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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**PROGRAMME UNIT ON JUSTICE AND SERVICE**

Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service

We hope that there will be a positive and immediate response to the above indicated needs. Please send your reactions, questions or suggestions directly to:

To CICARWS related agencies
and friends

July 10, 1980
RvH/hf
Vicarage

47, M.A. Jinnah Road
QUETTA, Pakistan

Dear Colleagues,

SITREP 1. -- Refugees from Afghanistan

My colleague, Carl Nielsen, has just made another trip to Pakistan where he visited the Inter Aid Committee of Bishop Rudvin, the UNHCR Branch Office and various refugee camps in the vicinity of Peshawar. We want to share the main points of his telexed report with you for your information and action:

1. "Refugee situation steadily worsening with total 912,076 registered 22 June; expectation end 1980 one point five million; weekly arrival rate currently 10,000. Refugee needs remain essentially the same. UNHCR representative pessimistic that assistance can go much beyond relief needs; says "self reliance projects simply not possible". To a limited extent income generating projects are; chief reasons lack of available arable land for agricultural projects and shortage of economic opportunities for nearly everyone including locals. Also with illiteracy educational projects difficult especially among women, so projects like crafts and weaving have some potential though there is marketing problem. Evidence rising tension between refugees and locals on land grazing, water rights and especially on issue of refugee cash grants of rupees 500 maximum which come close to many Pakistanis' monthly wages.
2. Inter Aid Committee continues outstanding work praised by all. IAC has made major commitment of US\$2,200,000 for purchase of blankets, quilts, cloth and tents in third quarter 1980. Only about half a million dollars so far pledged by Norchurchaid, Bread for the World and Norwegian Refugee Council, so other interested donors should be urged to contribute.
3. Visited several camps vicinity Peshawar. Conditions hard but refugees receiving supplies regularly and medical care is improving. Main effort should be preventive by assuring clean water supply, giving vaccinations etc. which government plans but has not executed. Despite good coordination cooperation between government, UNHCR and Volags, the sheer number of new arrivals impedes program improvements. Many refugees are moving to higher ground to escape heat, causing distribution problems.

4. Agencies should know of one special need identified by UNHCR: large quantities of protein rich biscuits for children are urgently required. Biscuits could be locally made but additive like protiblend plus funding for sugar which is rationed here and other ingredients would have to be assured. Potentially several hundred thousand children could be involved."

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Inter Aid Committee
Vicarage
47, M.A. Jinnah Road
QUETTA, Pakistan

with copies to us. The situation is becoming more critical every day and a coordinated and increased effort on behalf of these refugees is essential.

Yours sincerely,

Rud van Hoogevest
Coordinator of
Refugee Services



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