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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 to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly. The report covers the period from 1 April 1977 to 31 March 1978.
2. The report also gives information about the subaccounts for emergency relief and technical assistance set up by 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. As required by General Assembly resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976, it offers a review of possible alternative sources of funding for the technical co-operation activities of UNDRO. Details on the financial situation of the trust fund will be found in annex I to the present report.
3. Proposals are also put forward in the report in order to facilitate examination by the General Assembly of the future financial arrangements for ensuring a sound financial basis for the core programme of UNDRO. This examination should be made by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, in accordance with its resolution 32/56 of 8 December 1977.
4. In its resolution 2102 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, the Economic and Social Council called for a report on progress made in the matter of expediting international relief assistance. This information is given in section V below.

II. ORGANIZATION AND FINANCING

A. Core programme

5. As a result of the views made known by representatives of the Governments which had contributed to the trust fund for the strengthening of UNDRO, and of other Governments as well as of the members of the Co-ordinator's technical advisory panel at meetings in April 1977, the Co-ordinator made certain changes in the internal organization of his Office. These changes were designed to increase efficiency, and were made bearing in mind the general outline of priorities laid down in General Assembly resolution 3243 (XXIX), namely that the trust fund resources "should be concentrated on strengthening the co-ordinating capability of the Office ... but without prejudice to any improvements that can be made in the roles of the Office in disaster prevention and in pre-disaster planning within the resources otherwise available to it".
6. Following approval by the Secretary-General, the new structure came into force on 1 January 1978. Under the new arrangements all aspects of disaster matters (that is to say, relief co-ordination, preparedness and prevention) in a geographical region are dealt with by the same group of officers without losing the

capability to reinforce that group, should the magnitude of a relief operation require it. Within a single Relief Co-ordination, Preparedness and Prevention Division there are three regional Sections (Africa, Middle East and Europe; Asia and the Pacific; and Latin America) supported by a Technical Operations Section which handles matters affecting the Division as a whole. The Division absorbs approximately 75 per cent of the budget of the Office, and also makes use of any funds which may be contributed to the trust fund subaccounts for emergency relief and technical co-operation activities, or which may be channelled through UNDRO for relief work in particular disasters.

7. The "strengthening of the co-ordinating capability" of UNDRO means more than the mere provision of staff and the funds with which to pay them. Much work has been done, and much more remains to be done, both within UNDRO and within the United Nations system generally, to refine and improve the contingency plans upon which relief co-ordination operations are partly based. The other foundation for effective relief operations is, of course, adequate preparedness planning in the disaster-prone countries. Attention to these matters must be, and is, given priority whenever relief operations are not actually in progress. More will be said about these activities in a later section of this report.

8. After the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976, the Secretary-General made proposals for the transfer to the regular budget of approximately 34 per cent of those costs of UNDRO which had previously been met by voluntary contributions. This transfer took effect from the beginning of the biennium 1978-1979, following the approval of the Secretary-General's requests by the Assembly in resolution 32/213 of 21 December 1977. Meanwhile the Assembly had, in resolution 32/56 of 8 December 1977, decided to examine in 1978 the question of future financial arrangements for UNDRO, 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 regular budget.

9. During 1978-1979, 14 Professional and 11 General Service posts will be financed from the regular budget. Ten Professional, 13 General Service and 1 Field Service posts will be paid for from voluntary contributions to the trust fund. Excluding the sum of \$400,000 allotted in the regular budget for grants for emergency relief after disasters, about 46 per cent of UNDRO'S 1978-1979 costs is being met from voluntary contributions. This report is written in advance of the eighteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, at which recommendations may be made on the methods for applying growth rates to programmes with mixed financing when proposals are made to alter the ratio between the sources of financing. Subject to any decision of principle which may then be reached, it is proposed that a further transfer of a substantial portion of the remaining posts and associated costs to the regular budget be effected in 1980-1981. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 32/56, particularly requested the Committee to take the resolution into account when considering the 1980-1983 medium-term plan, on which the 1980-1981 budget largely depends.

B. Financing of emergency assistance activities

10. No further progress has been made in gaining support for this subaccount of the UNDR0 trust fund. Contributions from Governments remain at a total of \$5,393, against a target of \$400,000 for the 1976-1977 biennium alone. The Co-ordinator therefore attaches great importance to the availability of \$400,000 in the regular budget for the present biennium, as it permits him to make a practical though limited demonstration of the concern of the international community for the plight of the survivors of a disaster within hours of its occurrence.

C. Financing of technical assistance activities

11. The subaccount of the UNDR0 trust fund devoted to programme costs of technical assistance to Governments in disaster prevention and pre-disaster planning was established by General Assembly resolution 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975. This method of financing replaced that of drawing on the Working Capital Fund each year, a method which had been in force since 1973 and which had resulted in a total of \$130,000 being provided for these purposes during the three years 1973-1975 inclusive.

12. In the course of 1976 and early 1977 nearly \$500,000 was contributed to the subaccount, a far greater sum than had ever been available from the Working Capital Fund. Unfortunately, the momentum then established has not been sustained to the extent that had been hoped, no doubt because potential contributors were awaiting the outcome of the 1978 review. Before this trend had become apparent, encouraged by the initial enthusiasm shown by some Governments and anticipating an ever-increasing number of requests for technical assistance, the Co-ordinator had, in preparing the budget for his Office for 1978-1979, foreseen a considerably expanded programme of technical co-operation in disaster prevention and preparedness. This explains the sum of \$1,440,000 budgeted for these purposes in the biennium, with the whole of this amount expected to be available from the subaccount. Moreover, provision was also made for probable additional contributions from the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, in sizeable amounts.

13. The priorities which have been established by the Co-ordinator are to concentrate assistance in disaster preparedness in disaster-prone countries which are also classified as "most seriously affected" or "least-developed countries" (or both), and which can make profitable use of the assistance given. Less emphasis will be given for the time being to other countries, and to disaster prevention activities which by their nature assume more of an economic and developmental character. To enable the Co-ordinator to carry out a programme of this kind it is hoped that contributions to the subaccount for technical co-operation activities will soon approximate to the target set.

14. Provided that UNDR0's catalytic role and co-ordinating responsibility are acknowledged, a technical assistance programme might perhaps be funded from other United Nations sources, notably the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. The Environment Programme has defined natural

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disasters as a priority subject area and has given substantial support to some of UNDR0's research and development work in disaster prevention. The initiation by 1982 of an operational, world-wide early warning system for natural disasters is a goal which has been approved by the Governing Council of UNEP. Clearly much technical work needs to be done to achieve this goal, but it is work of a character which would fall more naturally into the fields of competence of one or another of the specialized agencies. Nevertheless, when once the forecast has been made, or the data analysed by the competent technical experts, the fast and efficient transmission of the warning to those who need to know about it becomes the task of those immediately responsible for disaster preparedness. In the interests of the effective use of the system to be established, it is hoped that UNEP will be able and willing to allot funds for disaster preparedness projects.

15. So far as the United Nations Development Programme is concerned, the possibilities of including the costs of technical assistance activities in the country or regional programme are explored by UNDR0 before any decision is made to use funds, or approach funding sources, otherwise available to UNDR0. So far, however, the amounts of money forthcoming from UNDP have been comparatively small. Part of the problem stems from the backlog of projects in other fields which built up during the recent period in which UNDP resources were severely restricted.

