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International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991

Convened by UNDRO

Hosted by the Austrian Government

FINAL REPORT

(Wattener Lizum, 8-12 April 1991)



UNITED NATIONS

(UNDRO)

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UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1991

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In several emergencies, search and rescue (SAR) teams represent the first, living sign of international solidarity. While the value of their services is high, much can still be done to strengthen their co-ordination. Experience from recent sudden disasters in populated areas shows that improvements are needed to ensure an effective and meaningful deployment of international teams in support of national relief efforts.

At the third meeting of Officials in charge of National Emergency Relief Services (NERS III), which was held in Geneva from 19 to 20 October 1989, UNDRO was requested to hold a workshop to discuss ways and means of improving international search and rescue operations. For this purpose, the "International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991" was convened by UNDRO and hosted by the Austrian Government between 8 and 12 April 1991 in Wattener Lizum, Austria.

Representatives of 18 disaster-prone countries and countries having search and rescue teams with international experience participated in the workshop together with representatives of UNDRO, WHO, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LRCS), and the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO).

The objective of the meeting, to initiate the development of guidelines for strengthening co-ordination of international relief within the field of search and rescue, was reached through the examination and endorsement of four protocols outlining: 1. disaster affected country's responsibilities, 2. assisting country's responsibilities, 3. on-site operations co-ordination, and 4. an international search and rescue advisory committee.

It is believed that the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop will offer a versatile tool for enhancing the efficiency of management of international resources in the field of search and rescue.

In a longer perspective, they should be seen as first steps towards a common understanding of operational disaster management following sudden disasters. They could be expanded and lead the way into all areas of international (with emphasis on regional) emergency co-operation. The work is, therefore, in line with several aspects of the main objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) 1990-2000, such as the exchange of technology and know-how in disaster management and reduction of cost and loss of life through higher efficiency in disaster response.

All references to search and rescue (SAR) in this document are made in the context of search and rescue following sudden disasters in populated areas.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Opening Statement by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

1. The International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991 was opened with a welcoming address by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator Mr. M'Hamed Essaafi. In his statement, Mr. Essaafi thanked the Austrian Government and its Armed Forces for hosting the Workshop, and paid tribute to the financial support received from the Governments of Canada, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. He recalled the origins of the Workshop, from the Third Meeting of Officials in Charge of National Emergency Relief Services (NERS III), convened by UNDR0 in Geneva in October 1989, to the two search and rescue meetings organized by the United States Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance in 1989 and in 1990. In his opinion, there were two concurrent priorities: one was to develop search and rescue capacities in disaster-prone developing countries, particularly through regional co-operation, and the other was to strengthen existing teams in donor countries rather than create new ones.

2. He noted that the four draft protocols should be conceived as flexible and practical working instruments instead of formal conventions. The ultimate goal was to improve co-ordination on site and avoid overlappings such as those which occurred in Armenia.

3. The Co-ordinator explained that, if the protocols were adopted, UNDR0 was committed to their implementation, subject to the availability of funds. Summaries of the protocols, once adopted by NERS, would be presented in UNDR0's reports to the General Assembly, as appropriate. The contents would be made known to a large number of countries receiving the report on the meeting and in the context of the UNDP/UNDR0 Manual, currently under preparation.

Election of Officials

4. Participants elected Mr. F. Gentiloni, Senior Relief Co-ordination Officer, UNDR0, as chairman and Colonel N. Furstenhofer, Head of the Austrian Armed Forces Disaster Relief Unit (AAFD RU), as co-chairman of the meeting. On the last day of the meeting, the chair was taken over by Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel, Director of UNDR0 and Deputy to the Co-ordinator.

Welcoming Statements

5. Welcoming statements were addressed to the participants of the Workshop by the following:
- a) Dr. G. Kaudel, Ministerial Advisor in the Federal Chancellery;
 - b) General Mittendorfer, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Corps, Ministry of Defence;
 - c) Dr. Schimpp, Representative of the Tyrolean Government.

Presentation of Official Documentation and Adoption of Work Programme

6. The official documentation of the meeting, "SAR/I/I Provisional Work Programme and Timetable", and SAR/I/II "Draft Protocols on Search and Rescue", was explained. The provisional Work Programme and Timetable (Annex VI) were adopted.

7. Mr. Coutard, representing the French Government, expressed his country's support for the Workshop and its proceedings.

8. Mr. Shafiq, representing the Pakistani Government, elaborated on the type of disasters which occurred in Pakistan and the need for SAR operations. Flooding was the single largest and most frequent disaster and, although it entailed large-scale relief and rehabilitation activities, there was so far little scope for search and rescue. The northwestern areas of Pakistan frequently had to face local avalanches and landslides and SAR teams from the area were able to cope. This mountainous area was also hit by earthquakes from the Hindukush region, on average every eighteen months. The latest earthquake took place on 1 February 1991. Inaccessibility of the affected areas due to poor communications and transportation networks hampered relief and rescue operations. It was impossible to transport SAR equipment to the area because helicopters of the Emergency Relief Cell could not operate at high altitude and even C-130 aircrafts undertook only a few sorties because of bad weather. Search and rescue operations were therefore confined to manual efforts. The provincial government was able to send medical teams to give on-the-spot treatment to the injured.

9. Pakistan's experience of disasters to date reveals that no large-scale search and rescue operations involving the use of sophisticated equipment has been required but that there could be a call for international search and rescue teams if an earthquake should affect urban areas.

10. General Rene Cruz, representing the Philippines, spoke about experience gained following the earthquake which hit the Philippines on 16 July 1990. The final death toll reached 1,288, with 2,786 people injured. In addition, 25,209 families were made homeless. Further casualties were incurred in land- and mudslides occasioned by the series of typhoons that followed on the heels of the earthquake. Rescue teams, composed of earthquake and rescue specialists and medical personnel, were flown in with dogs and equipment, by the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, Singapore and France.

11. The speaker stressed that the disaster had provided some important lessons and shown deficiencies in disaster preparedness with regard to seismic monitoring and early warning equipment and communication systems. There was confusion immediately after the earthquake regarding the entry and receipt of overseas donations and also difficulties because of the uncoordinated independent distribution of relief services by many enthusiastic NGOs.

