

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Korea - Miscellaneous, 1996 [3]

Staff Office-Individual:

Asian Affairs-Kristoff, Sandra

Original OA/ID Number:

1048

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
30	3	11	2	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. routing slip	annotated. (1 page)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)
001b. memo	For Anthony Lake from Sandra Kristoff. Subject: Announcement of Decision. Record ID: 9600642. (2 pages)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)
001c. cable	re: North Korea. (2 pages)	01/31/1996	P1/b(1)
002. memo	Assessing North Korea. (7 pages)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)
003. memo	For the President from Todd Stern. (1 page)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)
004. memo	For the President from Samuel Berger. Subject: Food Assistance. Record ID: 9600575 (3 pages)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Duplicate of 001c. (2 pages)	01/31/1996	P1/b(1)
006. briefing paper	CPL Breakfast. (2 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1)
007a. memo	Duplicate of 001b. (2 pages)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)
007b. cable	Duplicate of 001c. (2 pages)	01/31/1996	P1/b(1)
008a. note	Duplicate of 003. (1 page)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)
008b. memo	Duplicate of 005. (3 pages)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Asian Affairs (Sandra Kristoff)
OA/Box Number: 1048

FOLDER TITLE:

Korea - Miscellaneous, 1996 [3]

2009-0528-F

vz1454

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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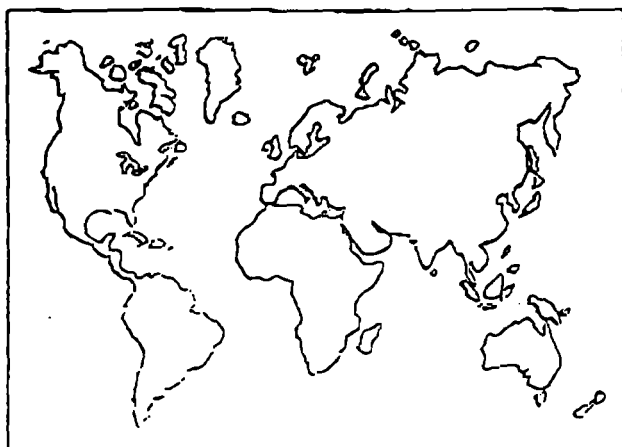
C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

UNCLASSIFIED

Kenneth 69490

Pls. pass to
Solberg *

SK



Department of State
Office of Korean Affairs
Phone: 202/647-7717
Fax: 202/647-7388

TODAY'S DATE: 2/2/96

TO: Sandy Kristoff, NSC

PHONE#: _____

FAX#: 456-9250

FROM: David G. Brown, Director

Number of pages including this cover sheet 2

COMMENTS: FYI, a copy of Mr. Hubbard's letter of today to Vice Minister Han.

UNCLASSIFIED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 2, 1996

Mr. Kim Gye Gwan
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Pyongyang

Dear Vice Minister Kim,

I am writing today to inform you that, in response to your government's request and in order to help address the humanitarian need caused by major flooding in your country last summer, the US has decided to provide a third tranche of humanitarian assistance for use in the DPRK. This will take the form of a \$2 million grant for an emergency feeding program to be administered by the World Food Program (WFP). This new program is in addition to the \$225,000 the US has already provided to UNICEF for flood assistance programs in your country.

In addition, the US will soon complete an adjustment to our administrative procedures which will allow American non-governmental institutions to provide humanitarian relief goods to the DPRK without first receiving a specific license to do so from the US government. This adjustment will also allow Americans to donate money to recognized international organizations for their humanitarian programs in the DPRK without a specific license. We hope these steps will speed the flow to your country of humanitarian goods from private American sources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. C. Hubbard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas C. Hubbard
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of East Asian and
Pacific Affairs

31 January 1996

North Korean Food Outlook

North Korea's grain harvest in 1995 was nearly 4 million tons, or about 2.5 million tons short of requirements. The total is down compared to an average of just more than 4 million tons in each of the four previous years. The modest decline last year most likely reflects damage from floods in July and August.

- Most observers attribute the North's food problems to an inefficient collective farming system, a lack of arable land, exhausted soil, and the loss of imported fertilizer and machinery from the former Soviet Union.
- Food imports declined sharply from more than 1 million tons in 1991 to about 300,000 tons in 1994, according to the US Department of Agriculture, as the North's hard currency shortages worsened and supplies from China declined.
- Food imports rebounded to 1 million tons last year largely because of 650,000 tons of grain aid from South Korea and Japan.

