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North Korea-Food Aid, 1995-1996

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. report	re North Korea (8 pages)	05/22/1996	P1/b(1)
002. report	re North Korea (1 page)	05/11/1996	P1/b(1)
003. paper	re North Korea (7 pages)	00/00/1996	P1/b(1)
004. paper	re North Korea (3 pages)	12/28/1995	P1/b(1)

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FOLDER TITLE:

North Korea-Food Aid, 1995-1996

2009-0528-F

kc1512

RESTRICTION CODES

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*North
Korea***eap/k**Office of Korean Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

PHONE: (202) 647-7717 FAX: (202) 647-7388

DATE: *2/16/96*TO: *Eric Schwartz
Richard Ryan*

MESSAGE:

*Info on the conference I attended.**Smith Bagley did not participate but Janet**Shore represented ARCA. I'll call with**a readout on the part that I attended (parts
were closed to USG).*

**MERCY CORPS
INTERNATIONAL®**

**Humanitarian Aid to the DPRK
Musgrove Conference St. Simon's Island, Georgia
Participants**

Ambassador Harry Barnes, Jr., Director of Conflict Resolution and Human Rights Programs
The Carter Center

Jim Bishop, Director for Humanitarian Response
InterAction

Douglas Coutts, Director, North American Office
World Food Programme

Ells Culver, Senior Vice President
Mercy Corps International

Maitland DiPinto, Director for International Administrative Support
Adventist Development and Relief Agency

David Elder, Director of Asia Programs
American Friends Service Committee

Victor Hsu, Director, East Asia/Pacific Office, Church World Service and
Representative, Action by Churches Together (Geneva)

Dr. P. Kim Joo, Vice President
Agglobe Technologies

Anne Judge
Arca Foundation

Al Kehler, Project Director
Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Russell Kerr, Vice President for Relief and Rehabilitation
World Vision International

Don Krumm, Senior Advocate
Refugees International

Nancy Lindborg, Senior Program Officer
Mercy Corps International

Dr. Stephen Linton, Chairman
Eugene Bell Centennial Foundation

Dr. K.A. Namkung, Director, Conflict Resolution Program
Atlantic Council of the United States

Andrew Natsios, Executive Director, World Vision Relief and Development and
Co-Chair, InterAction Disaster Assistance Committee

Dan O'Brien, Director of Asia Programs
CARE

Tom Peterson, Communications Director
Heifer Project International

Mark Preslan, Project Manager, International Services
American Red Cross and International Federation of the Red Cross

Jens Schulthes, Regional Manager, Asia and Pacific Bureau
World Food Programme

Janet Shenk, Executive Director
Arca Foundation

Paul Thompson, President and CEO
Map International

Tetsunao Yamamori, CEO
Food for the Hungry

Conference Presenters:

Ann Kambara, Assistant Director for Economic Issues
Office of Korean Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
U.S. State Department (Saturday morning presentation)

C. Kenneth Quinones, North Korean Analyst
U.S. State Department (Saturday morning presentation)

Mission Counselors Ri Song Il and Hwang Pong Su
DPRK Mission to the United Nations (Saturday afternoon presentation)



Humanitarian Aid to the DPRK
Musgrove Conference St. Simons Island, Georgia
December 13-15, 1996

AGENDA

Friday, December 13

6:30 - 8:00 pm Cocktails and Dinner

8:00 - 9:30 pm

Welcome:

- Janet Shenk, Executive Director, Arca Foundation
- Ellis Culver, Senior Vice President, Mercy Corps International

Brief Reports from Participants:

- Current and Future Activities
- Desired Outcomes from this Conference *→ see agenda*
→ negotiations

Saturday, December 14

8:00 - 9:00 am

Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 am

Political/Social Context: U.S. Government Policy

- Ann Kambara, Assistant Director for Economic Issues,
Office of Korean Affairs, U.S. State Department
- C. Kenneth Quinones, North Korean Analyst, U.S. State Dept.

10:00 - 11:00 am

Update on Food Distribution Situation in DPRK

- Douglas Coutts, World Food Programme
- Jens Schulthes, World Food Programme

11:00 - 11:15 am

Coffee Break

11:15 am - 12:30 pm

South Korea, DPRK and the Korean Overseas Community

- Dr. Stephen Linton, Eugene Bell Foundation

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 - 2:45 pm

DPRK Domestic Food Production: Needs and Opportunities

- Dr. Pilju Kim Joo, Agronomist

2:45 - 3:00 pm

Break

3:00 - 4:15 pm

Panel Discussion: NGO Liaison Office in DPRK

Discussion facilitated by Douglas Coutts, World Food Programme

Panelists: Victor Hsu, CWS; Russell Kerr, WVI; Jens Schulthes, WFP

4:15 - 6:00 pm Free time
6:00 - 7:00 pm Presentation by representatives of the DPRK Mission to the UN
7:00 pm Cocktails and Dinner

Sunday, December 15

8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast
9:00 - 12 noon Next Steps: Where do we go from here?
(10:30 Break) Andrew Natsios, Co-Chair, InterAction Disaster Assistance Committee
Jim Bishop, Director for Humanitarian Response, InterAction
12 noon - 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Conference concludes

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE FOR SEA PALMS GUESTS**Friday, December 13**

5:30 - 6:30 pm
9:00 - 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 14

7:00 - 8:00 am
5:00 - 6:00 pm
9:00 - 10:00 pm

Sunday, December 15

7:00 - 8:00 am

All Sea Palms guests should plan to check out prior to coming for breakfast at Musgrove on Sunday morning (or Saturday morning for Saturday departures). Please bring your baggage with you to Musgrove in the morning, as all shuttles will depart from Musgrove, unless otherwise arranged.