16. It is felt that Member States are unlikely to look with favour on any proposal to revert to the use of the Working Capital Fund, and moreover to do so on a scale far in excess of what was done between 1973 and 1975. There remain to be examined only the possibilities of supplementing any programme funded from the existing subaccount, by UNEP or UNDP by direct bilateral aid or by earmarked contributions channelled by donors through UNDR0.

17. These types of aid from donors would clearly coincide with the priorities described in paragraph 13, where the project was undertaken at UNDR0's recommendation, but they could create an imbalance in the planned programme by placing too much emphasis on a particular country, or on a particular aspect of the problem, and might result in resources being used to less than the best effect.

III. CO-ORDINATION

A. Within the United Nations system

18. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 253 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, requested the Co-ordinator to conclude, as rapidly as practicable, co-operation agreements and other arrangements with all appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, particularly with regard to disaster prevention. Memoranda of understanding now exist between UNDR0 and United Nations Children's Fund, World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and International Atomic Energy Agency (concluded in 1976-1977) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Labour Organisation, World Meteorological Organization and Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (concluded in 1977-1978). Each of these memoranda recognizes the role of UNDR0 as laid down in General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

and in turn UNDR0 recognizes the particular mandates and fields of competence of the other party to the memorandum. Because the statutes of the other parties often give disaster-related responsibilities to them, the memoranda lay down how those responsibilities will be exercised in the common interest so as to avoid duplication of efforts.

19. The responsibilities mentioned do not refer only to disaster prevention. In preparedness and relief activities there are also potential areas of overlapping. In all these fields, conflicts of responsibility occur between other agencies, even where UNDR0 has itself been given a mandate by the General Assembly. For these reasons, although the conclusion of formal memoranda may be important, efforts are being made to settle a multiagency agreement which will serve as a basis for joint thematic programming in disaster preparedness and prevention. This agreement, which was conceived after negotiations between UNEP and UNDR0 about a memorandum between those two agencies, will attempt to define a series of programmes of action instead of trying to delineate areas of legal responsibility.

20. UNDR0 is also playing a part in activities related to the International Year of the Child, under the leadership of UNICEF.

B. With agencies and organizations outside the United Nations system

21. In the year under review, the Co-ordinator has also signed memoranda of understanding with the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration and the Organization of American States. Both these memoranda deal exclusively with relief operations after disasters. The first is designed to provide UNDR0 with assistance in arranging air transport of relief supplies. The second deals with the harmonization of relief activities when disasters have occurred in any member country of the Organization of American States.

IV. UNDR0 AND "OTHER DISASTER SITUATIONS"

22. It is often thought that "other disaster situations" refers only to a civil conflict or an emergency caused by war or civil disturbance. Within the United Nations system there is no single organization which is invariably concerned with the co-ordination of the relief of suffering caused by war or civil disturbance, but arrangements are none the less made to do whatever is necessary.

23. The Office of the Co-ordinator has a definite and recognized part to play, subject to the wishes or request of the Governments concerned in particular instances, in the prevention of, preparedness for and, if necessary, in the relief operations following disasters associated with man's impact upon the environment. Within this very wide definition there may be cited industrial, maritime, nuclear and aviation accidents. In the first three of these types of disaster, UNDR0's role is delineated in the memoranda of understanding with UNIDO, IMCO and IAEA, to which reference has been made earlier in this report. There has so far been only one case of UNDR0's being involved in relief work after an aircraft accident

(Santa Cruz, Bolivia, October 1976). Although these accidents may be infrequent, UNDR0 has a clear interest in the state of preparedness of, for example, search and rescue services which can be used in damage assessment and relief operations after any kind of widespread disaster, quite apart from their primary role in the context of aviation.

24. Industrial disasters, on the other hand, occur much more often. In a period of just a few months, a mine disaster in Mozambique, the explosion of a train carrying dynamite in the Republic of Korea, and disastrous fires in the Philippines took a heavy toll of human life. A striking demonstration of the disastrous potential of other of man's activities was given in Japan where, as a result of an earthquake, a dam collapsed, allowing large quantities of sodium cyanide sludge to pollute a river which ran through the already-stricken area. Severe pollution was caused by the spillage of oil from the tanker "Amoco Cadiz" which was wrecked on the coast of Brittany in March 1978. At the time this report was written, no final assessment of the damage had been made, but the livelihoods of thousands of people had been affected and the longer-term environmental effects were only beginning to become apparent. As industrial development spreads more widely throughout the world, the corresponding risks will increasingly have to be taken into account by those responsible for public safety. The United Nations may be called upon at any time to assist in the measures necessary to discharge that responsibility. The standing, recognized arrangements made by UNDR0 and the other agencies involved should enable the United Nations system to answer the call in a timely and effective manner.

V. MEASURES DESIGNED TO EXPEDITE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE

25. In resolution 2102 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977 the Economic and Social Council requested the Co-ordinator to continue the efforts he and others had been making first to identify and then to remove obstacles in the way of rapid delivery of international relief assistance and called upon Governments and others concerned to give due consideration to the recommendations which had been made, and which had been set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/32/64, annex II).

26. Since the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council, the same recommendations have been considered and endorsed by the twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, held in October 1977. This Conference was attended by delegates from Governments as well as from national Red Cross, Red Crescent, or Red Lion and Sun Societies. The resolution of the Conference urged all concerned to implement the recommendations to the fullest possible extent, and expressed the hope that they would be adopted by the General Assembly. This action was later taken by the Assembly in paragraph 3 of its resolution 32/56.

27. In February 1978, the Co-ordinator 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. Once analysed, this information should enable the Co-ordinator to establish the extent of the common ground and therefore the scope of an international accord acceptable to all, or most, States, or alternatively the

directions in which efforts would most usefully be made to remove the most important obstacles. A further report will be made on this matter in 1979.

VI. RELIEF CO-ORDINATION, PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION

A. Latin America

1. Disaster emergencies

Peru

28. Early in April 1977, the province of Amazonas suffered its worst flooding for many years. Seventeen people were killed and many hundreds made homeless. Sugar and rice crops were destroyed. The Government of Peru took relief measures, sending supplies by Air Force aircraft, and asked for, and obtained, additional financial assistance from UNDRO for local procurement of certain items. An allocation of \$4,749 was made for this purpose.

Haiti

29. At the end of April 1977, the Haitian Government requested United Nations assistance for an emergency feeding programme for some 400,000 people. A joint UNDRO/UNICEF/WFP/FAO/WHO mission visited Haiti in the first half of May to assess the extent of the food and medical requirements. About 400,000 people were judged to have been affected by the drought; of these some 250,000 were in a state of urgent need, but at that time only about 150,000 were receiving regular help from the United States' voluntary agencies active in Haiti and WFP.

30. Later in the year good rains occurred and there was a general increase in food assistance. Bilateral donors and voluntary agencies stepped up and extended the coverage of their programmes, and the United Nations gave substantial help, which included \$31,000 from UNDP for the purchase of seeds, contributions of milk-powder, high-protein food, medicines, seeds and cash from UNICEF to a value of \$75,000 and food from WFP worth \$690,000.

