, and presented a paper during the "Symposium on worldwide disaster and rescue response employing space systems".

107. The International Consultation on Packaging, sponsored by the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT) and the World Packaging Organisation, was held at Helsinki from 23 to 27 October 1978 and was attended by representatives from 29 Governments, 5 intergovernmental organizations and 11 international voluntary agencies.

108. The Consultation took note of a paper distributed by the League of Red Cross Societies and UNDRO. The Consultation urged Governments and organizations involved in international relief operations to adhere to the Recommended Procedures for Packaging and Labelling or Marking Consignments of Supplies for International Disaster Relief Operations.

109. The Co-ordinator addressed the International Conference on Housing Problems in Developing Countries, which was held in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, from 18 to 22 December 1978. The opportunity was taken to draw delegates' attention to the dangers and potentially large economic losses which could follow from any failure to take disaster risks into account when planning national housing policies.

110. UNDRO was represented at the eighteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee and the sixteenth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. At the former meeting a statement was made on behalf of UNDRO concerning the dissemination of information, obtained by remote sensing, indicating the impending occurrence of a natural disaster.

2. Publications

111. Two further monographs in the series of studies which together will form a compendium of current knowledge about disaster prevention and mitigation have been completed and sent for printing. They deal respectively with public information and economic aspects. Three more studies have reached final stages of preparation and will appear during 1979.

3. Public relations

112. On 9 March 1979, the United Nations Postal Administration issued stamps commemorating the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. The stamps were issued simultaneously in New York and Geneva.

113. An international competition for the design of the UNDRO stamp had been conducted by the United Nations Postal Administration, which received 132 designs from artists in 20 countries.

114. An emblem for UNDRO was designed in the Graphic Presentation Unit at United Nations Headquarters. It was used for the first time in the UNDRO Newsletter published in January 1979.

ANNEX I

Status of UNDRO trust fund and subaccounts as at 31 March 1979

Table 1. Summary of income and expenditure of UNDRO trust funds from 1 January 1976 to 31 March 1979

	Total	Strengthening capability of UNDRO	Emergency assistance	Technical assistance
(in United States dollars)				
Unencumbered balance of funds as at 31 December 1975	1 074 150	1 025 903	-	48 247
<u>Biennium 1976-1977</u>				
Income	2 373 351	1 762 982	5 393	604 976
Expenditures	(2 461 768)	(2 200 985)	-	(260 783)
Unencumbered balance of funds as at 31 December 1977	985 733	587 900	5 393	392 440
<u>Biennium 1978-1979</u>				
<u>Year 1978</u>				
Income	1 127 786	1 077 168	-	50 618
Expenditures	(801 126)	(780 170)	-	(20 956)
Unencumbered balance of funds as at 31 December 1978	1 312 393	884 898	5 393	422 102
<u>January-March 1979</u>				
Income	155 353	143 217	1 152	10 984
Expenditures	(222 185)	(149 016)	-	(73 169)
Unencumbered balance of funds as at 31 March 1979	1 245 561	879 099	6 545	359 917

Table 2. Income and expenditure for the 1978-1979 biennium
January 1978-March 1979

	Total	Strengthening capability of UNDRO	Emergency assistance	Technical assistance
(in United States dollars)				
<u>Income</u>				
<u>Contributions from Governments</u>				
Australia	224 679	224 679		
Belgium	74 360	74 360		
Denmark	52 297	52 297		
Ethiopia	5 000	5 000		
Iran	15 006	15 006		
Jamaica	1 152		1 152 <u>a/</u>	
Japan	50 000	50 000		
Netherlands	200 000	200 000		
New Zealand	11 436	11 436		
Nigeria	4 020			4 020
Norway	49 395	49 395		
Switzerland	61 350	61 350		
Turkey	5 000	5 000 <u>b/</u>		
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	96 339	96 339		
United States of America	250 000	250 000		
Subtotals	1 100 034	1 094 862	1 152	4 020
Interest income	145 430	100 802	-	44 628
Miscellaneous income	37 675	24 721	-	12 954
Total income	1 283 139	1 220 385	1 152	61 602
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Salaries and common staff costs	834 664	806 950	-	27 714
Travel	42 869	39 966	-	2 903
Contractual services	11 526	10 285	-	1 241
General operating expenses	72 025	71 985	-	40
Equipment and supplies	173	-	-	173
Fellowships	62 054	-	-	62 054
Total expenditure	1 023 311	929 186	-	94 125

a/ Amount received at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

b/ Amount received at United Nations Development Programme office, Ankara.

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ANNEX II

Relief assistance given by and through the Office of the
United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator a/

Number	Country	Date	UNDRO allocation from United Nations funds (in United States dollars)	Contributions channelled through UNDRO
(Disasters numbered 1-104 are reported in the annexes to documents A/10079 and Add.1, A/31/88, A/32/64 and Corr.1 and A/33/82)			1 224 014	28 072 198
Donation received in 1978 in respect of disaster reported earlier				
95	Oman (hurricane)			5 253
105	Peru (floods)	April 1978	20 000	
106	Lebanon (civil strife)	April 1978	20 000	
107 b/	Mozambique (floods)	April 1978		
108	Benin (fire)	April 1978	10 000	
109	Afghanistan (floods)	July 1978	20 000	
110	Sudan (floods)	July 1978	20 000	
111	Gambia (power failures)	August 1978	20 000	
112	Nepal (floods)	August 1978	10 350	
113	Thailand (floods)	August 1978	20 000	
114	Laos People's Democratic Republic (floods)	August 1978	20 000	10 000
115	Viet Nam (floods)	September 1978	20 000	273 296
116	Guinea-Bissau (locusts)	October 1978	10 000	
117	Honduras (hurricane)	September 1978	20 000	
118	Sri Lanka (cyclone)	November 1978	20 000	
119	Mozambique (cyclone)	January 1979	20 000	
120 b/	Madagascar (cyclone)	January 1979		
121	Senegal (torrential rains)	January 1979	10 000	
122	Bolivia (floods)	January 1979	15 000	
123 b/	Turkey (malaria)	January 1979		
124	Solomon Islands (hurricane)	February 1979	10 000	
125	Indonesia (volcanic eruption)	February 1979	10 000	
126	Indonesia (floods)	February 1979	8 000	
127 b/	Tunisia (floods)	March 1979		
128	Fiji (cyclone)	March 1979	10 000	
			1 537 364	28 360 747

a/ Excluding multilateral and bilateral assistance furnished in response to emergency requests, but not channelled through UNDRO.

b/ UNDRO assistance given in mobilizing multilateral and/or bilateral aid. No allocation from UNDRO funds.