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DOCUMENT 1-212/84

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and
Cooperation

on the consequences of drought in Southern Africa

Rapporteur : Mr Andrew PEARCE

At its sitting of 12 September 1983 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution by Sir Peter Vanneck, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the serious consequences of the prevailing drought in Southern Africa (Doc. 1-579/83) to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

On 19 October 1983 the Committee on Development and Cooperation decided to draw up a report on this motion for a resolution, and appointed Mr Pearce rapporteur.

The committee considered the draft report at its meetings of 29 March 1984 and 26 April 1984.

At its meeting of 26 April 1984 it adopted the motion for a resolution by 8 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote under the chairmanship of Mr Poniatowski: Mr Denis, vice-chairman; Mr Pearce, rapporteur; Mr Cohen, Mr de Courcy Ling, Mr Cousté, Mr Enright, Mr Irmer, Mr C. Jackson, Mrs Pruvot (deputizing for Mr Sablé), Mr Simpson, Mr Vankerkhoven, Mr Vergeer, Mr Wawrzik.

The Committee on Budgets has not presented an opinion.

The report was tabled on 2 May 1984.

The deadline for the tabling of amendments to this report appears in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement :

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the consequences of the drought in Southern Africa

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Sir Peter VANNECK on behalf of the European Democratic Group (Doc. 1-579/83),
 - having regard to the report on drought prepared for the meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in Lusaka on 2/3 February 1984; to various reports prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO); to information provided to the rapporteur by the authorities of the drought-affected countries;
 - having regard to the fact that the decision of the Committee on Development and Cooperation not to send its rapporteur to the area in question has meant that discussions have not taken place with officials in the countries concerned, except Mozambique which the rapporteur visited for other purposes,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc.1-212/84),
- A. Whereas droughts are endemic in Southern Africa, occurring once every decade or two,
- B. Whereas most of the affected parts of Southern Africa experienced severe drought conditions from 1981 until early 1984, that it continues still in some areas and that it is the worst drought since records started about a century ago,
- C. Whereas drought has affected all of Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia, much of Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique and North-Eastern parts of South Africa, some areas being particularly badly affected,

- D. Whereas the drought has led to dramatic reduction in river flows and to wells and boreholes drying up, resulting in serious shortages of drinking water and of water for agricultural purposes;
- E. Whereas losses of crops, especially maize, and livestock have been severe, causing both shortage of food and a reduction in income from sales;
- F. Whereas in many cases seed is not available for planting;
- G. Whereas the drop in food production arising from drought means that there is a need for granting immediate large increases in food aid, even though rain has started to fall in some areas;
- H. Whereas the recent cyclone and consequent severe flood in southern Mozambique and Swaziland has made the situation worse rather than better by sweeping away top soil and destroying crops as well as devastating roads, storage facilities and irrigation systems;
1. Notes with approval that the European Community has already provided emergency, food and other aid to countries in Southern Africa;
 2. Calls on the European Community to grant further emergency aid rapidly, including seeds, to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Zambia;
 3. Where emergency humanitarian aid is requested for certain regions of South Africa; calls on the Commission to consider providing this on condition that it goes via NGOs directly to those in need;
 4. Insists on this emergency aid being of a suitable nature and adequately packaged, that proper arrangements are made for its immediate and speedy transport all the way to the affected people in the countries concerned, and that proper controls exist to enable reports to be made to the European Parliament that these requirements have been met;
 5. Believes that, as the interaction of rainfall, water supply, land management and food supply is a regional matter, solutions should be sought at regional level through SADCC, and that account be taken generally of all the technical experience available in Southern Africa and elsewhere;
 6. Sees a need for the Commission of the European Communities to present to the European Parliament more rapid appraisal of situations such as are referred to in this report; proposals for aid should be specifically tailored, in terms

of regional coverage and type of aid proposed, to the circumstances pertaining, rather than by proceeding on preconceived lines;

7. Notes that drought cannot be prevented but that steps can be taken to reduce the physical and economic damage that it causes by, for example, studying the possible advantages of
 - the establishment of food storage facilities at both regional and local level,
 - hydrological surveys leading to the sinking of more and, if necessary, deeper boreholes and the construction of dams, including small earth dams, associated with irrigation strategies,
 - programmes to encourage the increased cultivation and use of more drought-resistant crops,
 - programmes to match livestock numbers to available grazing, and to diversify livestock varieties,
 - afforestation schemes,
 - the improvement of local transport facilities and infrastructure;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities, to the Executive Secretary of SADCC, to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and to the representatives of the countries affected by drought in Southern Africa.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI. The situation in the affected countries

1. The purpose of this explanatory statement is not to repeat information given in the resolution, but briefly to outline the present situation in the countries in question. The rapporteur has received detailed information from countries and organisations concerned, including the governments of the affected countries, the governments of certain Community Member States, SADCC, the FAO, the UNDP and the Commission of the European Communities. All of this documentation is at the disposal of interested members, who should contact the secretariat of the Committee on Development and Cooperation.

2. The fact that rains have now fallen in many areas does not mean that emergency aid is no longer required, as successive years of drought have so reduced reserves of seed and livestock that substantial assistance remains an imperative.