31. A second United Nations joint mission, on which the same agencies were represented, completed another assessment of the situation in the drought-affected areas five months after the start of emergency relief operations. The general finding of the mission was that the peak of the crisis had passed. This more favourable picture resulted from continued intensive relief operations by Governments and non-governmental agencies, including substantial food aid and relatively good rainfalls.

St. Vincent

32. Between 18 and 30 October 1977, heavy rains and ensuing floods caused considerable damage on the island of St. Vincent in the eastern Caribbean. St. Vincent's land area is only 335 sq. kilometres, and 140 of these was affected by

the storms. The floods cut main roads, washed away one bridge, rendered two power stations unserviceable and damaged the sewerage and water supply systems. No human lives were lost.

33. The Government of St. Vincent inquired through UNDP about the possibility of emergency assistance from the United Nations. St. Vincent is a "State in association with the United Kingdom", which endorsed this request. UNDR0 allocated \$20,000 to help in meeting immediate needs.

Peru

34. Further extremely heavy rainfall in November 1977 caused damage in the city of Cuzco in the Andes. The regional hospital was flooded to a depth of 1.20 metres. The patients had to be evacuated, and the hospital, which provided medical service to people over a wide area, was rendered unusable. The Government appealed for limited help from abroad to reinforce its own efforts. UNDR0 provided \$17,000 and UNDP \$20,000 for the purchase of new items of medical equipment.

South America

35. On 23 November 1977, a strong earthquake occurred whose effects were felt with varying severity in five countries of South America. The epicentre was determined to have been in the San Juan province of Argentina, and the strength of the tremor was recorded in Buenos Aires as 7.4 on the Richter scale. (One report said that the instruments had not been able to measure its strength accurately and some credence is given to that report by news from the National Seismological Institute in Sweden that a magnitude of 8.2 on the Richter scale - the strongest in 1977 - had been recorded there.)

36. Major damage and most of the known casualties were in the town of Caucete in San Juan province, where 80 per cent of the houses were said to have been destroyed or damaged. Property damage occurred in towns as far away as Córdoba, and people fled from buildings over a very wide area from Salta in the north to Bahía Blanca on the Atlantic coast. In Chile, the earthquake was experienced in the area between Copiapo in the north and Puerto Montt in the south, and tremors were felt in Uruguay, Peru and Brazil.

37. Casualties in Argentina were estimated at 65 dead and 280 injured, almost all in the departments of Caucete, Sarmiento and 25 de Mayo in San Juan province.

38. UNDR0 received valuable reports from the UNDP Resident Representatives in Buenos Aires and in Santiago, but in neither case did the Government seek assistance from the United Nations, although help was offered. Government relief efforts were supplemented by those of local voluntary agencies.

39. The same area was again struck by an earthquake in January 1978, but there were no reports of further casualties.

2. Pre-disaster planning

40. A one-month mission to Costa Rica took place in July and August 1977 to advise the Government on disaster preparedness, identify areas where disaster prevention measures might be required and assist in formulating requests for further technical co-operation. In the course of the mission, the expert also visited Ecuador to discuss needs for assistance in disaster preparedness and prevention and to inform the Government of the nature of technical assistance which UNDR0 could provide. He made a return visit to the Dominican Republic to review implementation of the recommendations made by the previous mission at the end of 1976. At the same time, he assisted in planning the work programme of another UNDR0 expert who arrived for a three-month mission to advise on the organization of fire-fighting services and security measures.

41. During September and October 1977, a consultant carried out a one-month mission to Bolivia, in response to a request from the Government for advisory services to assist in evaluating damage caused by recent drought and floods in different parts of the country and in reviewing relief activities.

42. In mid-1977, UNDP and UNDR0 concluded an agreement to conduct a three-month mission to five countries of Central America to evaluate the degree of vulnerability to disaster risks of current and projected investment programmes in the subregion. The mission took place between 15 October 1977 and 15 January 1978 and was carried out by a two-man team which visited Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Fifteen projects were selected for examination, that is, an average of three projects per country, covering, inter alia, the construction of dams, aqueducts, ports, geothermic and hydroelectric power stations, highways, industrial plants and tourist or housing complexes especially vulnerable to the risk of natural disaster. In addition to carrying out individual analyses, the experts also had to develop a simple, practical methodology for this type of analysis to cover any possible risk or geographical area. This methodology could then be used for vulnerability risk analysis of other, future, investment and development projects from their very conception and preliminary studies. The United Nations Development Programme acted as executing agency for the project, which was implemented by UNDR0 in consultation with the World Bank and the development banks in the region. It was the first UNDR0/UNDP joint undertaking in disaster prevention.

3. Meetings

43. An UNDR0 representative attended the seventh session of Regional Association IV (North and Central America) of the World Meteorological Organization, held in Mexico City in April 1977.

44. The Co-ordinator was represented at the Latin America Regional Meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives, held in Ecuador in September 1977. The opportunity was taken to address the participants, and particularly those who had assumed duty since the UNDR0/UNDP meeting in Panama in November 1976, on the responsibilities borne by resident representatives on behalf of the Co-ordinator.

45. A paper on "Co-ordination of the international response in case of disaster" was prepared by UNDRO for the Inter-Governmental Conference on Disaster Preparedness, held in Chile in March 1978. The paper was delivered by the UNDP Resident Representative on behalf of the Co-ordinator.

B. Africa, Middle East and Europe

1. Disaster emergencies

Somalia

46. Although it had been thought that smallpox had practically been eliminated in Somalia, cases of the disease began reappearing in September 1976 in the Mogadiscio area and spread to the southern part of the country. Early in 1977 the outbreak rate reached alarming proportions and the threat arose of transmission of the disease into the neighbouring countries, principally through nomadic movement. The Government, with its own resources overstretched in combating the epidemic, requested assistance from the United Nations system. UNDRO, on behalf of the Somali Government and WHO, launched an appeal on 27 May 1977 for 16 land-rovers, spare parts and a number of mobile transceivers. These items were regarded as the minimum emergency requirement to support the field containment teams from WHO, the Somali Red Crescent and volunteer groups.

47. The donor community responded quickly and effectively. On 10 June 1977, UNDRO was able to report that the requirements regarding vehicles and spare parts had been met with the help of donations from the United Kingdom, several Red Cross Societies, contributions from the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway and from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Two airlifts were carried out by the Royal Canadian Air Force and two by charter aircraft. The last shipment of six land-rovers and spares arrived at Mogadiscio on 14 June 1977.

48. On 15 June 1977, UNDRO appealed for additional spare parts and medicines. SIDA made another grant which covered these requirements and the cost of air freight to Mogadiscio. The approximate value of international assistance in response to these two appeals was \$450,000.

49. In the eight weeks from 28 May to 24 July 1977, 574 new outbreaks of smallpox were identified, whereas in the 16 weeks from 24 July to 12 November, only 104 new outbreaks were found, and at that date only two cases were reported to be still active. No new case has appeared since 27 October 1977.

50. During the campaign 24 staff from WHO and 2,550 national staff were engaged in the operation.

Oman

51. In June 1977, the Sultanate of Oman, which is rarely subject to natural disasters, was struck in quick succession by two catastrophes. Masirah Island

off the north-central coast was hit by a cyclone and Dhofar Province in the south suffered severe effects from prolonged torrential rain.