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North Korea - Food.

DGB-FYI

~~SECRET~~ (Unclassified without attached Issue Paper)
(DECL: 12/18/2010)

TO: North Korea Economic IWG members

FROM: EAP/K - David Brown

SUBJECT: Meeting on North Korea Food Situation, Thursday,
January 4, 2 - 3 p.m., State Department rm 6210

The attached is an EAP/K produced paper to introduce our discussions. Please note that this paper has not been circulated and cleared in the interagency process and was drafted to facilitate our discussions on Thursday.

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Food Aid - North Korea
Korea



World Food
Programme

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Contact Numbers: Ph:(0039-8) 52282002 Telex: 626675 WFP I		<u>WFP FACSIMILE NUMBERS</u> (0039 - 8) 52282834 OED Office
Originator FROM: Office of the Executive Director, World Food Programme, Rome, Italy		<u>FOR CABLE UNIT ONLY</u> No. of Fax:
Addressee TO: Office of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs The White House Washington, DC	BASS Roth Suettinger clarke R Schwartz	
FAX NBR: 001 202 757 1330	FAX NBR:	
DATE : 20 December 1995	Page 1 of 22	

TEXT: PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED.

THANK YOU.

--	--



World Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

برنامج
الغذية
العالي

The Executive Director

19 December 1995

Mr. Anthony Lake
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, DC

Facsimile: 001-202-757-1330

Dear Mr. Lake:

I am writing to you about a matter of some urgency. The World Food Programme, the food aid arm of the United Nations, recently began operations within Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to assist roughly 500,000 people, mostly farmers and their families, left destitute by the worst flooding in a century. We advanced the first 5,000 tons of food aid from our own resources, but have issued an appeal to donors for \$8.8 million to cover the costs of this operation. We have received a sympathetic response from some of the Nordic donors but, to date, only \$200,000 has been donated. As you may recall, there were earlier bilateral and non-targetted food donations by Japan, Switzerland and South Korea.

What has been truly remarkable about the WFP operation has been the comparative openness and responsiveness of the Government of the DPRK. WFP staff has been granted mobility and access to an unprecedented degree to the interior of the country to assess the severity of food shortages. But this window of opportunity to interact with the Government of the DPRK and society will close by January 13 if no additional resources are committed.

The initial response from the Department of State has been reluctant, quite understandably so, given the sensitivity of the issue. But a positive response from the United States, even a limited one, would help us immensely in appealing to other donors. Both USAID and the Department of Agriculture (Foreign Agricultural Service) seem sympathetic to some U.S. effort.

.../...

Via Cristoforo Colombo, 426
00145 Rome, Italy

Telephone: (390) 52262000
Telex: 626675 WFPI
Facsimile: (396) 52282834

The World Food Programme is convinced that the need is genuine and we have provided copies of our early assessment to USAID and the Department of State. In addition, we have a team on the ground now in the DPRK reviewing the situation to obtain further details on the current level of hunger and malnutrition.

It would be a shame to have this small window into the DPRK closed and, at the same time, see so many people suffer. The shortfall in the DPRK harvest this year has been so major that even if they draw down stocks held by the Government or military it is inconceivable that they could meet the need.

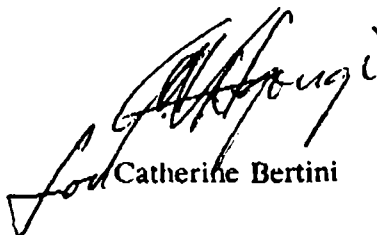
The issue of government-held stocks has been raised. So we are trying to ascertain the status of any cereal stocks in the country and precisely how they are being drawn down. We are certain, however, that the rural farmers we are seeking to help receive no government rations at all, even in normal times. Rations for the rest of the population have been cut severely.

It would be a mistake to hold up such a modest and targeted relief effort, given that any stocks in the DPRK would certainly fall far short of need. A UN fact-finding mission reported in September that the flooding alone resulted in 1.5 million ton loss in grains. There is absolutely no indication that the DPRK maintain stocks anywhere near that level.

We have a unique chance to help poor farmers and their families and, at the same time, help build for the future in the country and toward successful international cooperation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of U.S. support for this initiative.

Sincerely,



Catherine Bertini



World Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمية

The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations System

News Update

13 December 1995

WFP MAY BE FORCED TO CLOSE NORTH KOREA OPERATION

If donor countries do not immediately come forward with contributions, the World Food Program will be forced to shut down its operations for half a million hungry people left destitute by recent floods in North Korea, WFP warned Wednesday.