3. The rapporteur must stress that the situation is evolving continuously and that the information given here was received in January and February 1984.

Botswana: All regions except North-Eastern were affected. Situation still critical - very little rainfall.

Lesotho: Severe drought 1981/82, 1982/83. All regions were affected. Prospects for 1984 cereal crops are generally hopeful. Though adequate rain has fallen, less than the normal average has been planted owing to shortage of inputs due to previous years' droughts.

Malawi: 1982/83 rainfall figures were below average, but some drought only in lower Shire, Zomba, Blantyre, Mulanje and Thyolo districts - Malawi much less seriously affected than other countries in the area. Normal rainfall this season. Will probably be able to export maize this year.

Mozambique: 1981/82 and 1982/83 drought in Southern and Central Regions, very severe in South. Extremely critical situation following Cyclone Domoina which hit Central and Southern Mozambique (particularly Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Tete,

Sofala and Manica Provinces) on 30 January 1984, and subsequent devastating floods in first week of February. Though rains are now falling, topsoil and young plants have been swept away, storage facilities and communications infrastructure destroyed and thousands rendered homeless. Need for immediate relief and rehabilitation assistance.

Namibia: Critically low rainfall in all areas since 1978, Southern and North-Western regions particularly stricken. Situation still very serious.

Swaziland: In 1981/82 and 1982/83 drought in all regions but particularly severe in middle and lowveld areas of Manzini, Hhohho, Lubombo and Shiselweni districts. As in Mozambique, Swaziland was particularly badly stricken by Cyclone Domoina and subsequent flooding (end of January/early February 1984). Though rain now falling, damage caused by cyclone and floods necessitates relief and rehabilitation assistance.

South Africa: 1981/82, 1982/83 serious drought, particularly in Northern areas. Some North-Eastern regions affected by Cyclone Domoina and its consequences. Large parts of South Africa have received substantial rains since October, but the drought situation in parts of the Karoo, North Western Cape and the extreme Northern Transvaal is still critical. It is likely that there will be no critical water shortages during 1984, and that it will be a moderate year for agriculture in most parts.

Zambia: 1981/82, 1982/83 drought in all regions, with Southern, Central and Eastern Provinces (main food-growing areas) badly affected and particularly critical situation in Gwembe Valley, Luangwa Valley, Sesheke and Senanga districts. Over most of the country, rains began in November but were below normal levels in the South, where most of the maize crop is grown. Shortage of inputs will mean crop below required level.

Zimbabwe: 1981/82, 1982/83 drought in all regions, with the areas of Beitbridge, (Matabeleland South), Rutenga and Zaka (Masvingo), Mberengwe (Midlands), Mutare (Mashonaland) particularly affected. Onset of rains delayed, but rain now falling, though precipitation is reported to be below normal in several areas. Indications are that the 1984 crop will be well below consumption requirements.

II. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TO THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN 1983 and 1984

COUNTRY	EEC FOOD AID				EEC EMERGENCY AID (*)
	Cereals (thousand tonnes)	Milk Powder (thousand tonnes)	Butteroil (tonnes)	Other Foods (beans, etc.) (mECU)	(including medical supplies and salt) (mECU)
Angola	21.6	-	-	-	
Botswana	4	0.6	-	-	0.2 (Zimbabwe refugees)
Lesotho	7	0.3	-	-	
Malawi	-	-	-	-	
Mozambique	40 ^(**)	1.2	200	1.0 ^(***) + 350 tonnes oil	(3.425 (drought) 0.5 (cyclone) 0.1 (cyclone)
Swaziland	4	-	-	-	0.4 (cattle plague)
Tanzania	24	1.8	400	-	
Zambia	24	0.5	400	-	
Zimbabwe	-	4	750	4.1	1.500 (drought)
TOTAL	124.6	8.4	1,750	5.1	6.125

(*) Some via NGO's

(**) Plus 20,000 tonnes via the World Food Programme (WFP) - International Emergency Food Reserve

(***) via WFP

POPULATION AND GNP PER CAPITA OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED

	Population 1981 --(millions)--	GNP per capita 1981 -----(\$US)-----
BOTSWANA	0.94	1010
LESOTHO	1.4	540
MALAWI	6.2	200
MOZAMBIQUE	12.5	not available
NAMIBIA	1.0	1906
SWAZILAND	0.63	760
SOUTH AFRICA	29.5	2770
ZIMBABWE	7.2	870
ZAMBIA	5.8	600

ANNEX II

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT 1-579/83)

tabled by Sir Peter VANNECK, on behalf of the European Democratic Group

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the serious consequences of the prevailing drought in Southern Africa

'The European Parliament,

- A - having regard to the recent reports of widespread drought with disastrous consequences - food shortages, enforced cattle slaughter, etcetera - in the countries of Southern Africa, particularly South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia,
- B - having regard to the need to provide humanitarian aid to all the suffering peoples, irrespective of political and racial differences,
1. Calls upon the Commission of the European Communities to provide emergency aid to those affected in all countries concerned without delay;
 2. Requests that the Commission make known their plans for emergency action to Parliament as soon as possible;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council of the European Communities and to the governments of the countries mentioned above.'