52. On 12 June 1977, a cyclone with winds of almost 120 miles per hour twice swept Masirah Island. Heavy rains accompanied the winds. The Omani authorities predicted 48 hours in advance that the storm would hit Masirah and the people were able to take refuge in the hospital and the police building, both solid structures which withstood the storm. Nevertheless, two people died and approximately 300 families lost their homes; 48 people were injured. An Air Force Training Centre located on Masirah Island was heavily damaged, but the municipal electricity and desalinization stations sustained only light damage and were back in operation quickly. The island school was destroyed. A British Broadcasting Corporation relay station was extensively damaged. Many fishing boats were blown away or sunk.

53. Torrential rains began on the eastern part of Dhofar Province on 15 June 1977 and continued almost incessantly for three days. They destroyed or heavily damaged the rudimentary homes of the hill dwellers and the stone houses in the towns; 103 people were killed. In Mirbat town alone, 503 stone houses were virtually destroyed. An estimated 15,000 sheep and goats were swept away in the flash floods; some 700 camels also disappeared. Many thousands of lime trees and date palms were destroyed. Roads in the area were damaged.

54. Relief was brought quickly by the Sultanate of Oman Government assisted by local committees in each disaster area. Injured people on Masirah Island were flown to hospitals in Muscat and relief supplies were flown in.

55. In the south, a thorough rescue and relief operation was organized immediately, using Air Force helicopters. Supplies and medical assistance were quickly flown to all the settlements affected. People from low-lying areas were airlifted to higher ground and remote groups were brought to centres where they could be cared for.

56. The Co-ordinator made \$20,000 available immediately for the local purchase of tents and sent his personal representative to Muscat to help co-ordinate outside assistance.

Upper Volta

57. In October 1977 the Government of Upper Volta asked for help from UNDR0 in solving problems resulting from the destruction of drinking water reservoirs and damage to the dams of other reservoirs, following torrential rains which had occurred a few weeks before, and which had also left some 900 people homeless.

58. UNDR0 arranged with the World Food Programme (WFP) an emergency programme in which WFP food, already in Upper Volta for other projects, was to be used as payment for local labour engaged in repairs to the reservoirs. This small scheme, supplemented by \$17,000 granted by UNDR0 for the purchase of cement and other building materials required, together with the energetic action of the Government, fulfilled the main needs generated by the effects of the rains.

Djibouti

59. Unusually heavy rains falling continuously on 24 and 25 October 1977 and intermittently for some days thereafter caused extensive flooding in the capital city, Djibouti.

60. Most severely affected were the crowded townships on the edge of the city, where a considerable public health problem was expected. Action was taken by the United States Government to supply insecticides and sprayers. The World Health Organization procured many of these supplies in Europe, on behalf of the United States of America. The Government of France helped with pumping equipment.

61. UNDR0 offered its assistance to the Government, and advised potential donor Governments and United Nation agencies of the situation. Both WHO and FAO immediately arranged to place experts on standby to fly to Djibouti if an official request for assistance were received from the Government. The problems which had been expected with livestock in the interior of the country did not, however, assume major proportions, and FAO assistance was not required; nor was any official request received from the Government of Djibouti.

62. WHO sent to Djibouti a doctor who, although particularly concerned with the Organization's anti-smallpox programme, had been briefed on the problems expected in the aftermath of the flooding. Problems were experienced in the supply and distribution of drinking water and in the disposal of sewage, and WHO sent a sanitary engineer to assess the difficulties and assist the Government in overcoming them.

Ethiopia

63. In late October 1977 unseasonal heavy rains caused the Awash and other rivers to overflow and flood agricultural areas, particularly in the Shoa, Hararghe and Sidamo Provinces. It was especially unfortunate that crops were close to harvest, so that the losses were the more extensive. Immediate assistance was given to the people by the Ethiopian Government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. The Co-ordinator allocated \$20,000 to supplement those efforts.

Somalia

64. Protracted rainfall in late November 1977 caused widespread flooding in the valleys of the Juba and Shebelle Rivers. At the request of the Government, a joint UNDP/WFP team surveyed the flooded areas. An UNDR0 expert on disaster preparedness who was on mission in Somalia and a representative of the League of Red Cross Societies accompanied the team. Many villages and all roads and crops in the area were damaged, and some 40,000 people were in need of assistance. Serious longer-term damage was suffered by the December/January harvest, irrigated agricultural projects and locally stored crops.

65. The Government undertook a relief operation and requested international assistance. Emergency camps were set up and resettlement projects were started in an attempt to avoid the possibility of a similar situation in future. Medical

supplies and services were provided by the Somali Red Crescent Society and UNICEF.

66. WFP authorized an emergency project for 20,000 people for one month at a cost of \$80,300. The United States Government sent a number of large tents to be used as temporary dispensaries, food distribution points, and reception centres. An allotment of \$20,000 was made by the Co-ordinator to assist the Government of Somalia to defray ongoing costs of the relief operation.

67. A feature of this emergency was the Government of Ethiopia's giving information about recorded rainfall in the relevant catchment areas in an effort to assist the Government of Somalia to forecast the risk of further flooding.

Turkey

68. In the latter part of 1977 increasing concern was felt by the Government of Turkey about the rapid spread of malaria in the eastern part of the country. During October 1977 the Government declared an emergency and, at the Government's request, the WHO Regional Office launched an appeal for \$3.8 million to buy materials needed for an extensive anti-malaria campaign during the remainder of 1977 and also in 1978. To this appeal \$1.3 million was subscribed by the beginning of 1978. At that time the Government and WHO asked the Co-ordinator to reinforce the earlier appeal, and a request was accordingly addressed by the Co-ordinator to a number of potential donors. The Government itself provided \$16 million to meet the in-country costs of the campaign. Responses to the WHO and UNDRO appeals together by 31 March 1978 had amounted in cash or supplies to just over \$2 million, from the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia. There were also contributions in kind valued at \$612,000 from the European Economic Community, \$165,000 from UNICEF, \$86,500 from WHO and \$20,000 from UNDP.

2. Pre-disaster planning

69. A six-month disaster preparedness mission began in Somalia in August 1977. The expert advised the Government on the establishment and improvement of its national organization for disaster preparedness and relief at the national, regional and local levels, and assisted in identifying areas where preventive measures might be applied.

70. In Ethiopia, despite a good response to appeals for food assistance, severe food shortages persisted in several parts of the country because of the difficulties of distribution. Many thousands of tons of grain were in warehouses or waiting to be unloaded at Assab, the last open port, but insufficient transport could be found to move it. United Nations officials in the country obtained agreement to a project for setting up a separate truck fleet devoted entirely to food transport, and under the control of an internationally recruited manager. An UNDRO staff member, accompanied by an expert assigned by the Swiss Government, visited Ethiopia to examine the project. Early in December 1977 the Co-ordinator addressed a special appeal to a number of donor countries for financial support. The Swedish

International Development Agency gave \$3.4 million and the United States Government \$2 million; these funds enabled orders to be placed for 94 of the 150 trucks which, it had been calculated, would be needed for the programme.

71. A one-month mission in flood prevention in Romania was carried out by an UNDR0 expert in October and November 1977. The consultant worked with the National Water Council and the Institutes of Research and Planning into Water Resources and of Meteorology and Hydrology. He visited those parts of the country most seriously affected by the 1974-1975 floods and, having observed the energetic measures now being taken by the authorities, formulated recommendations for later technical co-operation missions to reinforce particular aspects of the national programme.

