

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 16 July 1975

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

CONCERNING EMERGENCY FOOD AID TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE  
INTERMEDIARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED  
CROSS FOR AFFLICTED PERSONS IN HAITI

1. Following an abnormally long period of drought, an already precarious food situation in Haiti has sharply worsened. Famine now threatens 300 000 people<sup>(1)</sup> over the whole country, especially in the Northwest.

As a result, the Commission has received a request for food aid from the Haiti authorities, as well as a second request from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) covering 600 tons of skimmed milk powder.

2. In view of urgency of these needs, the Commission has already decided by way of an initial response :

- to allow free distribution of the normal food aid, already decided by the Community under 1975 programmes (3 000 tons cereals, 200 tons skimmed milk powder, 500 tons butteroil). On the basis of the Haiti government's original request this would otherwise have been sold on the local market.
- to grant to the ICRC 100 tons of skimmed milk powder under the agreement of 3.2.75, for which the Commission was empowered to decide itself upon emergency actions not exceeding 100 tons for milk products and 1 000 tons for cereals.

3. However the Commission considers that in view of the extent of the famine the Community should take relief measures for the afflicted persons by granting further amounts of food aid.

As regards cereals and edible fats, the Commission does not have sufficient information at this time for an evaluation of Haiti's needs. This information is expected very shortly; when it is to hand the Commission intends to present definite proposals to the Council.

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(1) This is a minimum figure; certain agencies give a total of 600 000 victims. It is impossible to establish a precise number in view of communication difficulties in the north and northwest regions.

As regards skimmed milk powder however a clear and urgent need exists. ICRC regards the minimum requirement to be around 1 000 tons which would permit to feeding of 300 000 people for 3 months<sup>(1)</sup>. Since aid pledged and in the course of delivery amounts only to 375 tons<sup>(2)</sup>, the request from ICRC for 600 tons appears entirely justified.

4. The Commission therefore proposes a Council decision on the allocation to the Red Cross of 600 tons of skimmed milk powder for afflicted persons in Haiti.

This would be distributed by the local Red Cross under ICRC control. It would taken from the agreement of 3.2.75 concluded with ICRC<sup>(3)</sup>, for delivery CIF port of unloading under the terms of the agreement.

5. The cost of this operation can be evaluated at about 492 000 u.a. taking into account the budget price for skimmed milk powder and the transport. This sum does not represent new budget expense for the Community since it falls under the 1974 food aid programme adopted by the Council on 11.7.74<sup>(4)</sup>.

6. In conclusion the Commission recommends the Council to decide on the grant of emergency food aid in the form of 600 metric tons of skimmed milk powder for afflicted persons in Haiti, by the intermediary of the ICRC, for delivery CIF and to be taken from the agreement with ICRC of 3.2.75.

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(1) Assuming 35 g/person/day.

(2) 200 tons EEC, 100 tons ICRC, 75 tons Catholic Relief Services.

(3) OJ L 75 of 24.3.75. Under this agreement 2 640 tons of skimmed milk powder are still available.

(4) OJ L 190 of 13.7.74.