12. Mr. Peter Walker, of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, presented a discussion paper¹ written by his organization on International Search and Rescue Teams. Although research into the subject was still very limited, certain critical issues had emerged. International SAR teams were needed primarily in urban areas after the collapse of buildings constructed of modern materials, since in rural areas local people were generally able to reach those victims still alive. The survival time of most victims of a disaster was very limited: about fifty per cent of total deaths usually occurred in the first six hours. Death occurred from asphyxiation, loss of blood and the build-up of toxins. In the three disasters on which statistics were available (earthquakes in China, Italy and Armenia) almost all survivors were rescued by local teams on the spot within the

¹ League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, "International Search and Rescue Teams, A League Discussion Paper April 1991", Field Studies Paper No. 1.

first 48 hours, before the arrival of international teams. The rapid speed of communication was of paramount importance together with knowledge of medical techniques to be applied when rescuing the trapped. The international teams with their greater skill and specialized equipment were called upon to carry out difficult rescues, generally of seriously injured people, where medical treatment had to be started from the instant the person was located. International teams had to be prepared liaise with local people (not just those at government or administrative level). They had a role to play in sharing their knowledge and experience with local teams so that the latter could be more effective in future events.

13. The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies had decided not to create their own teams but rather to strengthen the work of local societies on training local teams and on disaster preparedness.

14. Mr. Dieter Laepke from the German Technische Hilfswerk made a presentation in which he described his organization and its role in responding to emergencies, both with regard to domestic and international operations. In the presentation he mentioned strengths, such as the rapid response time of his unit and its wide range of experience, but also pointed to bottlenecks in international operations, such as dependence on transport arrangements by the affected country.

UNDRO Directory of International Search and Rescue Teams

15. Mr. Joseph Bishop, UNDRO consultant, delivered a paper on the development of a Directory of International Search and Rescue Teams.²

16. He explained the importance of such a document for the future planning, co-ordination and deployment of SAR teams, as this would become an authoritative document which could be consulted by assisting, recipient countries and UNDRO when deciding the type of assistance required.

17. Mr. Bishop went on to explain that although the questionnaire which formed the framework for the Directory had been sent to fifty-six (56) different countries through their Diplomatic Missions to the United Nations Geneva, to date only some eight replies had been received. He stressed that the success of such a Directory depended entirely on the number and composition of completed questionnaires received. With this in mind, he urged representatives to contact concerned departments in their countries to facilitate a speedy response to the questionnaire.

² The criteria for SAR teams to be entered in the Directory, such as structure, operational capability, self-sufficiency are contained in Annex VII of this report.

18. The Workshop continued with the examination of four draft Search and Rescue protocols submitted by the representatives of Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Sweden and the U.S.A. These originated from, and should be seen in the context of, the following:

- The experience from recent disasters and consequent efforts to strengthen international co-operation in the field of International Search and Rescue.
- Several meetings which had been held with participants from the Search and Rescue arena, such as the meeting of representatives from search and rescue teams in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, which on 29 May 1990 issued the "Beuggen Declaration"³ to improve co-ordination in this area.
- In this connection, and following an initiative taken at the International Meeting on Urban Search and Rescue, which was organized by OFDA in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, from 28 to 29 May 1990, the need emerged for internationally recognized protocols. They would establish a programme of co-operation among search and rescue teams and would define the responsibilities of all parties involved in search and rescue operations.
- The responsibilities for preparing these protocols were distributed among selected countries participating in the latter meeting. UNDR0 was chosen as the focal point for preparation of the protocols, which would be presented for revision and adoption at the present Workshop.

19. The protocols, as submitted to the Workshop, were introduced by the co-chairman in the context of experiences gained by the Austrian Armed Forces Disaster Relief Unit (AAFDRU), during international relief missions, notably to Armenia following the 1988 earthquake.

20. Following a brief presentation and explanation of each protocol by the respective drafter, the participants were divided into four working groups to review the protocols. Each working group was led by the drafter of the respective protocol. The following protocols were reviewed:

Protocol No. 1: Disaster-Affected Country's Responsibilities, drafted by Messrs. Walter Cotte, Colombian Red Cross, and Ricardo Mena, Partners of the Americas, Ecuador.

Protocol No. 2: Assisting Country's Responsibilities, drafted by a committee of representatives from German search and rescue organizations and chaired by Mr. Stephen Bock, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Protocol No. 3: On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre, drafted by Messrs. Tom Frey and Chuck Mills, representing the U.S Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Protocol No. 4: International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee, drafted by Mr. Ulf Boghammar, Swedish Rescue Services Board.

³ The Beuggen Declaration is an agreement for mutual assistance and co-operation in search and rescue operations and the development of search and rescue methodology among participating countries. It lists measures to be carried out before and during relief operations, together with preparatory measures to achieve common standards.

Disaster-Affected Country's Responsibilities

Summary

21. The protocol indicates that international disaster relief is, on occasions, facing problems due to a lack of close co-operation among all parties involved in the operations, and because the time factor has not been properly managed.

22. The protocol is based on the assumption that assistance will be given at the request, and with the consent, of the affected country.

Key Points in the Protocol are:

- a) The affected country should carry out a damage and needs assessment as quickly as possible and, if appropriate, request assistance from the international community.
- b) In requesting aid, the affected country should establish priorities and specify the type of assistance it requires from SAR teams.
- c) Upon the arrival of international teams, simplified immigration procedures should be granted and a government official should be designated with the unique responsibility of monitoring and co-ordinating all SAR activities.
- d) SAR teams should be provided with available local transport.

Discussion

23. There was a long discussion regarding the possibility that disaster-affected countries might refuse international SAR assistance. It was noted, in this connection, that para. 7 of the protocol indicated that relief would be given at the request, and with the consent, of the affected country.

24. It was recommended that bilateral agreements concerning SAR be based upon the four SAR protocols.

25. Risks, vulnerability and local SAR preparedness levels should be analyzed before disasters occur with a view to identifying international SAR requirements.