72. In January 1978 the national Director (designate) of Civil Defence in Upper Volta began a six-month training programme with the Sécurité civile in France. The costs of this course are being met by UNDR0.

3. Meetings

73. UNDR0 was represented at the third session of the WMO Regional Association I Tropical Cyclone Committee for the Southwest Indian Ocean, held in Mauritius in September 1977.

C. Asia and the Pacific

1. Disaster emergencies

Indonesia

74. A very strong earthquake followed by tsunamis rocked the Nusa Tenggara Islands of eastern Indonesia on 19 August 1977. The strength of the earthquake was measured variously at 7.7 and 8.3, and even at one European observatory at 8.9, on the Richter scale. Its epicentre was believed to be under the sea, about 100 kilometres southwest of the Island of Sumba. The main effects were felt on Sumba, Sumbawa and Lombok Islands immediately to the west, but some buildings were damaged on Bali, even further away, killing two people. Office workers also evacuated swaying buildings in Perth, Western Australia, some 3,000 kilometres to the south, but no damage or casualties were reported in Australia.

75. Shock damage occurred to buildings on Lombok, and tsunamis hit the south coasts of Lombok, Sumba and Sumbawa. Casualties were officially reported as 111 dead and 89 missing. The value of material damage was estimated at approximately \$200,000.

76. The Department of Social Affairs of the Indonesian Government initiated relief action and allocated \$24,100 plus 400 tons of food and several thousand items of clothing to assist the estimated 20,000 people who lost their homes. With the assistance of the Indonesian Red Cross and the United Nations and voluntary agencies working in Indonesia, the Government was able to handle the relief operation. The

Co-ordinator allocated \$19,300 for relief work, and Indonesian voluntary agencies and private sources gave \$31,400. Spontaneous contributions amounting to \$20,000 were also made by other Governments.

India

77. Between 12 and 22 November 1977 southern India was hit by two cyclones and a severe cyclonic storm which posed very serious emergency relief and reconstruction problems for the state and central governments.

78. The first cyclone struck the state of Tamil Nadu on 12 November. Its effects were felt from Madurai in the south to Chingleput (near Madras) in the north. A storm surge containing waves two metres high added to the destruction wrought by the winds. Warnings issued by the area cyclone warning centre resulted in a lower loss of life than might otherwise have occurred, but none the less 560 people were killed and 106 were reported missing. Material damage was estimated to have cost \$194 million.

79. The second cyclone, which devastated large areas in the state of Andhra Pradesh on 19 November, was reported to have been the worst in the area since 1864, when a similar disaster took 35,000 lives. Winds of up to 150 kph and waves which were reported as being between 3 and 6 metres high created havoc; assessments of damage and casualties were being revised upwards many days after the event. By the end of November the death toll was feared to have been at least 25,000. Many coastal villages disappeared completely. No final evaluation of damage in Andhra Pradesh was made public by the Government.

80. On 21 and 22 November a severe storm passed the Lakshadweep Islands and struck the southwestern coast of India to the north of Mangalore. Fishing boats were wrecked and houses damaged, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

81. From the outset the Government of India undertook relief work without appealing for help from abroad, although it was announced that the Government welcomed all voluntary assistance from the international community. The state governments also started relief operations but in the face of the magnitude of the tasks their resources were insufficient. Valuable aid was given by UNICEF, whose representative was immediately authorized to use \$225,000 of UNICEF funds and the initial \$20,000 grant made available by UNDRO for local purchases of blankets, clothing and cooking utensils. A later grant of \$10,220 was made by UNDRO for the same purposes, from contributions received from private sources. The American voluntary agencies, CARE, Catholic Relief Services and Church World Service, undertook major relief programmes. The World Council of Churches as well as other church groups, supported by generous donations from overseas, also moved to assist.

82. International aid supplemented a major relief operation by the Indian Red Cross Society, which was supported in its turn by national Red Cross societies many of which responded to the appeal made by the League of Red Cross Societies. During the immediate post-disaster period, UNDRO issued a series of reports and provided information on the situation as it developed and on contributions known to have been made by donor Governments, organizations and voluntary agencies. Total assistance known to UNDRO was \$17,076,872.

Republic of Korea

83. Serious floods accompanied by landslides occurred in the Seoul area between 8 and 11 July 1977. Over 200 people were killed and nearly 500 injured. About 70,000 people were made homeless.
84. UNDR0 offered its assistance, but this was not needed. The Government, with help from voluntary agencies including the Korean National Red Cross Society and the Korean Council of Churches, brought relief quickly and effectively to all victims. The United States provided helicopters and other support to relief operations.
85. The UNDP Resident Representative in Seoul reported very efficient action by the Government of the Republic of Korea to deal with this serious disaster and its aftermath.

Philippines

86. Typhoon "UNDING" (or "KIM") hit the northernmost Philippine Island of Luzon in the morning of 14 November 1977. Because of effective early warnings, schools were closed, aircraft operations were halted, and civil and military aircraft were flown to safe airfields.
87. The typhoon did not cause the extensive flooding which usually accompanies the passage of these storms over the central Luzon plain. Nevertheless, some 9,000 hectares of crops awaiting harvesting were destroyed and quite serious damage was caused to dwellings, public buildings and communications. Some 6,000 people were rendered temporarily homeless, and six people were reported to have lost their lives.
88. During the passage of the storm an earth tremor was recorded in northern Luzon, but no damage or casualties were reported to have resulted. The city of Manila was affected only by the edge of the typhoon, but the situation there was aggravated by a fire in the Filipinas Hotel which caused the death of 47 people.
89. Relief to the typhoon victims was provided from national resources by the Armed Forces, the Philippines Red Cross, and other voluntary agencies under the direction of the National Disaster Control Centre.

Tonga

90. The Haapai group, which consists of the poorest islands in the Tonga archipelago, was struck by tropical cyclone "ERNIE" on 21 February 1978. The cyclone seriously damaged newly planted food crops, fruit trees, and affected some 11,000 people, many of them children. The food situation had already been rendered critical by a drought late in 1977 and another cyclone in January 1978.
91. UNDR0 allocated \$10,000 for the local purchase and immediate distribution of urgently needed food such as skimmed milk and canned meat. The League of Red Cross Societies sent vitamin tablets to help to overcome a widespread vitamin deficiency.

2. Pre-disaster planning

92. Details on relief directly mobilized by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator during the period covered in this report will be found in annex II.

93. The Government of Bangladesh, pursuing its efforts to improve its readiness for disaster, and in collaboration with UNDP and UNDRO, drew up plans which envisaged the use of 200 shallow-draught emergency rescue boats in relief operations. Procedures were also established for the care and maintenance and other uses of the boats when not required for emergency duties. The Co-ordinator issued an appeal based on these plans to a number of Governments for assistance to enable the project to be realized. The total cost for hull construction was estimated at \$1,213,300. At the time this report was written, contributions in cash totalling \$285,461 had been received from the Governments of Norway, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, and the Government of Sweden had promised to supply sufficient outboard engines to equip up to 200 boats. The UNDP is undertaking a supervisory role in the project on behalf of UNDRO.

