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### CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA

#### Note verbale dated 31 January 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations presents his compliments to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in connection with the efforts of the United Nations to help in the relief of hunger in the African countries, has the pleasure to convey, for His Excellency's information and for circulation to Member States, that the Government of Saudi Arabia has so far taken the following steps:

- A. The Government of Saudi Arabia declared during the Third Islamic Summit Conference, held at Mecca, the allocation of \$100 million for the implementation of an emergency assistance programme to the African Sahel States suffering from drought - \$15 million was allocated to secure emergency food products and the balance of \$85 million for water wells and rural development programmes in the Sahel region.
- B. On several occasions during the last three years, Royal decrees were issued granting some Sahel and other African States additional food supplies and extra funds for the expansion of water resource programmes. The total amount of this additional assistance was 172,400,000 Saudi Arabian riyals (3.5 riyals for 1 dollar).
- C. Relief for African refugees: In the last few years the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has contributed a total of 158,400,000 riyals to the African refugees programmes, in addition to 123,200,000 riyals, which was a contribution to the first and second International Conferences on Assistance to Refugees in Africa. Lately, Royal directives have established public committees to receive contributions from the citizens and transfer them to African organizations concerned with refugees and drought-affected communities.
- D. Last year, a Royal directive approved the allocation of another additional \$30 million to expand the actual projects of well-digging and rural improvement programmes in Sahel countries.