26. Given the crucial importance of the early arrival of SAR teams, risk-taking in the decision to send international teams was elaborated upon. It was established that in order to guarantee the efficiency of international SAR teams, they would have to be dispatched on indications of major damage and needs without a complete assessment of the situation. However, the importance of speeding up and improving the host country's ability to produce accurate and timely needs assessments was highlighted.

The protocol was unanimously adopted by the Workshop.

Summary

27. The protocol states that following a disaster which requires SAR relief operations, and immediately upon a request for assistance from a stricken country and/or UNDRO, teams in assisting countries with a capacity, and wish, to assist should define their capabilities and offer that assistance without delay. SAR teams should be prepared to depart from their home bases within 12 hours after official notification.

28. Furthermore, the protocol stresses the importance of SAR teams being highly qualified and well co-ordinated in their home countries. They should be clearly identified with their national representative(s) abroad, i.e. embassy officials, consulate, etc.. when operating in a disaster zone.

29. The protocol describes the functions of a SAR team, SAR operational tasks and performance requirements.

Key Points in the protocol are:

- a) Only UNDRO-registered SAR teams should be deployed.
- b) The structure of international SAR teams should allow for the participation of local relief workers:
- c) SAR teams must be self-sufficient in all essential areas to ensure operational capacity for up to 14 days:
- d) SAR teams should have their own translation service;
- e) SAR teams should bring along appropriate communications equipment.

Discussion

30. Participants discussed at length the two time limits: 12 hours for departing from home bases following official notification and 14 days' self-sufficiency. It was agreed that the 12-hour limit should be related to a decision by the assisting country to send a team, and the importance of making such decisions rapidly was strongly underlined. In this context a reference was made to the discussion related to protocol No.1 regarding risk-taking.

31. The use of military units was widely debated. Some speakers felt that military personnel should not be included in assisting teams. Others believed that military experience and equipment represented a valuable contribution. It was noted that certain countries had exclusively military SAR teams, which had operated effectively in several disasters.

32. The following four recommendations, worked out by the working group, were presented:

- UNDRO should form a committee consisting of SAR experts to guide and assist countries establishing SAR teams to be able to meet the criteria of the UNDRO Directory of International Search and Rescue Teams.

- UNDRO should actively assist with the co-ordination of aircraft support for those SAR teams without immediate airlift support.
- UNDRO should develop a system for sharing SAR capabilities and technical specialities among UNDRO-registered teams. This would assist each team to be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of other teams.
- The UNDRO Advisory Committee should establish a data base, available to all SAR teams, which would contain evaluation records, details of current teams and, eventually, country profiles on disaster-prone countries.

The protocol was unanimously adopted by the Workshop.

Summary

33. The protocol reaffirms the insufficiency of co-operation among affected countries' and assisting countries' relief teams during disaster relief operations. To enhance the efficiency of SAI activities as such and the usefulness of international teams in specific, the protocol outlines an On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre which would support an affected country's disaster co-ordination capabilities.

34. It describes the functions of such a Centre within the three main areas of Management, Operational Planning and Logistics, and states that a Centre should be designed so that it has:

- Clear, simple and well-defined operational procedures,
- Accessible, flexible, multi-functional staff,
- Qualified staff from the affected government and/or from assisting countries, who have experience in disaster management.

Key Points in the Protocol are:

- a) A Centre should be viewed as versatile tool which a country can activate for emergencies that become too large or too complex to be handled by a single jurisdictional area such as a city, region or province. It could well be used for emergencies handled with national resources only but it should under all circumstances be activated when international assistance is required.
- b) Even in cases when the Centre is manned by international staff, the ultimate review and approval of disaster policies, procedures, priorities and strategies would rest with the affected country's official(s).
- c) An assisting country could set up and make available for immediate dispatch to a disaster zone a module including equipment and supplies such as communications and office supplies.
- d) In addition to officials from the affected country and relief teams from assisting countries, the Centre should include representatives from non-governmental organizations and UNDRO.

Discussion

35. The location of this Centre was discussed. It was noted that its configuration would vary according to the type of disaster. It would depend on factors such as the geographical spread of the emergency, governmental structures and the volume of required assistance.

The protocol was unanimously adopted by the Workshop.

International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee

Summary

36. The protocol states that no single nation has the resources to cope with all possible disasters, and that most major disasters call for action by relief organizations from several different countries. It also points out that disasters often affect more than one country, which necessitates international co-operation both at the scene of the emergency and in the surrounding area.

37. The protocol proposes to establish internationally accepted procedures for sustained co-operation among search and rescue teams operating on the international scene. Such procedures would make emergency preparedness and response more effective and thereby save more lives, reduce suffering and minimize consequences for the environment, all with increased efficiency and more economical use of resources.

Keypoints in the Protocol are:

- a) In order to establish internationally accepted procedures and standards for international co-operation among parties concerned with the prevention of, preparedness for and response to sudden disasters involving collapsed structures, an International SAR Advisory Committee is needed.
- b) Such a Committee should consist of representatives from nations capable of giving assistance in such situations as well as from countries likely to receive assistance. The Committee should provide guidance and give technical support within the framework of UNDRO.
- c) The Committee should establish working groups to formulate proposals on relevant matters.

Discussion

38. There was discussion on how co-operation among SAR teams and procedures for emergency preparedness and response could be enhanced. The participants agreed that the only relevant body for such co-operation is UNDRO, with other bodies such as LRCS and ICDO as important complements.

39. Efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of SAR operations were regarded as being in line with the goals of the IDNDR.

40. Many participants felt the need to speed up the establishment of such a Committee. As a result, it was decided to take the preliminary action reflected in the final conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop.

41. The role of UNDRO in providing backstopping and support-services to the Committee was pointed out. UNDRO's representatives reiterated their wish to co-operate in this endeavour but noted that this would be possible only if resources were made available for the establishment of an UNDRO Search and Rescue Desk.

The protocol was unanimously adopted by the Workshop.

42. Participants in the International Search and Rescue Workshop 1991 adopted the following conclusions and recommendations .