94. During a two-week preliminary mission in Nepal, a team of two experts from the Japanese Government examined the general situation for disaster prevention and assessed needs for a longer-term mission to assist the Government in establishing policies for preventive measures, with particular reference to floods and landslides. As a follow-up to the recommendations made in the report, a one-year mission by a Japanese hydrologist/geologist experienced in disaster prevention administration began in January 1978. This mission also is funded by the Japanese Government.

95. Arrangements were completed for a fellowship candidate from Madagascar to make a one-month study tour in India on cyclone warning and forecasting systems, and related preparedness arrangements. The trainee arrived in India in October 1977, and visited centres of the Indian Meteorological Department at Poona, Madras, Hyderabad, Calcutta and New Delhi.

3. Meetings

96. A meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives from the Asia and Pacific region was conducted by UNDRO in Manila in April 1977. In common with similar meetings held in the previous year, the purpose was to afford an opportunity to the resident representatives to learn more of their responsibilities in disaster matters and to have an exchange of views between themselves and with UNDRO staff.

97. UNDRO was represented at the fourth session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, held in Dacca in April 1977.

98. UNDRO, WHO, the International Union of Architects and the International Hospital Federation conducted a seminar on Emergency Care in Natural Disasters in Manila from 13 to 17 March 1978. Participants came from developing countries under fellowships provided by WHO and representatives attended from several international

organizations, including the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Civil Defense Organization, as well as a number of voluntary agencies.

99. The objective of this joint meeting was to strengthen national capacities for disaster relief prevention and mitigation, primarily through exchange of experience and discussion of common problems. The agenda included the implications of emergency medical care and services in different types of disaster situations; aspects of disaster relief; preparedness and prevention in emergency care; stockpiling medical supplies and equipment, and physical planning and medical facilities; and the role of various medical services before, during and after an emergency care situation.

D. Activities without specific regional application

1. Disaster applications of satellite technology

100. A training seminar was held in Baku, USSR, in October 1977 for participants from 25 disaster-prone developing countries. The objective was to provide practical training in the methods and techniques of remote-sensing of the earth's resources, the environment and natural disasters, as well as to transmit theoretical knowledge to the trainees. UNDRO's presentation at the seminar emphasized the objective of meeting the needs of developing countries to mitigate the impact of natural disasters by the use of the methods being taught.

101. UNDRO was represented at the twentieth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held at Vienna in June 1977, and also at the meetings of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of COPUOS in New York in February 1978. During the latter meetings a question was raised concerning the possible or desirable role which might be played by the United Nations so as to enhance the level of safety of operation of satellites with radioactive materials. Such a role might also embrace international emergency response operations after the re-entry and impact of a satellite of this kind, and include the search, recovery and clean-up stages. It was observed that the memorandum of understanding between UNDRO and IAEA dealt with this possibility under the general heading of accidents of all types involving radioactive material.

2. International Conference on Disaster Area Housing

102. The Co-ordinator attended and addressed the International Conference on Disaster Area Housing which was held in Istanbul between 4 and 10 September 1977. This was a privately sponsored meeting, but it made a number of recommendations to the United Nations. While those recommendations are being examined by UNDRO and UNIDO, acceptance would have considerable budgetary implications and for this reason it is unlikely that any action could be initiated before the 1982-1983 biennium, even if it were thought desirable to do so.

3. International Congress on Disaster Medicine

103. The International Congress on Disaster Medicine was held in Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany, from 30 September to 3 October 1977. The meeting brought together medical specialists from all regions of the world to discuss improvements in emergency and critical medical care in disaster situations. The Co-ordinator delivered an inaugural address at the Congress. The objectives of the Congress were "to foster the optimal employment of methods of resuscitation and life support in order to preserve meaningful life and alleviate suffering in disasters throughout the world; to correlate data, experiences and views on disaster medicine in order to formulate international recommendations on emergency medicine, aspects of disaster planning and emergency relief measures".

4. International Conference of the Red Cross

104. The International Conference of the Red Cross met in October 1977 in Bucharest. It was attended by 700 delegates from Governments and national Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies. The Co-ordinator addressed the Conference and also presented a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

105. Apart from its resolution on the promotion of measures designed to expedite international relief assistance (see para. 26 above), the Conference also adopted resolutions on "the Red Cross and Famine", and the "provision of visas for delegates, appointed in connection with appeals for assistance in time of disaster". It approved certain changes in the "Principles and Rules for Red Cross Relief Operations", and called for the preparation of guidelines to include nurses in disaster preparedness and relief activities. Recognizing the importance of communications, the Conference requested appropriate bodies to improve the effectiveness of the Red Cross emergency radio network, in particular by providing additional frequencies.

106. In their discussions on emergency relief activities the participants emphasized the importance and value of close co-operation with UNDRO.

5. International Advisory Committee on Earthquake Risk

107. This Committee was established by resolution of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Assessment and Mitigation of Earthquake Risk, held in Paris in February 1976.

108. The principal function of the Committee, which met for the first time in December 1977, is to advise UNESCO, UNDRO, and, whenever appropriate, other agencies, institutions and programmes of the United Nations system, and through them the Member States, on how best to engage the wide range of relevant disciplines and how to achieve the most effective combination of scientific and administrative action in a concerted attack on the problem of earthquake risk and its mitigation.

109. It advises UNESCO and UNDRO on the implementation of the recommendations and resolutions contained in the report of the Paris meetings, and assists in the preparation of a long-term programme of interdisciplinary research and international co-operation.

ANNEX I

Status of UNDRO trust fund and subaccounts as at 31 March 1978

Table 1. Summary of income and expenditure of UNDRO trust funds from 1 January 1976 to 31 March 1978

| | Total | Strengthening capability of UNDRO | Emergency assistance | Technical assistance |
|--|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | (in United States dollars) | | | |
| Unencumbered balance of funds as at 1 January 1976 | 1 074 150 | 1 025 903 | | 48 247 |
| Income (1 January 1976- 31 December 1977) | 2 373 351 | 1 762 982 | 5 393 | 604 976 |
| Subtotal | 3 447 501 | 2 788 885 | 5 393 | 653 223 |
| Less expenditures 1 January 1976- 31 December 1977 | 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 |
| Income (1 January- 31 March 1978) | 786 413 | 779 221 | - | 7 192 |
| Subtotal | 1 772 146 | 1 367 121 | 5 393 | 399 632 |
| Less expenditures 1 January- 31 March 1978 | 183 671 | 173 996 | - | 9 675 |
| Unencumbered balance of funds as at 31 March 1978 | 1 588 475 | 1 193 125 | 5 393 | 389 957 |

Table 2. Income and expenditure for the 1976-1977 biennium

| | Total | Strengthening capability of UNDRO | Emergency assistance | Technical assistance |
|---|-----------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (in United States dollars) | | | | |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | |
| <u>Contributions from Governments</u> | | | | |
| Barbados | 993 | | 993 | |
| Belgium | 111 951 | 111 951 | | |
| Denmark | 35 000 | 35 000 | | |
| Ethiopia | 5 000 | | | 5 000 |
| France | 50 000 | 25 000 | | 25 000 |
| Germany, Federal Republic of | 48 247 | | | 48 247 <u>a/</u> |
| Jamaica | 4 400 | | 4 400 | |
| Netherlands | 601 843 | 461 143 | | 140 700 |
| New Zealand | 19 561 | 19 561 | | |
| Norway | 153 357 | | | 153 357 |
| Sweden | 474 576 | 237 288 | | 237 288 |
| Switzerland | 60 333 | 60 333 | | |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 200 026 | 187 096 | | 12 930 |
| United States of America | 500 000 | 500 000 | | |
| Subtotals | 2 265 287 | 1 637 372 | 5 393 | 622 522 |
| Interest income | 137 182 | 106 839 | | 30 343 |
| Miscellaneous income | 19 129 | 18 771 | | 358 |
| Total income | 2 421 598 | 1 762 982 | 5 393 | 653 223 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | | | |
| Salaries and common staff costs | 1 968 593 | 1 759 864 | | 208 729 |
| Travel | 163 677 | 163 677 | | |
| Contractual services | 45 892 | 25 893 | | 19 999 |
| General operating expenses | 98 722 | 97 818 | | 904 |
| Equipment and supplies | 164 433 | 153 733 | | 10 700 |
| Fellowships | 20 451 | | | 20 451 |
| Total expenditure | 2 461 768 | 2 200 985 | | 260 783 <u>b/</u> |

/...

