



Interoffice Memorandum

*Central*

To: Mr. S. Iqbal Riza, Chef de Cabinet  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
United Nations

Date: 5 August 1997

*cc Mr. Mahmoud*

From: Trevor Gordon-Somers  
Acting Director  
Regional Bureau for Africa

Extension: 5934

Subject: Comoros

File: COI/UN-GA File

I refer to your query yesterday on the above and wish to apprise you of actions taken on our side and with DPA, Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Director, Africa II Division.

1. GA Resolution 51/F of December 1996 on Special Emergency Economic Assistance to the Comoros requested, *inter alia*, the Secretary-General "to dispatch to the Moroni as soon as possible a multi-disciplinary humanitarian and technical assessment mission in order to carry out a detailed study of the needs of the country in terms of assistance."

2. Our Chief of Southern Africa Division was in the Comoros on a routine monitoring mission from 11-13 April. The issue of the request for the mission was raised. At that time, the Government had decided to postpone the mission and await the findings of the visit of the World Bank and IMF which was scheduled for May 1997. This decision was taken because the dismal state of the country was strictly due to the poor socio-economic conditions and mismanagement. The back-to-office- report was shared with DPA Africa II Division.

3. Further reminder by the Officer-in-Charge, a.i., of the Comoros Permanent Mission to the U.N. was referred to our Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative for consultations with the Government to confirm the timing and terms of reference for the mission. The response was that the Government still wanted to review the whole matter.

4. <sup>*97-14092 - Akashi*</sup> On the 8th of July, we got a copy of the Note Verbale sent to the S.G. from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Comoros, formally requesting that the mission now be sent.

5. DPA and ourselves met last week to review the above request and agreed to do the following:

- a. Have a meeting on Wednesday, 6 August with the World Bank, IMF, WFP and UNICEF. The Resident Coordinator/Representative in Comoros has been informed to attend. She has so confirmed.

- b. The meeting will discuss and agree on the main elements of the mission's Terms of Reference, the composition and timing.

6. The present critical situation of the island of Anjouan will now form part of the deliberations of tomorrow's meeting. The presence of the RC/RR will throw more light on the picture. Meanwhile, in the island of Anjouan, a phase II status has been declared.

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