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Viewing cable 02ROME5830, WFP LAUNCHES NORTH KOREA EMERGENCY OPERATION FOR

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Table with 5 columns: Reference ID, Created, Released, Classification, Origin. Row 1: 02ROME5830, 2002-12-03 14:24, 2011-08-30 01:44, UNCLASSIFIED, Embassy Rome

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ROME 005830

SIPDIS

GAO FOR PTHOMAS

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

AMEMBASSY BEIJING FOR AMBASSADOR RANDT AND USDA/FAS LARRY SENGER AMEMBASSY SEOUL FOR AMBASSADOR HUBBARD AND USDA/FAS GRANT PETRIE AMEMBASSY TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR BAKER AND USDA/FAS HALE STATE FOR A/S PRM DEWEY, IO A/S HOLMES, EAP/CM, AND IO/D USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN, MCHAMBLISS AND RTILSWORTH USAID FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, AA/DCHA WINTER, AND D/DCHA/FFP LANDIS NSC FOR JDWORKEN USDOC FOR IEP/OPB/EAP TREASURY FOR OASIA/WINGLE AND ITT/CHANG

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID PREL PREF EAGR ECON KN PREL PREF EAGR ECON KN PREL PREF EAGR ECON KN KS UN KS EAID UN KS EAID UN

SUBJECT: WFP LAUNCHES NORTH KOREA EMERGENCY OPERATION FOR 2003 - USD 201.08 MILLION

REF: (A) ROME 5392

----- SUMMARY -----

¶1. ON DECEMBER 2, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM LAUNCHED ITS 2003 EMERGENCY OPERATION (EMOP) FOR NORTH KOREA - ONE YEAR UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 05830 01 OF 03 031555Z (JANUARY- DECEMBER 2003), VALUED AT USD 201.08 MILLION, TO ASSIST 6.4 MILLION PEOPLE - MAINLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN - WHO WILL STILL NEED FOOD ASSISTANCE IN SPITE OF A SLIGHT INCREASE IN PROJECTED HARVESTS. WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAMES MORRIS VISITED NORTH KOREA, CHINA, SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN DURING NOVEMBER 2002, AND IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH THE SIZEABLE RATCHETING DOWN OF BENEFICIARY COVERAGE (BY THREE MILLION) DUE TO LACK OF DONOR SUPPORT. CLEARLY, LACK OF ANY JAPANESE FOOD ASSISTANCE SUPPORT DURING 2002 (THEY CONTRIBUTED 320,000 METRIC TONS IN 2001) - HAS HURT THE PROGRAM. MORRIS' STATEMENT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 3 (WHERE HE WILL HIGHLIGHT INTER ALIA CURRENT FOOD SHORTFALLS IN NORTH KOREA) AND SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON DECEMBER 5 WILL OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIRECT DIALOGUE ON 2003 SUPPORT LEVELS AND THE CRITICAL NEED FOR INCREASED WFP MONITORING AND ACCESS TO FOOD AID DISTRIBUTIONS THROUGHOUT NORTH KOREA. END SUMMARY.

----- BACKGROUND -----

¶2. IN 2003, WFP ESTIMATES THAT 6.4 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE DPR KOREA - MAINLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN - WILL STILL NEED FOOD ASSISTANCE IN SPITE OF A SLIGHT INCREASE IN PROJECTED HARVESTS. A JOINT FAO/WFP CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENT MISSION, WHICH VISITED THE DPRK IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002 HAS FORECAST A 4.9 PERCENT INCREASE IN 2002/03 (NOVEMBER-OCTOBER) PRODUCTION OVER LAST YEAR'S PRODUCTION. WHILE THIS HELPS THE NATIONAL FOOD BALANCE SHEET, DOMESTIC PRODUCTION WILL AGAIN FALL BELOW MINIMUM FOOD NEEDS AND THE COUNTRY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 05830 01 OF 03 031555Z WILL AGAIN HAVE TO DEPEND ON SUBSTANTIAL EXTERNAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR THE NEXT YEAR AS ITS CAPACITY TO IMPORT COMMERCIALY IS HIGHLY CONSTRAINED.

¶3. SINCE 1995 WFP HAS DELIVERED ABOUT 3 MILLION TONNES OF FOOD AID, MOSTLY CEREALS, TO THE DPRK. FOR 2002, UNDER EMERGENCY OPERATION 10141.0, THE PROVISION OF 611,000 TONNES OF FOOD AID WAS APPROVED TO ASSIST 6.4 MILLION PEOPLE AT A TOTAL COST TO WFP OF USD 215.8 MILLION. HOWEVER, THE OPERATION REMAINED LARGELY UNDER RESOURCED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. BY THE END OF 2002, LESS THAN 450,000 TONNES WILL HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED. WFP FOOD SHORTAGES HAVE BECOME MOST ACUTE IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR AND, WITH FEW PLEDGES MADE IN LATE 2002 FOR ARRIVAL IN 2003, THERE WILL BE VERY LIMITED CARRY-OVER STOCKS. BY NOVEMBER, NEARLY 3 MILLION NURSERY, KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN, AS WELL AS PREGNANT AND NURSING WOMEN - ALL ON THE WEST COAST - WERE DENIED WFP RATIONS.