Table 3. Income and expenditure for the 1978-1979 biennium
January to March 1978

| | Total | Strengthening capability of UNDRO | Emergency assistance | Technical assistance |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | (in United States dollars) | | | |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | |
| <u>Contributions from Governments</u> | | | | |
| Australia | 110 215 | 110 215 | | |
| Denmark | 52 297 | 52 297 | | |
| Iran | 5 000 | 5 000 | | |
| Netherlands | 200 000 | 200 000 | | |
| Norway | 49 395 | 49 395 | | |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 96 339 | 96 339 | | |
| United States of America | 250 000 | 250 000 | | |
| Subtotals | 763 246 | 763 246 | - | - |
| Interest income | 20 953 | 13 761 | | 7 192 |
| Miscellaneous income | 2 214 | 2 214 | | - |
| Total income | 786 413 | 779 221 | - | 7 192 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | | | |
| Salaries and common staff costs | 158 770 | 158 535 | | 235 |
| Contractual services | 11 000 | 11 000 | | - |
| General operating expenses | 4 501 | 4 461 | | 40 |
| Fellowships | 9 400 | - | | 9 400 |
| Total expenditure | 183 671 | 173 996 | - | 9 675 b/ |

(Foot-notes to tables on following page)

(Foot-notes to tables)

a/ At the request of the donor, an amount of \$48,247 was transferred from the donor's 1975 contribution to the Trust Fund for Strengthening of UNDR0 to the subaccount for technical assistance.

b/ The total of these expenditures are recapitulated below by country. It should be noted that most of the expenditures under \$1,000 relate to daily subsistence of experts required to stop en route to various missions for consultation purposes.

| <u>Technical assistance projects</u> | <u>1976-1977</u> | <u>January/March 1978</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Afghanistan | 23,333 | |
| Bangladesh | 2,669 | |
| Bolivia | 4,002 | |
| Costa Rica | 5,683 | |
| Dominican Republic | 23,195 | |
| Ecuador | 300 | |
| Egypt | 20,411 | |
| El Salvador | 2,328 | |
| Greece | 3,996 | |
| Guatemala | 195 | |
| Honduras | 373 | |
| Morocco | 448 | |
| Nepal | 500 | |
| Philippines | 39,588 | |
| Romania | 4,221 | |
| Somalia | 22,389 | 275 |
| Yemen | <u>13,577</u> | |
| | <u>167,208</u> | <u>275</u> |
| <u>Seminars</u> | | |
| Philippines | - | 8,000 |
| Fiji | 7,000 | - |
| Turkey | <u>6,500</u> | - |
| | <u>13,500</u> | <u>8,000</u> |
| <u>Fellowships</u> | | |
| Madagascar | 2,455 | - |
| Upper Volta | <u>4,500</u> | <u>1,400</u> |
| | <u>6,955</u> | <u>1,400</u> |
| <u>Special projects</u> | | |
| United Kingdom contributions | | |
| Sudan | 12,113 | |
| Ethiopia | <u>884</u> | |
| | 12,997 | - |
| Netherlands contributions | | |
| Bolivia | 10,700 | |
| Study on emergency shelter | <u>49,423</u> | |
| | <u>60,123</u> | - |
| Total | <u>260,783</u> | <u>9,675</u> |

ANNEX II

Relief directly mobilized by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator a/

| Number | Country | Date | UNDRO allocation from United Nations funds | Contributions channelled through UNDRO (in United States dollars) |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|--|---|
| (Disasters numbered 1-91 are reported in the annexes to documents A/10079, A/31/88 and A/32/64) | | | 1 055 987 | 27 872 915 |
| Additional donations, 1 April 1977 to 31 March 1978 in respect of disasters reported earlier | | | | |
| 86 | Turkey (earthquake) | | | 180 500 <u>b/</u> |
| 91 | Romania (earthquake) | | | 8 563 <u>c/</u> |
| 92 | Peru (floods) | April 1977 | 4 749 | |
| 93 | Haiti (drought) | April 1977 | | |
| 94 | Somalia (smallpox) | May 1977 | | |
| 95 | Oman (hurricane) | June 1977 | 20 000 | |
| 96 | Indonesia (earthquake) | August 1977 | 19 278 | |
| 97 | Upper Volta (floods) | October 1977 | 17 000 | |
| 98 | St. Vincent (rainstorms) | October 1977 | 20 000 | |
| 99 | India (cyclones) | November 1977 | 20 000 | 10 220 |
| 100 | Ethiopia (floods) | November 1977 | 20 000 | |
| 101 | Somalia (floods) | November 1977 | 20 000 | |
| 102 | Peru (floods) | November 1977 | 17 000 | |
| 103 | Turkey (malaria) | January 1978 | | |
| 104 | Tonga (cyclone) | February 1978 | 10 000 | |
| | | | <u>1 224 014</u> | <u>28 072 198</u> |

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

b/ Total cash contributions for Turkey now \$414,222.

c/ Total cash contributions for Romania now \$163,409.



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Thirty-third session
Item 59 of the preliminary list*

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 13 April 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement presented by Fiji at the joint African, Caribbean and Pacific and European Economic Community Ministerial Meeting held at Brussels on 13 and 14 March 1978.

In view of its relevance to General Assembly resolution 32/185, entitled "Action programme in favour of developing island countries", I should be grateful if the text of the statement could be circulated as a document of the Assembly under item 59 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) B. VUNIBOBO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Fiji
to the United Nations

DIVISION
DI. 104
OF
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS

* A/33/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement presented by Fiji on developing island countries

1. The special problems and needs of developing island countries have been the subject of specific studies by the United Nations and, in particular, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), since 1972. At its fourth session, held at Nairobi in May 1976, UNCTAD adopted resolution 98 (IV) which, inter alia, summarized the particular problems of developing island countries as follows:

"Many developing island countries face major difficulties in respect of transport and communications and their distance from market centres and are therefore seriously hampered in their economic development. Frequently, the smallness of their economies and markets, low resource endowment and heavy dependence on a few commodities for their foreign-exchange earnings are further and particularly important impediments." a/

2. Smallness in physical size and resources are a constraint to the development of developing island countries. To supplement their meagre national resources there is a heavy dependence on foreign trade and on overseas aid.
3. Developing island countries very often are made up of a number of small islands. This poses the whole problem of viability and dependence of each island. There is also the difficult problem of providing regular transportation and communication within the island group.
4. The isolation of a developing island country from the rest of the world creates uncertainty to potential investors because of lack of knowledge of the country. It also limits the developing island country's ability to compete with other similar economies not only for markets but also for attraction of foreign capital.
5. There is heavy dependence on regular and efficient international sea and air transportation. But distance from major markets exposes a developing island country to high external transport costs and international inflation. Regular increases in freight rates, coupled with global inflation, have led to serious balance-of-payment problems and high unemployment.
6. Heavy dependence for export income on one or two agricultural products makes a developing island country very vulnerable to international price fluctuations and to serious production problems where there is regular exposure to natural disasters.

a/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10), part one, sect. A, resolution 98 (IV), para. 38.