43. These conclusions and recommendations have been made in the context of Search and Rescue (SAR) but they are for the most part also relevant to emergency management in general.

Conclusions

44. Given current population and urbanization trends in disaster-prone areas, the need for large scale SAR operations following sudden disasters is increasing.

45. There already exists a number of skilled and well-equipped SAR teams.

46. There are two concurrent priorities: one is to assist disaster-prone developing countries in improving their SAR capacities; the other is to strengthen the functioning of existing teams in donor countries rather than creating new ones.

This implies:

- Improved co-ordination amongst teams and between them and concerned authorities:
- Rapid and improved damage and needs assessment:
- Immediate request for assistance;
- Rapid mobilization and therefore shortened time of arrival;
- Expanded training activities and exchange of information;
- Standardization of operating methods and communications.

47. Participants strongly welcomed the SAR Directory, which is under preparation by UNDRC and is regarded as an essential tool in this context.

48. They noted UNDRO's key role in promoting SAR activities especially within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) 1990-2000.

49. The Workshop unanimously adopted (subject to United Nations editing) and recognized the importance of the four protocols on:

1. Disaster-affected country's responsibilities;
2. Assisting country's responsibilities;
3. On-site operations co-ordination centre;
4. International SAR advisory committee.

Recommendations

General

50. SAR regional co-operation should be developed, such as for instance the Beuggen Initiative.
51. Disaster-prone countries should be encouraged and assisted in developing disaster preparedness measures, including the possible establishment of their own SAR capacities.
52. Immediately after a disaster the affected country(ies) should carry out local assessments of SAR needs and request assistance through UNDRO.
53. Procedures for requesting and responding to international SAR assistance should be accelerated.
54. SAR teams should be prepared to depart from their home base for the disaster zone within 12 hours of official notification.
55. Affected countries should facilitate rapid entry of accepted teams.

On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre

56. An On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre, as described in Protocol no. 3, should be established by the affected country supported by assisting countries.
57. The establishment and the procedures of this Centre should be provided for in disaster-prone countries' preparedness plans.

International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee

58. An International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee, as outlined in Protocol no. 4, should be created.
59. Subject to the receipt of an offer from a host country, an invitation for the first meeting of this Committee should be issued by UNDRO by the end of the year 1991.

Three working groups should now be formed on:

1. Working procedures of SAR teams and international information co-ordination;
2. Consolidating affected and assisting countries' responsibilities;
3. Developing model procedures and guidelines for the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre.

SAR Directory

60. Countries should return the completed questionnaire to UNDRO as soon as possible, so as to permit an early finalization of the Directory.

61. The SAR Directory should be updated on a regular basis and a system of assessment and quality control should be introduced for the teams to be entered in it.

UNDRO

62. UNDRO should establish and maintain a SAR desk.

63. UNDRO should assist in the co-ordination of air transport arrangements of SAR teams when necessary.

64. A data bank on SAR-related issues should be established under the auspices of UNDRO.

Financial Implications

65. It is recognized that the above recommendations will entail financial implications for UNDRO and that additional resources should therefore be made available.

Acknowledgments

66. Participants expressed warm gratitude to the Austrian Government and the Austrian Armed Forces for hosting and providing facilities for the Workshop, thereby contributing to the strengthening of international co-operation within this area.

67. Drafters of the four protocols (from Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Sweden and the United States of America) were thanked for their important preparatory work.

68. Appreciation was extended to all the countries which financed this Workshop.

ACTION TAKEN

69. With regard to the recommendation to form now three working groups under the International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee, the Workshop:

- a) Accepted the nomination of the following promoters of the working groups (subject to the concurrence of their authorities):
 - Working procedures of SAR teams and international information co-ordination: Mr. Bock (Germany).
 - Consolidating affected and assisting countries' responsibilities: Mr. Cotte (Colombia) and Mr. Mena (Ecuador);
 - Developing model procedures and guidelines for the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre: Mr. Frey and Mr. Mills (United States of America);
- b) Endorsed the use of the criteria presented at the Workshop for the selection of members of the working groups, which would have a membership of 5 to 12;
- c) Entrusted the promoters, in agreement with UNDRO, with the task of selecting the membership of their respective working groups;
- d) Recommended that working groups would report to the first meeting of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Committee.

70. It was understood that working groups would maintain contact with UNDRO which would serve as a focal point for information. Working groups will be open for UNDRO participation.

PROTOCOL No. 1
DISASTER-AFFECTED COUNTRY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Background

1. Since the beginning of the century, the incidence of disasters and the size of the population vulnerable to disasters have increased alarmingly.
2. In addition, the economic and social constraints affecting many countries have diminished their capacity to respond to large-scale disasters. Whilst all efforts must be made to improve disaster preparedness in disaster-prone countries, assistance from the international community will continue to play an important role.
3. International disaster relief has, on occasions, caused problems. Rather than providing relief it has sometimes constituted an additional burden for the affected country.
4. This is because the necessary close co-operation between all parties involved in effective disaster relief operations has not been properly established, and because the time factor - the crux of an emergency operation - has been inadequately managed.
5. Accordingly, it is necessary to draw up protocols to ensure that both assisting countries and disaster-affected countries are aware of their respective responsibilities in case of sudden disaster in a populated area which may require the use of international search and rescue teams (SAR).
6. The aim of the protocol is to contribute to the efficient management of international assistance by eliminating current obstacles.
7. The protocol is based on the assumption that relief will be given at the request, and with the consent, of the affected country. It assumes mutual co-operation between the provider and the recipient of assistance.

II. Responsibilities

8. When a disaster occurs, the affected country is encouraged to carry out, as quickly as possible, an assessment of the damage caused by the disaster and the needs created.

If the magnitude of the disaster exceeds the response capacity of the affected country, the latter is encouraged to request assistance from the international community through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs or National Emergency Office, and such assistance as is offered shall be channelled through international agencies such as UNDRO, the diplomatic missions of donating countries, disaster relief organizations, multi lateral organizations and others.

