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E.C. ANNOUNCES SUBSTANTIAL NEW PLEDGES OF AID TO KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE

Klaus Meyer, European Commission's General Director for Development, announced a new \$39 million package of Community aid (\$28 million in cash and \$11 million worth of cereals), at the United Nations meeting on humanitarian assistance and relief for the people of Kampuchea in Geneva on May 26.

Contributions to the second phase of the Kampuchean relief program announced by several Community member states during the two-day meeting amount to a further \$44.6 million.

Community aid could be operational in the next few days. It will be available, without distinction, to all victims of the events in Kampuchea, whether in Kampuchea itself, Thailand or Vietnam. As in the first phase of the relief operation, to which the Community and its member states contributed \$80 million in 1979 (40 percent of the total), Community aid will be channelled through both public international organizations (ICRC, UNICEF, UNHCR, etc.) and non-governmental organizations.

Klaus Meyer drew the attention to the obstacles which continue to hamper the relief effort, particularly inside Kampuchea. He called for the regularization and improvement of camps on the Thai border, and provision for a road bridge to transport supplies across the border into Kampuchea. He also emphasized the importance of a more direct air link between Bangkok and Phnom Penh.

Meyer made four specific suggestions to improve the situation in Kampuchea itself:

- 1) increase of relief personnel operating inside Kampuchea,
- 2) increase of medical personnel,
- 3) improved transport, notably through more rational use (smaller convoys, better use of capacity, improved truck maintenance, etc.)
- 4) distribution of aid based on need, particularly to the provinces.

Mr. Meyer paid tribute to both the international humanitarian agencies whose work had provided for the "survival of the Cambodian people", and to the Thai government which had accepted so many refugees on its territory at the cost of great sacrifices for its own people.