North Korea has been compensating for the shortfalls by drawing from grain reserves and reducing consumption. Defectors quoted in the South Korean press claim there is widespread malnutrition with most North Koreans eating just two meals a day, but have only rarely reported instances of starvation. P'yongyang has suspended official rations for up to eight months to residents of some northeastern Provinces, where food shortages are chronic.

- Even priority consumers such as residents of P'yongyang and the military now face spot shortages.

Without significant new aid or imports, the North's food situation will probably worsen, with domestic production dependent largely on the weather. The impact of shortages also will depend on the North's allocation priorities and success in distributing food to particularly hard hit regions.

647-7398

DAVID Brown

Sandy Berger's

changer. This is
11/15 WH - cleared

SL

PS Pls call re last line
on dates. SL

To Bill

From Sandy K

Berger's marks on
H711 calls points.

SANDY K.

FROM

NANCY SODERBERG

31 January 1996

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KRISTOFF

@ UP -

PER PETER BASS, PLS
FORWARD ORIG LTR TO SRB.
TL WILL REVIEW HIS COPY
& CALL BACK W/ANY CHANGES.

(KB)

Messages approved
by TL per
PB
7AM - 2/2

National Security Council
The White House

Rec'd 2/1
7:10 PM

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 0642

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG ve A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Harmon	_____	_____	_____
Dohse	<u>1</u>	<u>D</u>	_____
Sens	_____	_____	_____
Soderberg	<u>2</u>	<u>ny</u>	_____
Berger	<u>COPI</u>	<u>arb</u>	_____
Lake	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>N</u>
Records Mgt.	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

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001b. memo	For Anthony Lake from Sandra Kristoff. Subject: Announcement of Decision. Record ID: 9600642. (2 pages)	02/01/1996	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Asian Affairs (Sandra Kristoff)
OA/Box Number: 1048

FOLDER TITLE:

Korea - Miscellaneous, 1996 [3]

2009-0528-F
vz1454

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Suggested Points for Hill Calls

- Following through on our conversations earlier this week, we are now able to inform you the Administration has decided to provide \$2 million of flood-related assistance to North Korea.
- This modest assistance would be in the form of a grant from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to the World Food Program for procurement of food and related costs. *UN*
- We have made this decision to respond to a genuine humanitarian need and to continue encouraging North Korea's engagement in the international community.
- We have coordinated this decision with South Korea and believe South Korea understands our decision was based on humanitarian considerations. We are confident the WFP can monitor effectively the distribution of the aid.
- *[done before]*

Draft Press Statement
State Department

United Nations

~~emergency~~ emergency

In response to an appeal from the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), the U.S. government has decided to provide \$2 million of humanitarian assistance for use on flood related relief in North Korea. Recent floods destroyed significant portions of rural farm land resulting in widespread food shortages and malnutrition. The WFP estimates food shortages in North Korea of well over one million tons this spring.

This assistance will be in the form of a grant from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to the WFP for procurement of foodstuffs. The U.S. has chosen WFP as the channel for this assistance because of its ability to monitor closely distribution to ensure that the aid reaches those in need.

worsened

The United States also provides ~~emergency~~ emergency humanitarian assistance through the WFP to North Korea in 19xx and 19xy

FINAL

Draft Press Statement
State Department

In response to an appeal from the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), the U.S. government has decided to provide \$2 million of humanitarian assistance for use on flood related relief in North Korea. Recent floods destroyed significant portions of rural farm land resulting in widespread food shortages and malnutrition. The floods have worsened an already significant food shortage which the WFP estimates may exceed one million tons this year.

This assistance will be in the form of a grant from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to the WFP for procurement of foodstuffs. The U.S. has chosen WFP as the channel for this assistance because of its ability to monitor closely distribution to ensure that the aid reaches those in need. The U.S. also provided emergency humanitarian assistance through UNICEF to North Korea in 1995.

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State Department

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311633 JAN

Washfax Receipt

Department Of State

B

HOLD C

96 JAN 31 P4:25

Message No. 031368 Classification CONFIDENTIAL No. Pages 2
 From: Marisa Lino 9/9 647-5302 7224
 (Officer Name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

Message Description: Cable to SEOUL: FOOD AID FOR NORTH KOREA

① AD - WFP operationalize
 ② let's to DPRK as in part

To (Agency):	Deliver To:	Extension	Room No.
NSCS	Nancy Soderberg	456-9461	WHSITRM
	Fred Dehse		
	Executive Secretariat		
	S. SUTTINGER KRISTOFF	CLARKE	
	SUTTINGER	SCHWARTZ	

MUST GO ☐NON-MUST GO ☐

Remarks: Please clear by: MUST GO. Message must
be delivered tomorrow 2/1 asap.