WFP officials announced they would close their Pyongyang office on January 15 if no new contributions are forthcoming. WFP will begin phasing out of North Korea on December 20, officials said.

WFP's North Korea operations, aimed at helping 500,000 people left hungry after the worst rains in the country in 100 years, marks the first UN food aid ever sent to the country.

"We need help soon or we will have to pull out altogether," warned WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini.

WFP officials in Pyongyang said the food situation in North Korea is deteriorating rapidly. Winter temperatures have dropped to 15 degrees minus zero centigrade in the northern part of the country and fuel for heating is rapidly running out.

Because of acute food shortages, government rice and cabbage rations have been drastically reduced and famine conditions have already begun to take hold in some of the worst hit provinces, the rural northwestern provinces of Chagang and North Pyongan and the western province of North Hwanghae.

Via G. Colombo, 426

00146 Rome

Italy

Telephone: (6) 822821

Telex: 828678 WFP I

Fax/mile: (6) 88602348/88602111

Most at risk are children under five and pregnant and nursing women, WFP field workers warned. In some of the affected areas, children are barely surviving on a diluted corn porridge.

WFP field officials said victims of the flooding have been seen foraging in recent-plowed paddy fields for roots to eat.

WFP initially borrowed more than two million dollars from emergency funds to send an initial shipment of 5,140 tons of rice to the flood-stricken country at the end of November. A chartered Russian freighter carried the rice to the port of Nampo as what was intended to be the first consignment in WFP's planned US \$8.8 million emergency food assistance program.

The relief plan, now under threat of termination, had called for WFP to provide a total of 20,250 tons of rice and 675 tons of vegetable oil, to feed the half million hungry Koreans just for 90 days.

WFP launched the operation after the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made an unprecedented appeal for food aid. So far, only Denmark and Finland have contributed, a total of US \$204,965. Substantial bilateral aid has been given this year to the DPRK by Japan and South Korea.

While distribution was handled by the DPRK's Ministry of Food Administration, WFP stationed international personnel in the country to monitor the process from arrival at the port to final distribution to the hungry in the countryside.

WFP officials have reported that the North Koreans have given them unprecedented access to remote parts of the country, areas which have never before been visited by international humanitarian agencies.

They warned that the closure of WFP operations in the country will close this "window of opportunity" to make contact with the North Korean society.

A U.N. fact-finding mission reported in September that the flooding in North Korea had caused "severe damage to agriculture, property, and infrastructure" and it estimated that up to 1.5 million tons of grain had been lost. A joint FAO-WFP team is presently visiting North Korea to assess the overall food situation in the beleaguered country.

For further information, contact: WFP, Rome Tel.: (39 6) 5228 2602

OUTLINE FOR EMOP SUBMISSION

EMERGENCY OPERATION DPR KOREA No. 5710.00: "Emergency Food Assistance for Flood Victims"

I. SYNOPSIS

BUDGET: Food Cost
Transport and other costs
Total Costs

CASELOAD: 500,000 beneficiaries

DURATION: 90 days

II. DOCUMENTATION

1. Request for WFP assistance dated 28 August 1995.
2. UN Interagency Assessment Mission report dated 12 September 1995.

III. JUSTIFICATION

Following exceptionally heavy rainfall during July-August 1995, the Government of DPR Korea reported that 145 counties and cities corresponding to 75 percent of the whole country, had been exposed to floods. It was estimated that 5.2 million people were affected. Some 100,000 families, comprising 500,000 people, were displaced after their homes had been destroyed. Severe damage had also been inflicted upon agricultural land and production. Essential facilities like hospitals and health centres had become inoperative. Water supply and other infrastructure such as roads, bridges and irrigation systems as well as power plants and industrial facilities had been partially or completely ruined. The Government also reported the loss of 60 to 70 lives with more people missing and feared drowned.

In response to a request from the Government, a UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team was dispatched by DHA to assess the situation. Representatives of WFP, WHO, UNICEF and FAO joined.

The Mission observed extensive damage to agriculture, property and infrastructure during its field travels. It confirmed that losses referred not only to agricultural crops but also to arable land after it had been covered by layers of sand and gravel and thus permanently lost to grain production.

Government estimates put the expected crop production losses because of the floods at about 1.9 million tons. In addition, one million tons of stored grains are reported

damaged. From the area seen during the travels, comprising 35 to 40 percent of the country's agricultural land, the Mission attempted to extrapolate the figures on losses to the whole agricultural sector. Total losses were by the Mission estimated to fall in the range of 1.1 to 1.5 million tons of grain. The Mission's findings thus confirm the gravity of the situation.

FAO is planning to field an agricultural inputs needs assessment mission and, together with WFP, a crop and food supply mission to DPR Korea within the near future. These missions are expected to provide a basis for decisions concerning interventions needed to improve the food security situation.

In its recommendations, the Assessment Mission gave the highest priority to the relief requirements of the 100,000 displaced families, who were most critically affected by the floods. Food, shelter (including blankets and clothing), and health (medicines) were identified as their most urgent needs. The proposed assistance under EMOP 5710 is in support of these people.

