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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of the draft  
resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.37

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with  
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 48th meeting on 23 November 1979, the Second Committee approved the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.37. It had before it a statement of financial implications (A/C.2/34/L.47 and Corr.1).
2. Under paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request that additional funds be provided in the regular budget of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for 1980-1981 to permit the Co-ordinator to respond to at least 12 requests for emergency disaster assistance in any one year with a normal ceiling of \$30,000 per country in the case of any one disaster.
3. A provision for \$400,000 for emergency disaster assistance has been made under the object of expenditure "Grants" in section 22 (Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. The provision envisages responding to at least 10 requests for emergency assistance a year with a maximum limit of \$20,000 each.
4. Should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution, an additional appropriation of \$320,000 would be required under the same object of expenditure in section 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 to permit the Co-ordinator to respond to at least 12 requests for emergency assistance a year with a ceiling of \$30,000 per country in the case of any one disaster.

5. It should be recalled that in response to the provision of General Assembly resolution 3440 (XXX), the trust fund to strengthen the capability of the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was expanded to provide instant emergency assistance for countries stricken by natural disasters. However, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report on the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 1/ very slow progress has been made in gaining support for this subaccount. The total contributions received since 1976 amount only to \$6,545.

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1/ A/34/190.