9. In requesting aid from the international community, the affected country shall establish priorities and specify the type of assistance it requires from SAR teams. This procedure will prevent sending unnecessary personnel and equipment.

10. Affected countries shall be encouraged to choose assisting countries' SAR teams on the basis of their appropriateness and proven capabilities.

All chosen teams shall be given the same treatment in the country.

11. The affected country shall establish simplified immigration procedures for teams or delegations whose assistance has been accepted and shall issue special multiple-entry visas for a period of 30 days, which may be extended in accordance with requirements.

12. The affected country shall authorize landing and refuelling by aircraft transporting personnel and equipment for the SAR operation.

If SAR teams come equipped with appropriate aircraft, the affected country shall provide permission for their operation in the disaster area.

13. The affected country shall facilitate all the procedures, including commercial documentation and any other requirements for temporary admittance of the equipment required by the SAR teams and shall exempt them from any tax, import duty, customs duty or any other type of import charge.

The incoming teams shall provide the host government with a complete list of all the equipment being brought in.

14. The affected country shall designate a government official with unique responsibility for the monitoring and co-ordination of all SAR activities (focal point).

15. The affected country shall waive formal quarantine requirements for the entry and exit of search dogs accompanying SAR teams, provided that such dogs have the necessary vaccination certificates.

16. The affected country shall set up a "reception centre" with unloading and storage facilities and temporary accommodation for relief aid including SAR teams and their equipment, until they are transported to the area to which they have been assigned.

At the centre, the SAR teams shall be provided with general information on the country and specific information on the situation in the affected area. The information should cover the following:

- (a) Current state of the emergency;
- (b) Actions already carried out;
- (c) Local and international assistance;
- (d) Local customs and cultures;
- (e) Health conditions;
- (f) Risks and dangers;
- (g) Geography and climate.

If possible, detailed maps of the affected region will be provided.

17. Depending on availability, the SAR teams shall be provided with the following equipment and/or services by the affected country:

- a) Means of transport in the affected country and handling equipment for the transfer of their personnel and equipment to and within the area to which they have been allocated;
- b) Fuel;
- c) Compressed gases;
- d) Facilities for communicating with the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre (see Protocol no. 3).

18. For the purposes of on-site co-ordination, the affected country shall appoint one or more nationals working in SAR to provide local liaison with international SAR teams in the performance of the tasks assigned to them.

19. The agency responsible for handling emergencies in the affected country shall appoint persons responsible for, and activate, the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre (see Protocol no.3). Once this has been done, all the personnel and SAR teams involved in SAR operations shall be informed.

20. Where the host country feels it appropriate, it shall take all necessary steps to provide protection to the personnel, equipment and installations of the SAR teams during their stay.

21. Participating SAR teams shall be under an obligation to report on their missions to the affected country and to the SAR Advisory Committee, detailing activities, achievements and problems encountered (see Protocol no. 4).

22. Host countries shall be under a similar obligation to report on the usefulness and value of international SAR teams and problems encountered in using them.

* * * * *

PROTOCOL NO. 2

ASSISTING COUNTRY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Definition

The function of Search and Rescue (SAR) is to provide short-term international emergency relief in case of disaster. SAR operates in situations involving large numbers of missing, injured and homeless persons with whom the relevant national authorities are unable to cope quickly and efficiently enough owing to the magnitude and nature of the disaster.

II. Basic Requirements

1. After receiving a request for assistance from a disaster-affected country and/or from UNDRO, all UNDRO-registered teams in the assisting countries wishing to provide relief should define their SAR capabilities to assist and offer that assistance without delay.
2. SAR team members should be highly qualified and able to communicate with the local population.
3. To organize various types of transport within the framework of international emergency relief immediately, a national On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre is necessary. It must maintain communication links appropriate to disaster situations between the bodies concerned; these include land, air and water transport enterprises as well as government agencies with transport capacity. This ensures that existing governmental and other capacities can be quickly mobilized and employed in the most efficient way.
4. Where possible, the national co-ordinating agencies of several similarly involved assisting countries should agree to use their transport capacities on a joint basis.
5. SAR teams should be prepared to depart from their home base for the stricken area within 12 hours of official notification.
6. SAR teams must be clearly identified by their national representative(s) in the affected country, i.e. embassy officials, consulate, etc. This will offer a channel for proper executive communications and representation between officials of the affected country and/or UNDRO, and a national representative from the assisting country.

III. Functions of SAR Teams

7. On arrival, SAR teams have to make an objective assessment of the magnitude and nature of the disaster as well as of the SAR effort required, in close co-operation with the local authorities concerned and the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre.

8. Information must be obtained on local laws and customs as well as on the overall management structure of the organizations responding with disaster relief

IV. SAR Operational Tasks

9. As a matter of principle, only UNDRO-registered SAR teams should be deployed. They mainly responsible for:

- Location of casualties;
- Rescue and evacuation;
- Emergency medical assistance;
- Emergency care and assistance at the rescue location.

10. SAR teams concerned with the location of casualties, rescue and evacuation have the following basic tasks:

- Locating and rescuing injured and trapped persons;
- Evacuating casualties from danger zones;
- Overcoming or removing obstacles in order to reach victims;
- Carrying out urgent safety measures,

11. SAR teams involved in emergency medical assistance have the following basic tasks:

- Treating injured persons at the rescue location;
- Examining casualties, providing emergency medical care and preparing casualties for transport;
- Administering emergency medical assistance;
- Registering casualties;
- Releasing casualties to appropriate evacuation agencies.

12. SAR teams involved in logistics (transport, communications) have the following basic tasks:

- Providing additional means of transport;
- Providing communications facilities.

V. Performance Requirements

13. In addition to the relief workers, SAR teams must have clear management structures and sufficiency components.

14. The structure of the SAR teams should allow for the participation of local relief workers.

15. SAR teams must have appropriate equipment for the tasks assigned to them, stored on site base of operation. Provision must also be made for obtaining replacements for destroyed or lost equipment at short notice.