IV. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Agricultural production is carried out by cooperatives and state farms. In addition to field crops, the state farms specialize in the production of poultry, pigs and cattle (in breeding draught and other animals for support of the cooperatives), and cultivation of seed and fruit, including seedlings for the cooperatives.

The Government's third Five-Year Plan (1987-1993) set a target for grain production of 15 million tons per year in order to ensure absolute food security for the population. This was never achieved and, according to recent FAO statistics, the overall grain production is around one third of this target. If this is compared to the reported annual requirements of 7.6 million tons, there appears to be a structural food deficit of over two million tons. In the past this deficit, as well as occasional emergency needs, had been covered by imports, including grains obtained through barter arrangements.

The possibilities for such deals have become more limited over the past few years and the Government has felt compelled to request external assistance to meet relief needs in connection with a major disaster such as the recent floods.

V. MODE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Ministry of Food Administration will be the consignee for shipped food commodities. The Ministry will be responsible for all arrangements concerning inland transport, storage and handling of the commodities as well as their distribution to the beneficiaries. Assistance may be requested by the Ministry from the armed forces in case of difficulties in reaching the more remote and inaccessible areas. The Government has confirmed that they will cover all ITSH costs.

The preferred port is Namp'o, some 55 kilometres south-west of Pyongyang. The port is connected with the national road and railway networks.

WFP does not have a Country Office in DPR Korea. An adequately staffed office will have to be established for the duration of the assistance, including any time needed before and after to organize and wind up the operation. The Government will be required to allow WFP staff to travel in the project areas and have access to the beneficiaries. Provision for staff, travel and office costs have been made in the budget for this submission.

VI. FOOD BASKET AND DETAILED BUDGET

- (i) **Caseload:** 500,000 displaced persons, mainly in the provinces of North Hwanghae, North Pyongan and Chagang.
- (ii) **Period:** Three months (90 days); commencing as soon as possible.
- (iii) **Food basket:** The food is intended to meet the immediate nutritional needs of the most seriously affected population. The proposed food basket reflects basic needs. The daily ration is as follows:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Ration (gr/person)</u>
Rice	450
Vegetable Oil	15

- (iv) **Commodities:** Based on a beneficiary population of 500,000 requiring assistance for three months, a total of 20,250 tons of rice and 675 tons of vegetable oil will be required.

(v) Operational budget:

Quantity (mt)	Cost (US\$/mt)	Total Cost (US\$)
1. Commodity Cost		
Rice 20,250	300	6,075,000
Veg.Oil 675	850	573,750
Sub-total: 20,925		
2. Freight, superintendence		1,718,010
3. Monitoring and logistics support*		482,100
TOTAL COST		8,848,860

* See Annex I

VII. RECOMMENDATION

The feeding operation in favour of 500,000 people, displaced by floods, is recommended for joint approval within the budget as shown above under point VI.

VIII. APPROVAL

Date:

6/10/95

Date:

6 OCTOBER 1995

Signature:

Catherine Bertini

CATHERINE BERTINI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WFP

Date:

J. Diouf

J. DIOUF
DIRECTOR GENERAL, FAO

*As always, this contribution is contingent
on contributions/pledges from donors
for this EMOP.*

ANNEX I

Monitoring and Budget Support Costs

Country based staff:	\$
Salaries	224,900
Travel and DSA	122,600
Consultant, bureau staff:	
Consultancy fees	5,500
Travel and DSA	16,400
Office rental, utilities	16,500
Office equipment, supplies	14,400
Vehicles, incl. fuel, maintenance	65,400
Communication, equipment	16,400
	=====
TOTAL	482,100

Note: Figures include a provision for HQ support costs.

10 October 1995

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Telephone conversation with Mr. N. Ngongi on 7 October 1995 on use of IEFR for DPR KOREA (EMOP No. 5710)

As instructed by the Executive Director on 6 October 1995, I telephoned Mr. N. Ngongi in Kobe, Japan on 7 October 1995 to consult him on the above issue. I informed him that the Executive Director was reluctant to use the IEFR and would have much preferred to use only new, i.e. extra-budgetary contributions, for this EMOP, given the fact that WFP had so decided and clearly informed the PDRK Government on the conditionality (her letter of 20 September 1995). Receipt of specific contributions for this operation was in fact quite uncertain, several potential donors had already declined, and WFP risked having to fund this operation, in the end, from its own multilateral resources.

On the other hand, the Executive Director did also see the arguments for at least a limited use of the IEFR at this time, i.e. in particular the risk that directed donations would require an exceptional long time for political clearance; that WFP could not send an officer and open an office unless at least a portion of the operation was secured; that other agencies were now entering the country leaving WFP far behind, perhaps until a time when the specific emergency was no longer acute; that \$2.5 million were available for use in 1995 in the IEFR and that the donor (Sweden) had agreed that WFP was free to use all or part of these funds for PDRK; and that using them now and thereby commencing the operation, could help to create a situation in which other donors might then be encouraged to follow, which would also allow for the replenishment of the IEFR.

In the light of these arguments, the Executive Director said that she would be prepared to consider that portion of the Swedish contribution as directed to this EMOP and therefore authorize the IEFR expenditure for the purchase and delivery of food to initiate the PDRK operation. However, she wished that Mr. Ngongi be fully consulted on the matter.

