



Note to Mr. Riza

Subject: Humanitarian Situation in the Comoros Islands

RK (VGS)

1. Since the representative of the Comoros Islands called on the Secretary-General to seek humanitarian assistance, DHA has been in touch with the main humanitarian and developmental agencies that have offices in-country or in the region. The unanimous opinion of all agencies is that, while the Comoros has significant socio-economic problems, there is no immediate requirement for humanitarian assistance

2. UNDP has just completed a mission to the Comoros. The mission's findings support the position that the problems facing the Comoros are developmental in nature. It notes that the Government is taking positive steps to address its serious macro-economic problems to include reorganizing the Ministry of Finance with financial expertise provided by France and has agreed to negotiate with the World Bank and the IMF for their return to the Comoros. The European Union has also recently provided the resources to purchase electric generators which are now en route to the country.

3. The Resident Coordinator, who is also the WFP representative, is closely monitoring the humanitarian situation along with USAID. Should the need for humanitarian assistance arise, agencies have indicated their readiness to respond.

4. Mr. Downes-Thomas met today with the Charge d'affaires a.i., Mr. Mohamed Aboud Mahmoud, and briefed him on the latest developments. We will remain in contact with the Comoros Mission on this issue.

Qazi Shaukat Fareed

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12 May 1997