WFP'S PROPOSED 2003 EMOP

¶4. THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF WFP'S 2003 NORTH KOREA EMOP ARE TO:

-SAVE LIVES BY PREVENTING FOOD SHORTAGES FROM DEVELOPING

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PAGE 01 ROME 05830 02 OF 03 031556Z
ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CA-01	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	USNW-00	DOEE-00	ITCE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EXME-00	EUR-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	UTED-00	FOE-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	MMP-00	AC-01
	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OES-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	T-00	USIE-00
	FMP-00	R-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/015W		

-----120412 031746Z /38

P 031424Z DEC 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7179
INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USEU BRUSSELS 2986
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOC WASHDC
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC

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PAGE 02 ROME 05830 02 OF 03 031556Z
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 005830

SIPDIS

GAO FOR PTHOMAS

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

AMEMBASSY BEIJING FOR AMBASSADOR RANDT AND USDA/FAS LARRY SENGER
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USAID FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, AA/DCHA WINTER, AND D/DCHA/FFP LANDIS
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID PREL PREF EAGR ECON KN PREL PREF EAGR ECON KN PREL PREF EAGR ECON KN
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INTO FAMINE CONDITIONS;
-MAINTAIN AND/OR IMPROVE THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF YOUNG CHILDREN, WOMEN OF CHILD BEARING AGE AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS;

-SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY THROUGH RELIEF AND REHABILITATION FOOD FOR WORK PROJECTS.

¶5. SECONDARY OBJECTIVES WILL AIM AT REDUCING THE IMPACT OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 05830 02 OF 03 031556Z
NATURAL DISASTERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ATTRIBUTED TO SEASONAL TYPHOONS, AND MITIGATING THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE AND DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC REFORMS ON THE FOOD SECURITY OF CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION.

¶6. WFP'S PROGRAMME WILL CONTINUE TO TARGET SPECIFIC GROUPS WITHIN THE POPULATION, WHO HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS AND/OR HAVE NO WAY OF MEETING THEIR OWN MINIMUM ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND SOME OF THEIR MICRO-NUTRIENT NEEDS. THESE INCLUDE CHILDREN FROM 6 MONTHS TO 10 YEARS, PREGNANT AND NURSING WOMEN, THE ELDERLY AND THOSE PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN. IN 2003, WFP WILL SHIFT ITS TARGETING MORE TOWARDS THOSE DEPENDENT ON THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, RESIDING PREDOMINANTLY IN URBAN AREAS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ORPHANS, WFP WILL EXCLUDE FROM ITS COVERAGE RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL PYONGYANG.

WFP ACCESS AND MONITORING

¶7. WFP'S POLICY OF "NO ACCESS, NO FOOD" WILL CONTINUE. THIS MEANS THAT ONLY THOSE COUNTIES/DISTRICTS WHERE WFP IS GRANTED ACCESS WILL RECEIVE DISTRIBUTIONS. DUE TO CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP OF HAMHUNG CITY ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN LATE 2001, SEVEN DISTRICTS WERE MERGED INTO TWO - HAMHUNG AND HUNGNAM CITIES. THE ACCESSIBLE COUNTIES AND TOTAL COUNTIES FIGURES WERE THUS ADJUSTED (I.E. EACH REDUCED BY FIVE) TO REFLECT THIS CHANGE. THEREFORE, WFP CURRENTLY HAS ACCESS TO 163 OUT OF 206 COUNTIES/DISTRICTS. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 87 PERCENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 05830 02 OF 03 031556Z
WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE COUNTRY'S TOTAL CIVILIAN POPULATION OF 22.6 MILLION.

¶8. NO NEW COUNTIES WERE OPENED TO WFP DURING 2002. THE MOST RECENT COUNTY TO BE DECLARED ACCESSIBLE - SAKJU, IN NORTH PYONGAN PROVINCE - WAS DONE SO IN OCTOBER 2001. WFP REMAINS HIGHLY CONCERNED FOR THE PLIGHT OF POPULATION IN INACCESSIBLE COUNTIES, AND IN 2003, WFP WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL COUNTIES.

¶9. WFP WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO SEEK WIDER ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON FARMERS' MARKETS AND PRICES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY SITUATION.

COMMENT

¶10. WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAMES MORRIS VISITED NORTH KOREA, CHINA, SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN DURING NOVEMBER 2002 (REF A), AND IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH THE SIZEABLE PRESENT RATCHETING DOWN OF BENEFICIARY COVERAGE (BY THREE MILLION) DUE TO LACK OF DONOR SUPPORT. CLEARLY, LACK OF ANY JAPANESE FOOD ASSISTANCE DURING 2002 (THEY CONTRIBUTED 320,000 METRIC TONS IN 2001) - HAS HURT THE PROGRAM. MORRIS' STATEMENT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 3 (WHERE HE WILL

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UNCLASSIFIED PTQ1018

PAGE 01 ROME 05830 03 OF 03 031556Z
ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CA-01	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	DOEE-00	ITCE-00	DOTI-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EXME-00	EUR-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	FOE-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	MMP-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OES-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	R-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	SWCI-00	/015W					

-----120419 031746Z /38

P 031424Z DEC 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7180
INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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PAGE 02 ROME 05830 03 OF 03 031556Z
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HIGHLIGHT INTER ALIA CURRENT FOOD SHORTFALLS IN NORTH KOREA)
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THE CRITICAL NEED FOR INCREASED WFP MONITORING AND ACCESS TO
FOOD AID DISTRIBUTIONS THROUGHOUT NORTH KOREA. HEILEMAN

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2002ROME05830 - Classification: UNCLASSIFIED