Considering all of the above and given the expectations raised by WFP, Mr. Ngongi thought that on balance, it was desirable to commence the operation from the IEFR now - limited to the sum of "up to" \$2.5 million, but preferably less, if that was conveniently feasible. He acknowledged that to some extent this could depend on the type and size of charter shipments that could be found, considering that commercial shipping to PDRK was very limited. Mr. Ngongi agreed also that directed contributions still to be received should be used first to replenish the IEFR.

FP 5/3 DPR KOR 5710
JS/jm

Distribution:

Executive Director
Ngongi
Lewis
Cordeil

Ben Sllmane
Szynalski
Morton
Page

Karlström Dorph
Arès
Lacy
Strippoll
Dickman
Crosthwaite

Schulthes
Ahuja
Huss
OMA (2)
Reg.

Concerning the condition¹ that the Executive Director had attached to her signature of the EMOP, he suggested that the DG/FAO's office should be advised of it with the additional information that an initial funding of up to \$2.5 million would be drawn from the IEFR which would then be replenished from subsequent directed contributions if and when received. Again, in the light of the risk that no further contribution would be received, Mr. Ngongi advised "trying to get away with less" than the \$2.5 million.



Jens Schulthes
Regional Manager
Asia and Pacific Bureau
Operations Division

¹ The condition reads: "As always, this contribution is contingent on contributions/pledges from donors for this EMOP".

1. Bosnia-Herzegovina

1.1 WFP continued to expand direct deliveries of food aid into Bosnia-Herzegovina. Avoiding expensive international UN convoys, commercial trucks brought food aid straight to Tuzla, Zenica, Bihac, Sarajevo and Cazin during the reporting week.

1.2 Harsh winter weather only slightly hindered the delivery of food aid; heavy snow blocked access to both Gorazde and Bihac for one day. On 6 December, a Norwegian convoy team returning from Tuzla was subjected to small-arms fire near the town of Mali Prolog, about 15 km north of Metkovic. The warning against unnecessary movement of European nationals in central Bosnia due to threats by so-called "mujaheddin" elements has been expanded to include US nationals.

1.3 Population movement continued in and out of Bosnia last week. Over three hundred persons were moved from Sipovo to Travnik in central Bosnia, and burning and looting of houses continued in both Sipovo, Mrkonjic Grad, and Sanski Most.

1.4 Northern Bosnia: All UN food aid distribution in Banja Luka remains suspended as a result of continued security incidents, including hijackings of UNHCR vehicles.

1.5 Sarajevo: Though heavy snows slowed commercial traffic in and out of Sarajevo, food security within the city remained good during the reporting week. Eight convoys delivered 1,010 mt of WFP food aid to Sarajevo. Also, the airlift resumed on 2 December, and during the reporting week, 50 flights supplied an additional 604 mt of food. Utility situation remains dismal; electricity, gas, and water continue to be rationed.

1.6 Gorazde: Two convoys from Belgrade were blocked to Gorazde because of severe weather. Access from Metkovic to Gorazde, however, remained good, and some 150 mt of WFP food aid were delivered to the enclave during the reporting week.

2. Croatia

2.1 The European Community Task Force has indicated that it will continue to provide food aid to refugees living in Croatia, and has extended its relief programme through April 1996. Tentatively, ECTF has requested a total of 17,880 mt of food aid for the four month period Jan-April 1996. Meanwhile, small groups of the 20,000 people in the Vojnic-Kupljensko camp continued to return to Velika Kladusa. By 7 December, an estimated 5,500 had returned to Velika Kladusa.

2.2 During the reporting week, 50 Turkish, 100 Bosnian, and 50 Croat police personnel were stationed in Velika Kladusa as part of an international agreement to help facilitate the return of those now in the Vojnic-Kupljensko camp.

D. DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. UPDATE

1.1 The overall food situation in the DPRK continues to deteriorate. Serious problems will develop unless additional emergency food aid is provided in time. Hunger is widespread and malnutrition is already a problem in some areas. Winter temperatures drop to minus 15 degrees centigrade in the

9

northern part of the country and are already below zero. Fuel for heating is insufficient. Because of acute food shortages, rice and cabbage rations have been drastically reduced and famine conditions have been noted in some of the flood-affected provinces. Those most "at risk" are young children and pregnant and nursing women. The Government of the DPRK has repeatedly made a strong appeal to the international community through WFP for emergency food aid.

1.2 The Government's preliminary estimate for the cereal crop just harvested is 3.7 million mt, leaving a net deficit of 3.18 million mt according to DPRK calculations. Cereal imports lined up for delivery from 1 November 1995 total 258,040 mt including WFP's shipment of 5,140 mt of rice, as well as cereals from Japan, Syria, Switzerland, CARITAS and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is scheduled to visit the DPRK from 9-16 December 1995.

