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**EC TO SET UP REFUGEE CAMPS IN IRAQ**

The European Community has announced that it is ready to set up camps for Iraqi refugees in Iraqi territory. Until now EC aid has financed relief operations in neighboring Turkey and Iran only.

The European Commission in Brussels is in contact with the 12 EC member states, in particular those with military personnel on the spot, to assess humanitarian needs for future Community aid in Iraq.

The EC's relief operations, which have been underway since early April, have been made possible by a 150 million ECU\* emergency aid package decided at the special European Council in Luxembourg on April 8. The EC is contributing 100 million ECU to the package from its own resources and 50 million ECU comes from national budgets of the member states.

The Commission has already disbursed 50 percent of the EC contribution. To date, this has been used to secure the following relief operations:

- **277 programmed flights** carrying food, medicine, medical teams, tents and blankets to logistical bases;
- **food-aid** for about 600,000 people over a 2-month period. This aid totals 23,700 metric tons of flour, vegetable oil and lentils;
- **supplies for logistical centers**, including 51,500 tents, over one million blankets as well as lamps, kitchen utensils, medication, basic sanitation supplies and special food (high-nutrition biscuits).

The Community's aid actions are being carried out by United Nations agencies, the Red Cross and certain specialized non-governmental organizations. Some joint actions are being carried out in cooperation with the armed forces of the EC member states.

\* ECU (European Currency Unit) = \$1.19 on April 24, 1991

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