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Report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of
General Assembly resolution 2790 (XXVI) and Security Council
resolution 307 (1971)

Addendum

1. The report of the Secretary-General dated 28 April 1972 (A/8662/Add.1-S/10539/Add.1) gave an account of the United Nations effort for the relief of the people of Bangladesh and, on the basis of the report of the mission of United Nations consultants headed by Ambassador Erna Sailer, provided an analysis of requirements, priorities and objectives and set out an immediate relief programme for the period ending 31 March 1973. The report emphasized that the scale of destruction and disruption in Bangladesh was vast though estimates were of necessity uncertain, and that the available data would have to be reviewed and refined in the light of developments in a fluid situation. The Secretary-General pointed out that the emergency was by no means over and that a considerable effort was still needed to meet even the minimum goals of relief for the people of Bangladesh. 1/

2. Towards the end of May 1972, the Secretary-General made a renewed assessment of the situation concerning vitally needed relief supplies, especially foodgrains, having in mind among other things that the monsoon had started about 10 days earlier than expected. This assessment was based on up-to-date information supplied by the Government of Bangladesh and by Mr. Victor Umbricht, the Chief of Mission of the United Nations relief operation in Dacca (UNROD), analysed in the light of the estimates and projections contained in the Sailer report. The situation may be summed up as follows:

1/ A/8662/Add.1 (Part I)-S/10539/Add.1 (Part I), para. 31.

Foodgrain stocks in Bangladesh at the end of May 1972 (estimated)	200,000 tons
Domestic production from June through November (estimated)	4,140,000 tons
Shipments from committed import pledges, through UNROD and bilateral sources	<u>856,000 tons</u>
Total availabilities	5,196,000 tons

Against the above availabilities, requirements for total national consumption at the rate of 15 ounces per capita per day amount to 5,940,000 tons. To this should be added 600,000 tons for replenishment of stocks at three months' offtake level, giving a total requirement of 6,540,000 tons.

3. The difference between total requirements and availabilities is therefore 1,344,000 tons for the period June through November. Domestic production normally remains low during that period, with the maximum seasonal upturn concentrated in December and January, when the aman harvest is gathered. Unless urgent action is taken in response to the Secretary-General's appeal, serious shortages are expected to develop between August and November. To avoid a crisis situation, the Secretary-General, on the basis of recommendations submitted by the Chief of Mission of UNROD after extensive consultations with the appropriate authorities of the Government of Bangladesh, has determined the following minimum additional import pattern (see attached chart):

- 120,000 tons in July;
- 280,000 tons in August;
- 240,000 tons in September;
- 240,000 tons in October;
- 160,000 tons in November.

4. In light of the above, the Secretary-General on 31 May 1972 made a further appeal, on behalf of the people of Bangladesh, to a selected group of potential donor countries for 1 million tons of foodgrains to be delivered between the months of July and November, in addition to the supplies of grain already donated or pledged. The Secretary-General pointed out that the effects of destruction and dislocation in Bangladesh brought about by war and by the cyclone which preceded it were only now becoming fully apparent. In terms of human lives this vast tragedy is represented by the deaths of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, and by human suffering on a vast scale. In material terms the destruction seems to be endless. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General stressed that in the light of the figures, his appeal was a conservative one and was strictly limited to those supplies and services regarded as essential to sustain the lives of the 75 million people of Bangladesh and to repair vital services. This policy of asking only for essential assistance would continue to be strictly adhered to until the United Nations relief operation had completed its task.

5. The Secretary-General was satisfied that the additional 1 million tons of grain could be handled effectively given the complex and variable conditions under which all concerned were compelled to operate. He observed, however, that a successful response to his new appeal would need to be integrated very carefully with current operations. He therefore made a specific request to all donor Governments that they should consult in Dacca with the Government of Bangladesh and with the Chief of the UNROD mission, as well as in New York with Sir Robert Jackson and his staff, to ensure that detailed plans were worked out in advance of any shipping arrangements.
6. The Secretary-General pointed out that those States which could not provide grain could help in other practical ways, such as meeting transport and other essential operating costs, which were estimated at approximately 20 per cent of the value of foodgrains. At least \$10 million in new cash contributions for UNROD's essential operations (including the use of minibulkers, barges and other craft on charter, etc.) would be of the greatest value.
7. The Secretary-General noted that countries which were geographically closest to Bangladesh, and which were also producers of foodgrains, were in the best position to respond most quickly to the current emergency, provided the necessary supplies and transport facilities could be made available when needed. If these countries could supply additional assistance without delay, it would provide the necessary time for major grain-producing countries in other parts of the world to arrange shipments from their ports.
8. The Secretary-General expressed the hope that all States would assist the Government of Bangladesh to the best of their ability to preserve the lives of its people, and thus enable the United Nations to execute successfully the greatest relief operation ever entrusted to it.
9. The Secretary-General intends to make a final appeal for contributions to meet the essential relief requirements of Bangladesh towards the end of August, when the monsoon will be over, and when the Government of Bangladesh and UNROD will be in a position to make an even more realistic appreciation of the essential relief supplies and services that will be needed until the activities of UNROD end on 31 March 1973.

BANGLADESH

SCHEDULED ARRIVALS

1972

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

JUNE

JULY

AUG.

SEPT.

OCT.

NOV.

TOTAL