1.3 Distribution of the first ever food aid shipment to the DPRK of 5,140 mt of WFP rice, which arrived on 24 November, is well under way. WFP negotiated a detailed distribution plan with the Ministry of Food Administration and the National Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee. Food is being distributed by the Ministry of Food Administration to 363,000 persons in 56 counties in the provinces of North Hwanghae (102,000), North Pyongan (191,000) and Chagang (70,000). Distribution is being made from 90 centres and the food will last for 28 days in North Hwanghae, 29 days in North Pyongan, and 41 days in Chagang. The daily per capita ration is 450 grams. Malnutrition is already a problem in Chagang where food shortages are most acute.

1.4 Beneficiaries of WFP food assistance are primarily farming families, made homeless by the floods, and who have lost most or all of this year's crop. Farming families are not covered by the Public Distribution System and therefore do not receive basic food rations subsidised by the State. The WFP team of four continues to monitor food aid distributions down to the beneficiary level in all three provinces.

1.5 Close collaboration exists between WFP and CARITAS, MSF, IFRC and DHA. Weekly coordination meetings at the UNDP office facilitates an information exchange on a regular basis. Collaborative arrangements have been established with CARITAS where WFP assists with monitoring distribution of 1,400 mt rice provided to schools in South Hwanghae province following serious hailstorms. MSF is collaborating with WFP on a review of traditional dietary habits. Regular consultations are held with IFRC, which is providing 3,500 mt of rice, to coordinate distribution and avoid duplication.

1.6 Resource situation: Thus far, WFP has received a very poor response to its appeal for USD 8.8 million issued in early October. Funds allocated from the WFP International Emergency Fund Reserve (IEFR) for the purchase of the 5,140 mt of rice delivered, have to be replenished, and additional contributions for the provision of the remaining 15,110 mt of rice and 675 mt of vegetable oil are urgently needed if severe food shortages among those most affected by the floods are to be avoided this winter.

(End WFP Emergency Report No. 49 - December 8, 1995)

**Inter-agency Meeting No. 3
Minutes of the Meeting**

Date: December 5, 1995 at 10:00 am
Venue: UNDP Office, Pyongyang, DPRK

Chairman: Mr. Willi Scholl, UNDP Resident Representative a.i.

Participants:

Mr. Trevor Page, Country Director, WFP
Mr. Kjeil Madsen, Team Leader, DHA
Ms. Merete Johansson, Deputy Team Leader, WFP
Mr. Thomas Ruegg, Monitoring Officer, DHA
Mr. Carlyse Hessic, Assistant Res. Rep. (Admin), UNDP
Dr. Piero Calvi Parisetti, Head of Delegation, IFRC
Mr. Hervo Isambert, Team Leader, MSF

Introduction: Mr. Scholl welcomed the participants to the 3rd inter-agency meeting. The following matters were discussed:

1. Organizational matters
2. Status of relief activities
3. Outlook on future relief actions
4. Agenda for inter-agency meeting no.4

1. Organizational matters

a. Minutes of the Inter-agency Meetings

The participants of the inter-agency meeting agreed that the minutes will continued to be jointly prepared by UNHCR and WFP. The minutes will be distributed to the participants not later than Friday at noon-time. Proposed agenda items for the following week's meeting may be submitted by Friday morning at the latest. Minutes of the inter-agency meeting will therefore include the following week's agenda.

b. Update on the Status of Relief Activities

It was agreed that at 11:00 on Tuesday, 12 December, UNDP will invite the diplomatic missions represented in Pyongyang, to an information meeting on relief activities. In preparation for this meeting, agencies agreed to have hand-outs ready describing their respective relief activities in the DPRK. The meeting will be chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative a.i.

WFP queried when DHA would start issuing Situation Reports. DHA responded that they had issued their first one 10 days ago. Given that a number of participants at the meeting had not received copies, DHA was requested to send copies of the latest and future Situation Reports. DHA agreed to give priority to the production of Sit-Reps on a fortnightly basis.

c. Contact with the Media

In speaking to the media, Dr. Parisetti from IFRC urged that the emphasis be on the processes of confidence-building with Government by focusing on humanitarian issues. Mr. Isambert, in response, said that it must be understood that agencies had to sometimes state that there were problems. Otherwise it was difficult to raise the necessary resources.

d. Request for a Data Base

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of DEHA, there was consensus at the meeting that UNDHA should give priority to the establishment of a data base if information on relief assistance, including the tracking of contributions, against the appeal and distribution plans.

e. Nippon Foundation

Mr. Madsen reported that earlier rumors that the Nippon Foundation had reallocated funds of US\$ 1.76 million, initially earmarked for the IFRC to UNDHA could not be confirmed. UNDHA Headquarters in Geneva informed the team in Pyongyang that the Nippon Foundation had been contacted and that they were not aware of such a move.

f. World Health Organisation

IFRC, MSF, and WFP briefly commented on the WHO report featuring short and mid-term priority recommendations in the health sector (which they all felt was weak). While the activities proposed generally complement the activities of MSF, reservations were expressed by IFRC on the high level of funding allocated to X-ray machines. The WHO Report on Malnutrition, dated November 1995, was distributed after the meeting at the request of WFP.