16. All SAR team-members must be supplied with clothing, including protective clothing, which is appropriate to the weather and the time of year.
17. SAR teams must be self-sufficient with their own equipment (e.g. tents, electricity generation, drinking-water processing facilities, spare parts and provisions) to ensure their operational capacity for a period of up to 14 days.
18. SAR teams must be self-sufficient in the country of assignment, except with regard to means of transport, local materials (fuel, gas, oxygen, medical oxygen, etc.) and translation services.
19. SAR teams must have communications equipment suited to their own needs and for liaison with the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre, other SAR teams, local authorities and home base.
20. SAR team-members must have been trained to the highest possible standards established by the international community (UNDRO) and have the experience necessary to cope with their specific responsibilities.
21. SAR management personnel must be trained and capable of co-operating with local authorities and other international workers. They must be aware of the laws and customs of the affected country.
22. Dogs must be certified as trained in locating living trapped persons in conjunction with detective equipment which locates trapped persons.
23. SAR medical personnel must have training and experience in rescue work and nursing. Emergency medical assistance team must include at least one doctor experienced in rescue work and disaster prevention. The equipment of the emergency medical assistance team must be suitable for direct use in the stricken area and as back-up for local medical facilities.
24. The provision of additional means of transport and communication facilities as well as supplies of all kinds should be governed by local conditions of use as well as the local and regional availability of the necessary operating materials (e.g. petrol, heating fuel).
25. SAR medical supplies must be labelled, where possible, in the recipient country's lingua franca and must include the name of the drug, its effect, the name of the manufacturer and the use-date. Medical supplies must keep for at least one year.
26. From the outset, SAR should take into account future reconstruction and structural assistance.

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PROTOCOL NO. 3

ON-SITE OPERATIONS CO-ORDINATION CENTRE

I. Background

1. The lack of co-ordination and co-operation among affected countries and assisting country relief teams during disaster relief operations has been identified as a major problem at numerous international co-ordination meetings. The problem has been identified in all types of disasters. The absence of this capability to co-operate and co-ordinate has contributed to:

- Inadequate and/or unreliable damage assessment information;
- A lack of resource co-ordination leading to:
 - unnecessary duplication of relief efforts;
 - inability to share critical resources and support capabilities;
- Poor communication and information sharing among the affected country and assisting country relief teams;
- A lack of priority setting;
- A lack of common objectives, strategies and tactics.

II. Definition

2. An On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre would be a fixed or temporary facility housing a co-ordination group that would be activated and managed by affected country officials and situated in the stricken area. It would be established to provide a focal point where affected and assisting country relief personnel could assemble and co-ordinate all activities associated with disaster relief operations. Hereafter an On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre will be referred to as a Centre.

III. Purpose

3. The purpose of a Centre would be to support and enhance affected country's disaster co-ordination capabilities and operations. A Centre should be designed so that it has:

- Clear, simple and well-defined protocols and operational procedures;
- Accessible, flexible multi-functional staff;
- Qualified staff from the affected government and/or from assisting countries that have experience in disaster management.

IV. Functions

4. The functions of a Centre would depend on the size and complexity of the disaster relief operations. In most cases, the functions that need to be considered are:

(a) Management:

- Leadership and guidance;
- Policy implementation;
- Priority setting;
- Strategy development;
- Governmental co-ordination;
- Private voluntary organization and non-governmental organization co-ordination;
- Information co-ordination with media;
- Security of facility.

(b) Operational Planning:

- Plan of action development;
- Damage and needs assessment;
- Plan of action implementation;
- Resource tracking;
- Information collection and display;
- Mapping;
- Facilitation of briefing and strategy sessions;
- Documentation of decisions and events;
- Public liaison.

(c) Logistics:

- Equipment and commodities procurement, management, distribution and accountability;
- Transportation management and co-ordination;
- Resource sharing:
 - mobilization, staging and camp sites;
 - warehousing, housing and command post facilities;
 - food, water, equipment, commodities and sanitation;
- Communications planning and use.

5. Any point of entry (airport) staging area/reception centre for relief commodities and/or relief teams could be a clearing house for all necessary resources. Depending on its location, the staging area/reception centre may be an extension of a Centre.

V. Benefits

6. The benefits of a Centre would be:

- Better information to enhance decision making;
- Co-location of affected country representatives and assisting country relief team representatives resulting in improved co-ordination of relief activities;
- More structured method of setting operational priorities, objectives, strategies and tactics;
- Better quality and reliability of damage and needs assessments;
- Better sharing of support and communications resources;
- Better on-site communications co-ordination;
- A single point for collecting and disseminating disaster resources and status information;
- Better information for the local population;
- More structured briefing process;
- A focal point for media interests.

VI. Activation

7. A Centre should be viewed as a versatile tool that a country can activate for disasters that become too large or too complex to be handled by a single jurisdictional area such as a city, region or province. Anytime a country is considering requesting international assistance, it should begin activating a Centre. A Centre should be used when assisting country relief teams and commodities, or when numerous private voluntary or non-governmental organizations are involved.

VII. Centre Staffing

8. The staff or representatives who would normally work out of a Centre are:

- Affected country officials;
- Assisting country relief team officials;
- UNDRO or its representatives;
- Representatives from major private voluntary organizations and non-governmental organizations;
- Local relief workers.

9. The above mentioned staff or representatives should ensure that their teams and organizations contribute information and recommendations and co-ordinate their responses. The ultimate review and approval of disaster policies, procedures, priorities and strategies would rest with the affected country's official(s).

10. A Centre Co-ordinator would be responsible for managing and co-ordinating the operational efforts of relief workers. The Co-ordinator would have three functional areas of responsibility: management, operational planning and logistics. The personnel associated with a Centre would be divided according to those three areas.

11. The Co-ordinator's management function responsibilities would be to implement policy and action plans, set priorities, develop strategies, co-ordinate with private voluntary organizations and NGO and co-ordinate with the media.

12. The Co-ordinator's operational planning function responsibilities would be to gather, organize, display and present information, identify issues needing resolution, develop operational plans, recommend solutions and document events.

13. The Co-ordinator's logistical function responsibilities would be to review the assessments of needed relief commodities, solicit and/or identify a supply source, expedite the receipt and storage of commodities and track the distribution of commodities.