NSC POC:

8/S Officer:

Marisa Lino

CROSSHATCH

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
 OF CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS
 Initials: VE Date: 7/2/2012

2009-0524-F

Agree with
 HRC/SFPC
 brief on
 Hall

Gift in
 Room Nick B.

cut work
 1st/1st
 2nd/2nd
 3rd/3rd

News TV
 News on strategy
 re announcement
 Lord informs
 State Dept.

TP
 Press St
 Strategy
 Directors -
 HRC calls

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State Department

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UNICEF

1995.

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World Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

برنامج
غذائية
عالمي

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 C. Colombo, 426
00145 Rome
Italy

Telephone: (8) 522821

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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



World Food
Programme

Programa
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de Alimentos

Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

برنامج
الغذية
العالمية

The Executive Director

19 December 1995

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

PLEASE STAFF to

Eric Schwartz
Bob Sutterlin

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.

.../...

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00145 Rome, Italy

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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.

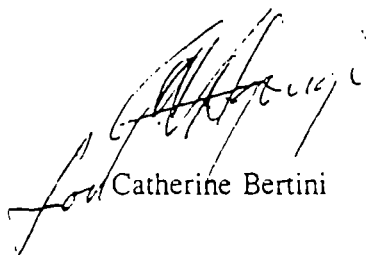
The issue of government-held stocks has been raised. So we are trying to ascertain the status of any cereal stocks in the country and precisely how they are being drawn down. We are certain, however, that the rural farmers we are seeking to help receive no government rations at all, even in normal times.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

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:

6/11/95

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.

UNCLASSIFIED



Department of State
Office of Korean Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20520
Phone: 202/647-7717
Fax: 202/647-7388

TODAY'S DATE: Feb. 1, 1996

TO: Ambr. Kristoff

PHONE#: _____

FAX#: 456-9250

FROM: Stephanie Ehelman

Number of pages including this cover sheet 9

COMMENTS:

UNCLASSIFIED

Draft Press Statement

Humanitarian assistance for North Korea

In response to an appeal from the World Food Program (WFP), the U.S. Government has decided to provide \$2 million of humanitarian assistance for use on flood related relief in North Korea. This assistance will be in the form of a grant from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to the World Food Program (WFP) for procurement of foodstuffs. The U.S. has chosen WFP as the channel for this assistance because of its ability to closely monitor distribution to ensure that the aid reaches those in need.

Drafted: EAP/K:AMKambara (3361) 736-4845
Cleared: EAP:RReis
EAP/K:DGBrown/SEshelman/JGoldstein
NSC:SKristoff
H:KMcCormick
P:DRussel
USAID:LRogers

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2009-0528-F

vz1454

RESTRICTION CODES

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Suggested Points for Hill Calls

- Following through on our conversations earlier this week, we are now able to inform you the Administration has decided to provide \$2 million of flood related assistance to North Korea.
- This modest assistance would be in the form of a grant from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to the World Food Program for procurement of food and related costs.
- We have made this decision to respond to a genuine humanitarian need and to continue encouraging North Korea's engagement in the international community.
- We have coordinated this decision with South Korea and believe South Korea understands our decision was based on humanitarian considerations. We are confident the WFP can monitor effectively the distribution of the aid.

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- We have coordinated this decision with South Korea and believe South Korea understands our decision was based on humanitarian considerations. We are confident the WFP can monitor effectively the distribution of the aid.

Draft Press Statement
State Department

In response to an appeal from the World Food Program (WFP), the U.S. government has decided to provide \$2 million of humanitarian assistance for use on flood related relief in North Korea. Recent floods destroyed significant portions of rural farm land resulting in widespread food shortages and malnutrition. The WFP estimates food shortages in North Korea of well over one million tons this spring.

This assistance will be in the form of a grant from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to the WFP for procurement of foodstuffs. The U.S. has chosen WFP as the channel for this assistance because of its ability to monitor closely distribution to ensure that the aid reaches those in need.

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برنامج
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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.

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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.

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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



World Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

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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

PLEASE STAFF to

Eric Schwartz
Bob Suttner

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.

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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.

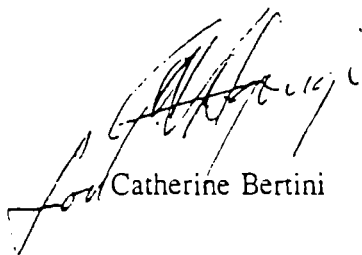
The issue of government-held stocks has been raised. So we are trying to ascertain the status of any cereal stocks in the country and precisely how they are being drawn down. We are certain, however, that the rural farmers we are seeking to help receive no government rations at all, even in normal times.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

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 EMCF.

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.