2. Status of Relief Operations

a. UNDHA

Mr. Madsen reported on his visit to North Pyongan Province from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2. He specifically commented on the damages caused by the floods in Sinuiju and Uiju counties, where home visits were undertaken in order to further assess the needs of the farming population whose arable lands were rendered uncultivable. He had

3

observed a lack of food, warm clothing, footwear, blankets, kitchen utensils, kerosene or coal. He further reported that the flood-affected population suffered serious health problems, especially diarrhoea and respiratory diseases and that the Vice-Chairman of the Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee explicitly asked for the assistance of MSF. Mr. Madsen recommended that this request be taken into serious consideration.

DHA is also considering the assignment of a monitoring officer in North Pyongan Province on a temporary basis. Mr. Madsen asserted that his findings confirmed earlier reports by his DHA team that North Pyongan was indeed severely affected by the floods. He promised to make a report on his findings available to those interested at the meeting.

The meeting cautioned DHA not to raise expectations for future assistance, particularly regarding items such as fuel and building materials.

(b) IFRC

IFRC reported the receipt of additional relief items, including blankets, quilts, and 1,750 mt of rice which will be distributed from 7 December onwards. The relief items had arrived at Nampo port. Mr. Parisetti promised to provide the final distribution plan in the near future.

(c) WFP

WFP showed the distribution plan for the 5,140 mt of WFP rice with participants at the meeting. Mr. Page reported that the signs of approaching famine conditions in some parts of the country had been broadcasted on the BBC. He said that the food situation was rapidly deteriorating as present food consumption exceeds supplies.

During a visit to the East Coast (Wonsan), Mr. Page had noted people foraging in recently ploughed paddy fields for roots to eat. In the northern part of North Hwanghae province, where the population had received its annual distribution of cabbage, only 10-20 kg/person was issued instead of the usual 120 kg. In Wonsan and in towns south in Kangsan Province, no cabbages could be seen on balconies where they are normally stored. It was confirmed that no cabbage distribution had taken place in this area. WFP noted that the preliminary estimate of the 1994/95 cereal harvest was 3.7 million mt and that final figures would not be available until harvesting was completed at the end of 1995/early 1996. Mr. Page confirmed that the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission was scheduled to arrive on Saturday 9 December, and that the Terms of Reference had been revised to include crop assessment.

The delivery of approximately 90% of the WFP rice shipment of 5,140 tons to the provinces had been completed at the time of the

meeting. WFP was not satisfied with the survey of damaged cargo carried out in Nambo, noting that quantities registered as damaged were grossly inflated. Proper systems would have to be put in place if there were to be further shipments. Transport of the rice continues, although with some confusion concerning destinations of CARITAS and WFP rice. Mr. Page stressed that improvements were required on both fronts.

WFP has negotiated a plan with Government for the distribution of 1,400 mt of rice on behalf of CARITAS. The rice will be distributed to 90 kindergartens, primary and secondary schools in South Hwanghae province. Food assistance will reach 70,000 beneficiaries. A copy of the distribution would be circulated the following week.

d. UNICEF

Mr. Kim Mun Dok conveyed UNICEF's appreciation of UNHCR's offer to assist in monitoring the distribution of 280 mt of CSB (Corn Soy Blend) which was expected to start arriving by sea by the end of the week. Mr. Page reported that arrangements for monitoring the distribution of the CSB had not been finalized and that WFP and UNICEF HQ were in dialogue on this matter.

UNICEF also reported that by mid-January 1996, a UNICEF consultancy team will visit the DPRK. A UNICEF Programme Officer (Russian national), presently stationed in Cambodia, will take up duties in the DPRK starting mid-January 1996. Mr. Kim Mun Dok further reported that during his recent visit to North Pyongan, he was presented with a request for nutritional food for children, which was considered to be a top priority by the Government in Sinuiju.

(e) MSF

MSF reported that two members of its headquarters were in the DPRK in order to evaluate MSF activities and to discuss with the governmental counterparts the possibility of an extension of their work in the country, presently scheduled to finish at the end of 1995. Mr. Isambert said that the Government might not extend MSF's presence in the country although MSF is prepared to consider a proposal for a new programme. Mr. Kim Mun Dok, UNICEF National Programme Officer, explained that the Government honours the agreement with MSF based on its initially presented programmes. An extension of MSF's presence in the country would depend on the establishment of a new agreement for its assistance.

Mr. Isambert also reported that the planned survey of the general health condition of children (age 6 months to 5 years) in Chagang Province (Riichon) will not be carried out.

Concerning the possible departure of MSF, WFP stressed that MSF's presence and ongoing health and nutrition programmes were not only

of complementary importance to its own programmes and also to the overall relief efforts in the country. WFP emphasized that the non-continuation of the MSF programme in the DPRK could jeopardize WFP activities, given the complementarity of their respective efforts in the country. Mr. Page hoped that MSF's intention of carrying out a nutritional survey and the review of traditional dietary habits would proceed as planned. The UNICEF representative, Mr. Kim Mun Dok, supported the implementation of the nutritional survey by MSF which was helpful both to UNICEF and to WFP, and said the two agencies should stress with Government the complementarity of MSF's role.