7. UNCTAD resolution 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976 called on the United Nations system and on developed countries to implement special measures and specific action, respectively, in favour of the least developed countries and the land-locked and developing island countries as supplementary action to the general measures applicable to all developing countries in the spirit of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)).

8. In developing island countries, the potential to generate export-oriented economic activity must be limited - hence the widening trade gap. But there is unused capacity - particularly in processing agricultural products. Developing countries claim the inhibiting factor for progress is the lack of assured access. Developed countries claim it is a production and marketing problem. Both are probably right. But developing countries have more to lose from unmarketed commodities than developed countries from unsatisfied access and perhaps the latter should make the first step. This cannot be solved at commercial level and will require positive high-level political action. It is the sort of problem the African, Caribbean and Pacific and European Economic Community Joint Council of Ministers is uniquely capable of solving. There would also have to be recognition that each arrangement should be non-reciprocal and preferential. But even preferential and non-reciprocal access can, in developing island countries, be nullified or at least seriously impaired by heavy freight rates and this is an area where developed countries could realistically channel aid. While there is a ready recognition of countries' own responsibilities to maximize their own efforts and resources, there is little gain in doubling production if prices are halved.

9. For some countries, the economic activity generated by aid inputs is disappointing. Capital grants engender high recurrent costs; ministers and senior officials spend a disproportionate time on aid application and processing. A few variants in present philosophy and procedures such as the following, would make a striking difference:

(a) Donors should recognize that requests arise from carefully integrated plans; Governments can be relied on to implement them without continued checking and supervision;

(b) Maximum authority to commit donor Governments on the spot should be given to visiting aid missions;

(c) Documentation should be reduced to a minimum;

(d) Donors should be ready to supply professional and technical experts for line positions at the request of States which, by their very smallness, find these posts hard to fill;

(e) The transfer of intermediate technology should be increased.

10. The extent to which small island countries are prone to natural disasters is

hard to exaggerate. An effort has been made to hold this paper to wide general application but perhaps one small example may be permitted from the Pacific. Since 1875 Fiji (which comprises 320 islands) has experienced some 125 hurricanes and cyclones. Of these, two thirds have hit one particular group of islands. Coconut trees - almost the sole cash crops - have been devastated and houses laid low. Freight subsidies and price subsidies are of little benefit to those who have nothing to sell or send to market centres. Still less have they the means of rehabilitating themselves in their plantations and their homes. It should also be remembered that, although some small developing island States have an impressively high per capita income averaged over-all, the per capita income in their rural areas is very low. It is necessary, therefore, to be more discriminating in identifying the actual areas of countries which are seeking help. In this connexion, the appendix to this paper gives some indication of this problem in Fiji, since this is the only country where we have the detailed information; however, other countries can also doubtless give examples. For instance, it is understood that when the Bahamas excluded expatriate earnings etc., the country was shown to have a GNP similar to that of Barbados rather than rank fourth in the World Bank ratings.

11. These are some of the special problems of small developing island States - based, admittedly, on Pacific experience - but it is believed that in other areas similar problems exist.

12. The United Nations has called on all Governments, in particular those of the developed countries, to implement specific action envisaged in favour of developing island countries, as well as of the least developed and land-locked developing countries. At its thirty-second regular session, the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 32/185 which, inter alia, called on Governments, in particular those of the developed countries, to take fully into account the special problems of developing island countries. The resolution also urged all United Nations organizations to identify and implement appropriate specific action in favour of developing island countries, particularly in the fields of transport and communications, trade and commercial policies, industrialization, tourism, the transfer of technology, marine and submarine resources development, the flow of external resources, environment protection and response to natural disasters.

13. It is hoped that, in promoting programmes of economic co-operation and development assistance to developing countries, the United Nations system and developed countries will recognize the special problems and needs of developing island countries by extending to them the same treatment that is being granted to the least developed and land-locked developing countries.

Appendix

Table 1

Distribution of 1976 GDP (in current prices) by industrial origin and by geographical area

| Field | All Fiji | Suva-Nausori | Rest of Viti Levu | Vanua Levu | Islands |
|---|--|--------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| | (millions of Fijian dollars) <u>a/</u> | | | | |
| Agriculture . . . | 91.4 | 2.5 | 66.3 | 16.7 | 5.9 |
| Mining | 6.7 | 0.6 | 6.1 | - | - |
| Manufacturing . . | 66.8 | 30.6 | 28.9 | 7.3 | - |
| Utilities | 9.3 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 0.7 | - |
| Construction . . | 27.7 | 16.9 | 9.3 | 1.5 | - |
| Commerce | 85.2 | 43.0 | 36.5 | 3.1 | 2.6 |
| Transport | 44.6 | 29.7 | 13.9 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| Services | 114.2 | 66.3 | 37.7 | 9.4 | 0.8 |
| Total | <u>445.9</u> | <u>193.8</u> | <u>203.1</u> | <u>39.6</u> | <u>9.4</u> |
| Indirect taxes (millions of Fijian dollars) | 50.0 | 26.0 | 19.2 | 4.2 | 0.6 |
| GDP (millions of Fijian dollars) | 495.9 | 219.8 | 222.3 | 43.8 | 10.0 |
| Population (thousands) . . | 588 | 130 | 308 | 103 | 47 |
| Per capita GDP . | \$F 843 | \$F 1 691 | \$F 722 | \$F 425 | \$F 213 |

a/ \$F 1 = approximately \$US 1.1554.

Table 2

Distribution of 1976 GDP in current prices by
 industrial origin and by three main regions

| Field | Viti Levu | Vanua Levu | Outer islands |
|--|--|---------------|------------------|
| | (millions of Fijian dollars) <u>a/</u> | | |
| Agriculture | 68.8 | 16.7 | 5.9 |
| Mining | 6.7 | - | - |
| Manufacturing | 59.5 | 7.3 | - |
| Utilities | 8.6 | 0.7 | - |
| Construction | 26.2 | 1.5 | - |
| Commerce | 79.5 | 3.1 | 2.6 |
| Transport | 43.6 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| Services | 104.0 | 9.4 | 0.8 |
| Total | <u>396.9</u> | <u>39.6</u> | <u>9.4</u> |
| Indirect taxes (millions of Fijian dollars) | 45.2 | 4.2 | 0.6 |
| GDP (millions of Fijian dollars) | 442.1 | 43.8 | 10.0 |
| Population (thousands) | 438 | 103 | 47 |
| <u>Per capita GDP</u> | \$F 1 009 | \$F 425 | \$F 213 |

a/ \$F 1 = approximately \$US 1.1554.
