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REPORT ON WFP CHARTERED FLIGHT KSV 3275 TO KOSOVO

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff focal point(s) indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2645).



1. The purpose of this report to the Executive Board is to inform on action taken and/or being taken by the Secretariat and other concerned authorities subsequent to the tragic crash of WFP chartered flight KSV 3275 and to seek the Board's approval of the source of funding of the KSV 3275 Disaster Special Account.
2. On Friday 12 November 1999, an aircraft (Flight KSV 3275) chartered by WFP from SiFly with 24 people on board (21 staff of United Nations organizations and NGOs and three crew) crashed near Pristina. There were no survivors. The plane was part of the air bridge system that the Programme uses to ferry officers and staff of United Nations organizations, NGOs and Member States between Rome and Kosovo.
3. The French Civil Aviation Authorities (*Bureau Enquêtes-Accidents*) are investigating the circumstances and causes of the accident. A preliminary report presenting available established facts about the circumstances of the accident was transmitted on 30 December 1999 to the families of the victims. A final report is expected to be released in February 2000.
4. Immediately after the accident, the Secretariat undertook the following action:
 - established crisis management cells in Rome and Pristina;
 - hired Kenyon International Emergencies Services (KIES), a firm specialized in disaster response, which assisted in providing operational coordination, forensic and mortuary services, bereavement support to families and counselling to WFP staff;
 - coordinated closely with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in the handling of operational and administrative matters in Pristina;
 - accepted and coordinated the extensive support provided by the Italian authorities (*Presidenza del Consiglio*, the City of Rome, the *Istituto di Medicina Legale* of La Sapienza University) in the identification and appropriate transport of the victims from Pristina to Rome and to their respective countries or cities in Italy;
 - provided appropriate transport, hotel accommodation and other incidental expenses to the families of the victims, as well as psychological and emotional support with the help of volunteers from Assitalia and staff of KIES and WFP;
 - organized memorial ceremonies in honour of the victims, in Rome and Pristina, that were attended by families and friends of the victims, officials of the Italian Government, members of the Executive Board, ambassadors of the countries of origin of the victims, officials of United Nations organizations and the concerned NGOs, and WFP staff in Rome;
 - established a Kosovo Crisis Group Coordination Unit to follow up on outstanding issues, especially the handling and the return of the victims' personal effects to the respective families; and
 - coordinated a strategy with external lawyers for the handling of future passenger claims.
5. Aiming to act with speed and efficiency, as well as with utmost concern for the families of the victims, the Executive Director immediately established a special account entitled KSV 3275 Disaster Special Account under her authority as provided for in Financial



Regulation 5.1. All expenditures related to the accident which are considered extraordinary and are not able to be covered under the Programme Support and Administrative (PSA) budget are being charged to this special account. Due to the exigency of the situation, it was not possible to obtain prior approval of the Board to authorize the source of funding for this special account. Therefore, there is need to obtain this approval on a *post facto* basis.

6. The expenditures incurred in this operation are essentially in the nature of travel and accommodation of the victims' close relatives, as well as petty cash given to them for incidental expenses, funeral arrangements and ceremonies, counseling, communications, travel of staff and consultants, fees and other related expenditures. Total expenditures as at 31 December 1999 are detailed in the Annex. The Secretariat believes that additional costs may still be incurred subsequent to the preparation of this report. For instance, legal costs and expenses will be payable in due course. Any reimbursement of expenditures will be credited to the special account. The utilization of the special account will be reported to the Board as part of the audited financial statements for the biennium ending 31 December 1999 in October of this year.
7. The Executive Director expresses appreciation:
 - to the Italian authorities for their work, cooperation and the financial assistance they provided to the Programme;
 - to the officers and staff of UNMIK and KFOR, the French Civil Aviation Authorities, the United Nations Information Centre in Rome, Assistalia, members of the Executive Board and all those who assisted the Programme during this period; and
 - to all the WFP officers and staff in Kosovo and in Rome who volunteered their services and worked many unpaid hours, thereby enabling the Programme to deal with the aftermath of this tragic accident with utmost care, dignity, speed and legal propriety.
8. The Executive Director honours and recognizes the victims of the accident who sacrificed their lives while helping those in need in Kosovo.
9. The Executive Director recommends that the Board:
 - take note of the actions taken by the Secretariat in the handling and management of the accident; and
 - authorize on a *post facto* basis that the un-earmarked balance of the General Fund of the Programme be used to fund the KSV 3275 Disaster Special Account.



ANNEX

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| <p>TOTAL EXPENDITURES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999 in US\$</p> |
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| Travel and Accommodation for Family Members and WFP Staff | 170 550 |
| International travel and expenses of family members | 50 000 |
| Travel and expenses of WFP staff attending funerals of victims | 13 410 |
| Travel and expenses of WFP Pristina staff for counselling/debriefing in Rome | 22 390 |
| Hotel expenses for family members and counselling (Rome) | 79 670 |
| Other hospitality and transport expenses for families and WFP staff (Rome) | 5 080 |
| Funeral Arrangements and Ceremonies | 36 200 |
| Consultancies (Legal, Crisis Management, Crisis Group) | 136 300 |
| Communications and Public Affairs | 74 300 |
| Other Expenses (including WFP Pristina expenses) | 19 300 |
| Total | 436 650 |

