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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to the Comoros

Report of the Secretary-General

1. On 1 December 1976, the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/42 in which it, inter alia, (a) urgently appealed to Member States and to the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to assist the Government of the Comoros in its efforts to deal with economic difficulties facing the country; (b) requested the Secretary-General to mobilize financial, technical and economic assistance from the international community to meet the country's short-term and long-term needs; and (c) requested the Committee for Development Planning to give favourable consideration to the question of including the Comoros in the list of least developed countries. The Secretary-General was further requested to keep the matter under review and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session on the implementation of this resolution.
2. The Secretary-General informed the heads of all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of the contents of resolution 31/42 and transmitted the text of the resolution to Member States, drawing their particular attention to the urgent appeal it contained. Action was also taken to bring to the attention of the Committee for Development Planning the specific request addressed to it by the General Assembly.
3. Furthermore, the Secretary-General sent a mission in May 1977 to the Comoros to consult with the Government on the nature and extent of the country's essential needs and to ascertain the priority areas for action by the international community. The draft report of the Mission has confirmed the grave economic difficulties facing the country. As soon as it is finalized, the Mission's report will be issued as an addendum to the present document and will be transmitted to all Governments and international agencies and organizations concerned. On the

\* A/32/150.

basis of the Mission's findings and recommendations, the Secretary-General intends to address an appeal to the international community for prompt and generous response to the specific needs of the country.

4. The Committee for Development Planning, at its thirteenth session held in April, considered the question of including the Comoros in the list of least developed countries. It concluded 1/ that the available data suggest that the Comoros could be included in the list as a borderline case.

5. The question of emergency assistance to the Comoros was also considered by the Economic and Social Council at its 2083rd meeting, on 29 July 1977. By its decision 252 (LXIII), the Council recommended that the Secretary-General should continue his efforts to mobilize further assistance from Member States and the United Nations system for the Comoros, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 31/42.

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5939), para. 83.