④ Outlook on Future Plans

DHA reported that the status of contributions towards the appeal will be prepared for inter-agency meeting No. 4. Given the slow response to the appeal and huge gap in funding, the meeting recommended that a follow-up appeal should be considered. The IFRC is also considering launching a fresh appeal.

5. Agenda for Inter-agency Meeting No. 4

The next inter-agency meeting will take place on Tuesday, 12 December 1995 at 10:00 hours, followed by the information meeting for diplomatic missions and related relief agencies (see point 1) at 11:00 hours. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- a. Introduction/operational matters
- b. Activity status (including update on contributions)
- c. Organisation of information meeting at 11:00 hours
- d. Finalisation of format for data base
- e. Other issues.

Minutes jointly prepared by WFP and DHA

**Proposal to the Government of Denmark
for an additional contribution to
the WFP Emergency Operation in the DPRK**

The provision of international humanitarian food assistance in the DPRK is a new phenomenon. The DPRK has always taken great pride in being self-sufficient. Now, for the first time, the Government of the DPRK is appealing to the international community for emergency food assistance, as the country tries, with its own limited resources, to rebuild its economy and infrastructure after the devastating floods in August 1995 that resulted in losses estimated by the DPRK at US\$ 15 billion.

Relatively little is known about this country. Few international organizations and western bilateral donors have had cooperation with the DPRK. Even now, as the DPRK begins to open its doors to the outside, only a limited number of relief agencies are represented in Pyongyang, not to mention major donors, of which there are only two: a Swedish embassy and a German Interest Section.

The World Food Programme is one of the agencies currently represented, with a team of four expatriates based in its newly established office in Pyongyang, charged with the provision of and coordination of emergency food assistance to the DPRK. Others include UNDP, IFRC, MSF, a DHA team of short-term contract personnel, and a government officer seconded to UNDP to liaise on UNICEF matters. CARITAS Hong Kong has requested WFP to monitor the distribution of its relief food assistance in the DPRK.

With food assistance being the Government's top priority, WFP has a prominent role in the relief arena, and is the DPRK's preferred channel for the provision of food aid. After six weeks since its establishment in the DPRK, WFP has found that earlier concerns over its ability to monitor the distribution of food aid may be put to rest. There is a growing understanding by Government and WFP of each others' procedures, requirements and expectations. WFP has been granted access to information and areas where food aid is needed and where WFP food aid is distributed, allowing the team of four to monitor distribution down to the beneficiary level.

As described in the attached WFP emergency report of 7 December, the food situation in the DPRK continues to deteriorate, with serious problems developing this winter unless additional emergency food aid is provided in time. Hunger is widespread and malnutrition is already a problem in some areas. Because of acute food shortages, rice and cabbage rations have been drastically

reduced and famine conditions have been noted in some of the flood-affected provinces.

While the greater part of the DPRK's cereal deficit, estimated by the DPRK at 3.18 million tons, will have to be met by commercial and concessional imports and bilateral aid, WFP hopes to avert a potential disaster for those most at risk this winter, including young children, and pregnant and nursing mothers, by providing emergency food supplies of rice, vegetable oil and blended food. In order to assess the overall food situation and the emergency food aid requirements, an FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment mission is visiting the DPRK from 9 to 16 December 1995.

Whereas some of WFP's traditional donors have expressed cautious interest in providing food assistance to the DPRK, with the approaching holiday season, decisions may not be taken until the new year. To date, WFP has received only two contributions specifically for the DPRK operation, including DKR. 1 million provided by Denmark for which we are grateful, and FIM. 100,000 from Finland. Start-up costs for the establishment of the WFP emergency operation and its first and only shipment thus far of 5,140 tons of rice were funded with these contributions and an unearmarked Swedish contribution from the International Emergency Food Reserve which is administered by WFP. The balance of the remaining 15,110 tons of rice and 675 tons of vegetable oil to be provided under the 3-months WFP emergency operation remains unresourced. The total value of the shortfall is approximately US\$ 6.6 million.

Unless a further contribution to the WFP emergency operation is announced by 15 December, WFP will have no other choice but to close up its office in the DPRK on 20 December. In order to avoid this situation, WFP requests the Government of Denmark to fund a bridging operation to allow WFP to continue operating in the DPRK until larger food aid contributions from other donors are forthcoming.

It takes time for the donor community to react to developments and information on the situation and to respond with contributions, however. The Danish Ambassador in Beijing, His Excellency Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen, and Mr. Steven Foster, Counsellor for Commercial and Economic Affairs in Beijing, who recently visited the DPRK from 5 to 9 December, had the opportunity to witness first-hand, together with the WFP Country Director, the effects of the flood disaster and distribution of WFP food assistance during a trip to North Hwanghae Province. Following his visit to the rural areas and discussions with WFP in the DPRK, Mr. Bo Bramsen expressed concern over the food situation, and encouraged WFP to submit a proposal to his Government for a further contribution.

Denmark's approval of a further contribution at this critical point in time would enable WFP to continue operating in the DPRK until other contributions expected to materialize in the near future are confirmed, thereby sustaining the momentum gained during the initial difficult period since WFP's establishment in the country and assuring the continued flow of information from WFP Pyongyang to the donor community.

MJ/TP
10 December 1995