14. The size of the Co-ordinator's staff would be dependent on the size and complexity of the disaster. The Co-ordinator and his or her staff would be made up of individuals from the affected country and/or from the assisting country or international relief organizations.

15. A proposed functional organizational structure for a Centre is attached.

VIII. Site Selection, Size and Configuration

16. The physical size and configuration of a Centre will depend on the availability of facilities in the affected area, the complexity of the disaster and the level of relief activities planned. The facility may be a building or a tent in a safe location, that can adequately support the action or situation and house the following functions:

- Co-ordination and planning meetings;
- Briefing;
- Display of situation and resource information;
- Telecommunications planning and monitoring.

17. An assisting country could set up and make available a module of support equipment and supplies such as communications equipment and office supplies.

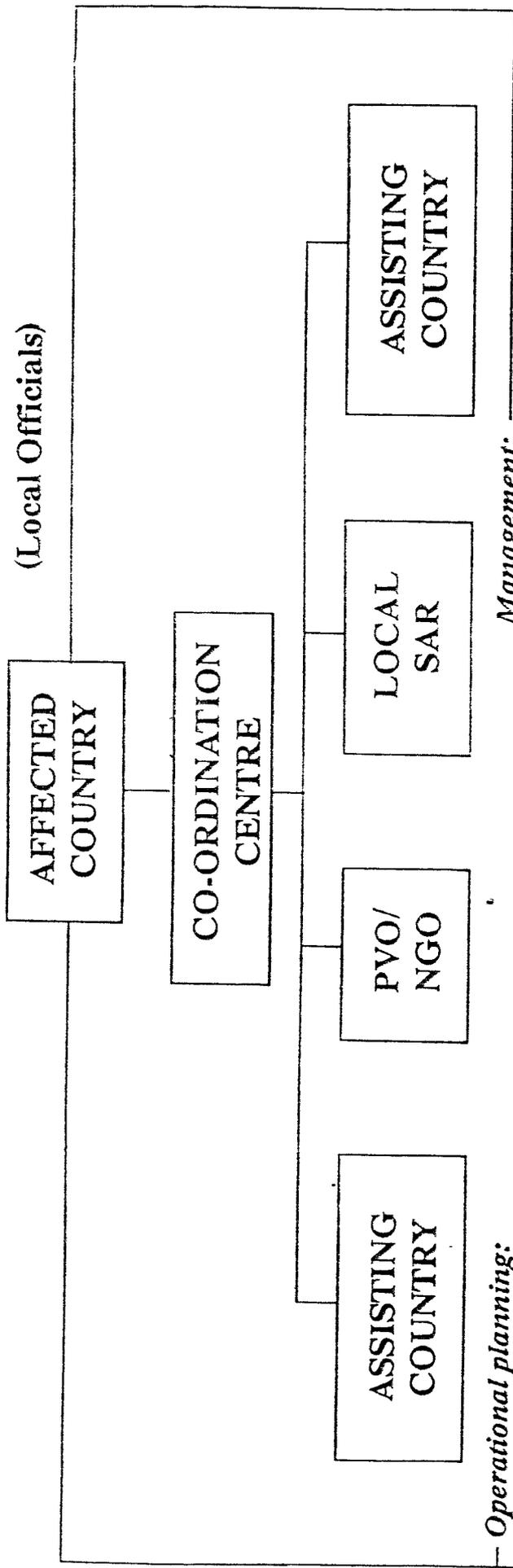
IX. Conclusions:

18. The present Protocol offers a proposed structure and function for an On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre. If this type of organization existed during a disaster, it is hoped that some of the chronic confusion, chaos and despair would be replaced with an effective co-ordination of efforts, thereby improving the immediate relief response for disaster victims.

* * * * *

Annex On-Site Operations Co-ordination Centre

Functional Organizational Structure (Local Officials)



Operational planning:

- Keep status of situations and resources
- Develop and implement plan of action
- Collect and analyse assessments
- Give briefings
- Focal point for media
- Public liaison

Logistics:

- Procure, manage, distribute and track equipment and resources
- Manage and co-ordinate transportation
- Resource-sharing
- Communications planning and use

Management:

- Provide leadership and guidance
- Implement policy
- Set priorities
- Develop strategy
- Co-ordinate government activities
- Co-ordinate PVO/NGO
- Security of facility

PROTOCOL NO. 4

INTERNATIONAL SAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I. Background

1. Co-operation between nations to reduce the consequences of major disasters has increased over the last ten or fifteen years.
2. The growing number of inhabitants on earth, ongoing urbanization and industrialization are causing higher population densities as well as a greater pressure on land and resources. Industrial development leading to the ever-increasing use of hazardous chemicals, the world-wide use of energy sources which could cause serious contamination and the dependency of modern society on sophisticated systems for transportation of people and substances create a more severe risk situation. Such risks are in addition to the background risk of disasters caused by nature. All this leads to a growing need for better preparedness and more effective co-operation concerning relief operations in response to major accidents or disasters all over the world.
3. Many nations, even those with considerable resources, have experienced that no single nation in disaster situations has available resources to cope with all possible disasters. In many countries there is a growing awareness of the necessity to work together and have preparedness for the mutual use of resources in case of severe accidents or extensive disasters. Such co-operation will lead to a more efficient use of resources as well as to the most efficient response to mitigate the consequences of disasters as far as possible.
4. Most major disasters caused by nature, such as tornados, hurricanes, flooding or earthquakes, call for action by relief organizations from several countries. Even man-made disasters can affect more than one country and are often many times of a magnitude which necessitates international co-operation both at the scene of the accident and in the surrounding area.
5. Intensive discussions are now going on in many fora about how to improve preparedness and conduct international Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in co-operation, thereby making the response more effective and efficient.
6. Initiatives are being taken by various organizations, national bodies on a regional and local level and, of course, international organizations.
7. The international co-operation has been and is being developed within bilateral or multilateral frameworks which include provisions for preparedness for and mutual assistance in response to disasters.

