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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF
THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

MEASURES TO ASSIST THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND DOMINICA FOLLOWING
THE SEVERE DISASTERS CAUSED IN THOSE COUNTRIES BY HURRICANE
"DAVID" AND HURRICANE "FREDERIC"

Letter dated 17 September 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As agreed by the Latin American Group, of which I have the honour to be Chairman for the month of September, I have the honour to propose, through you, in accordance with the provisions of rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of an item entitled "Measures to assist the Dominican Republic and Dominica following the severe disasters caused in those countries by hurricane 'David' and hurricane 'Frederic'". This item is of an important and urgent character, in view of the tragic scale of the damage done by the forces of nature to these two countries of the Latin American region.

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is annexed hereto.

(Signed) Jorge E. ILLUECA
Ambassador of Panama
Chairman of the Latin American Group for
the month of September 1979

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. On 29 and 31 August and 1 September 1979, the Dominican Republic and Dominica, Member States of the Latin American region, were lashed by the fury of hurricane "David", considered to have been the worst hurricane of this century in the islands of the Caribbean.
2. The severity of the sufferings and adversities of the population was grievously augmented on 3 September, when hurricane "Frederic" passed over the disaster area while relief operations to assist the victims of the first hurricane were in progress.
3. The gravity of the situation in the affected countries may be gauged by the fact that it is estimated that the loss of human life could reach a figure of 4,000 and economic losses could amount to billions of dollars.
4. The tremendous magnitude of the disasters caused by the uncontrollable forces of nature in the two countries are clearly described in the situation reports from the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), designated in the case of the Dominican Republic as reports No. 1 of 3 September, No. 2 of 4 September, No. 3 of 5 September, No. 5 of 7 September, No. 6 of 8 September, No. 7 of 10 September, No. 8 of 11 September, No. 9 of 13 September and No. 10 of 17 September 1979, and in the case of Dominica as reports No. 1 (undated), No. 2 of 31 August, No. 3 of 1 September, No. 4 of 2 September, No. 5 of 2 September, No. 6 of 3 September, No. 7 of 4 September, No. 8 of 6 September, No. 9 of 8 September, No. 10 of 10 September, No. 11 of 12 September and No. 12 of 14 September 1979. These situation reports are contained in the respective telegrams from UNDRO headquarters in Geneva to the New York Liaison Office.
5. Information supplementing the UNDRO situation reports was provided to the Latin American Group on Thursday, 13 September, by Mr. Kenneth Dadzie, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, who delivered a significant message from the Secretary-General, and by Mr. Ilhan Lütem, Director of the New York Liaison Office of UNDRO. These distinguished officials can supply additional information on the proposed item, should the General Committee so require.
6. The United Nations has distinguished itself by the interest it has shown in promoting the efficient operation of a world system for the mobilization and co-ordination of relief in cases of natural disaster. The Organization has also concerned itself with the collection and dissemination of information on disaster evaluation, priority needs and assistance from donors, inasmuch as such relief activities are an integral part of the international development policy of Governments and international organizations.

7. Urgent and immediate action is therefore necessary, under the proposed item, to obtain massive assistance from the international community and the United Nations system for no less than 500,000 hungry and homeless people and for the work of repairing the extensive damage done to the infrastructure of the Dominican Republic and Dominica by these natural disasters.
8. The Latin American Group is aware that the assistance afforded to Member States who have suffered natural disasters on the scale of those which occurred in the Dominican Republic and Dominica is an expression of the principle of international solidarity, embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and upheld by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council concerning assistance in cases of natural disaster.
9. The Latin American Group, invoking that principle of international solidarity, formally proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Measures to assist the Dominican Republic and Dominica following the severe disasters caused by hurricane 'David' and hurricane 'Frederic'", the importance and immediacy of which is self-evident.
10. At the request of the Dominican Republic, which is the more greatly affected country, the Latin American Group recommends that the proposed item should be considered in the Second Committee. A draft resolution will be submitted in due course, in consultation with the Secretariat and with the affected States.
