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ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER AND OTHER DISASTER
SITUATIONS

Report of the Second Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Luis LASCARRO (Colombia)

1. The General Assembly, at its 2237th plenary meeting on 21 September 1974, allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 60, entitled:

"Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations:

"(a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator: report of the Secretary-General;

"(b) Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine: report of the Secretary-General".

2. The Second Committee considered subitem (b) at its 1632nd and 1633rd meetings, on 18 and 19 November 1974. An account of the discussions of the Committee on the subitem is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/SR.1632 and 1633).

3. For its consideration of the subitem, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region (A/9733) and the report of the Secretary-General on aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine (A/9737). The Committee also had before it chapter III, section B, of the report of the Economic and Social Council. 1/

4. At the 1632nd meeting, on 18 November, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9603).

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the Upper Volta introduced, on behalf of Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Togo, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Yugoslavia and Zaire, a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1377) entitled "Consideration of the economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region". Subsequently, Brazil, France and Uganda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 1633rd meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Upper Volta introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1377/Rev.1) on behalf of the original sponsors and the Central African Republic, Guinea, Malaysia, Spain, Sweden and United Republic of Cameroon. Subsequently, Burundi, Colombia and Liberia joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution. In the revised draft resolution the changes were:

(a) The insertion of the following new operative paragraph 6 which read:

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to pursue with determination and in co-operation with the appropriate financial institutions and organizations, the action necessary to meet, in an effective and continuing manner, the requests for medium-term and long-term assistance formulated by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and by the Governments concerned;"

(b) The renumbering of former operative paragraph 6 as operative paragraph 7, and the replacement of the word "Requests" by the words "Further requests".

7. The Committee also had before it a statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications (A/C.2/L.1380) of the draft resolution, submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1377/Rev.1) without a vote (see para. 9 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Consideration of the economic and social situation in the
Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures
to be taken for the benefit of that region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973 and 3153 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1834 (LVI) of 14 May 1974, and 1874 (LVII) and 1876 (LVII) of 16 July 1974 concerning the situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region and the adjacent areas and the assistance to be given to the drought-stricken countries,

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Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1878 (LVII) of 16 July 1974, concerning the situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region and the assistance to be given to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region, 2/

Noting with satisfaction the part played by the Office for Sahelian Relief Operations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and by the United Nations Special Sahelian Office,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Governments, United Nations bodies, private organizations and individuals that have given assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian population;

2. Welcomes the establishment of a United Nations Sahelian Office in Ouagadougou, whose main functions are described in the report of the Secretary-General; 2/

3. Invites the Secretary-General to hasten the preparatory work on the establishment of a research institute for the arid Sahelian zone;

4. Recommends the establishment of a United Nations information centre at Ouagadougou, the headquarters of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, in view of the need to obtain directly on the spot information designed to maintain and intensify to the widest possible extent public awareness of the tragedy which has befallen the Sudano-Sahelian countries and to sustain the momentum of active and involved interest in the successful implementation of the programme as outlined by the Permanent Inter-State Committee;

5. Urges all Member States and United Nations bodies to intensify their efforts to attain the objectives stated in the relief and recovery programmes formulated by the countries concerned;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to pursue with determination, and in co-operation with the appropriate financial institutions and organizations, the action necessary to meet, in an effective and continuing manner, the requests for medium-term and long-term assistance formulated by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and by the Governments concerned;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to report periodically on the implementation of the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.