II. Purpose

8. The main object of the present Protocol is a proposal for the establishment of internationally accepted procedures concerning sustained co-operation between national SAR teams operating on an international scene.
9. Effective co-operation among all participants in this highly technical and complex work may serve to improve co-operation and understanding among assisting nations in a broader range of relief response activities.

10. The purpose of the procedures should be to make the emergency preparedness and response more effective and thereby to save more lives, reduce suffering and minimize consequences for the environment. It should also lead to greater efficiency which would lead, in turn, to better use of resources and lower costs.

11. In many fields international co-operation is finding a form adapted to the different needs. There is however a need to strengthen procedures when it comes to preparedness for and response to natural disasters. Therefore it is important to establish internationally accepted procedures for SAR operations in connection with sudden-onset disasters involving collapsed structures. To be effective the procedures must be acknowledged and followed by as many nations as possible. This can probably be achieved only if the work is done within an established international organization such as the United Nations. Responsibility for the matter would then most probably fall upon UNDRRO within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

III. Possible Measures

12. In principle the measures taken at an international level can be of either preparatory or of response character.

13. Preparedness measures include, among other things, the creation of systems to inform about available rescue resources, procedures to analyze the need for assistance and to initiate adequate response, the establishment of agreements, the standardization of methods and equipment or performing joint exercises.

14. Response aspects cover questions related to the relief operation such as the mobilization of a SAR team, transportation to the disaster area, the set up of an On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre and all other procedures related to the scene of the emergency.

15. To make the total SAR work more effective it is necessary to establish procedures for both preparedness and response. As far as preparedness is concerned, UNDRRO has already started to develop procedures and is also practicing procedures, for instance regarding registration and information about existing resources and on how to initiate SAR assistance. However, at present, procedures concerning the practical operation at the scene of an emergency are developed mainly on a local or regional level within a country. These procedures must also be co-ordinated on a broader international level.

16. A number of questions have to be agreed upon. Many of them have already been identified in the discussions at the Conferences of Officials in-charge of National Emergency Relief Service (NERS) and other conferences held in recent years. The most important ones concern inter-team co-operation, such as procedures for joint reconnaissance, the way to establish contact between teams, communication procedures, the establishment of an On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre, a reception centre and rules for the marking of areas, etc.

17. The work must be started as soon as possible and should begin by dealing with a limited number of the most important questions.

18. Whether recommendations are formulated, accepted and distributed or not, it would be most beneficial if regular meetings were arranged for representatives of experienced SAR-teams and representatives of countries likely to receive such assistance. These meetings could take place on an ad hoc regional basis and within the framework of the International Search and Rescue Advisory

Committee as listed below. The objective of these meetings could be to share information on experiences from recent operations or other activities, developments and capabilities. At these meetings proposals about methods of co-operation between different teams could also be discussed and decided upon.

19. An international advisory body is needed to establish internationally accepted procedures and standards for international co-operation between the parties concerned with prevention of, preparedness for and response to sudden disasters caused by nature, especially those requiring search and rescue operations in collapsed structures.

IV. Recommendations

- A permanent International SAR Advisory Committee should be formed.
- The Committee shall consist of representatives from nations able and willing to perform SAR operations in other countries and representatives from countries likely to receive such assistance. Participation in the Committee should be guided by proper experience in SAR. The representatives should be prepared to participate without cost to the SAR Advisory Committee or UNDRO.
- The Committee shall provide guidance and give technical support within the framework of UNDRO.
- The Committee shall meet at regular intervals. Meetings shall take place at least every second year, preferably the year between NERS meetings, and the meeting places should rotate among the participating countries.
- The Committee shall establish working groups to formulate proposals regarding procedures for co-operation among SAR teams, methods of operation and other relevant matters.
- The main goal of the International SAR Advisory Committee is to develop effective operating relationships to save and protect lives. Therefore the Committee must set a series of objectives to elaborate a programme of work priorities in order to achieve measured outputs in the following areas:
 - a) Method of determining SAR capability of UNDRO registered teams;
 - b) Establishing on-site working procedures of SAR member teams;
 - c) Exchanging international operational information, improving collective effectiveness through better co-ordination and co-operation;
 - d) Establishing a forum for discussion of SAR medical issues;
 - e) Consolidating assisting and affected countries' responsibilities;
 - f) Developing model procedures and guidelines for the On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre;
 - g) Establishing a forum for discussion of SAR logistics issues;
 - h) Establishing co-ordinated communication procedures.
- The Committee shall consider the outcome of preceding NERS meetings and of work in other relevant fora.
- The recommendations adopted by the Committee as agreed by NERS should be published by UNDRO and made available to the proper authorities in all member States.
- UNDRO's implementation of relevant recommendations would depend on the availability of additional financial resources.



S.A.R. WORKSHOP 1991 WATTNER LIZUM / TYROL



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Name

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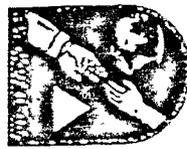
Name Country/Organization Address

Name	Country/Organization	Address	Telephone / Fax / Telex
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G.	UNDRO	Specialised Secretary UNDRO Palais de Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10	Tel: (41) 22-734 3279 Fax: (41) 22-733 5623 Telex: 054/414242 DRO CH
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J.	United Kingdom	Chief Fire Officer Kent County Fire Brigade c/o ODA Eland House Stag Place London	Tel: (44)71-273-0470 Fax: (44)71-2730502 Telex: 051/263907/ODMLDN G
D.J.	United Kingdom	Overseas Development Administration (ODA) Eland House Stag Place London SW1E 5 DH	Tel: (44)71-273-0470 Fax: (44)71-2730502 Telex: 051/263907/ODMLDN G

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B.	Baughman	United States of America	Chief, Plans Operations Branch, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Washington D.C. 20472	Tel: (1) 202-646-3681 Fax: (1) 202-646-3304
P.	Bradford	United States of America	Assistant Director for Operations, Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) Agency for International Development Department of State Washington D.C. 20523	Tel: (1) 202-647-5916 Fax: (1)202-647 5269 Telex: 023/7108221975 fdcc wsh UNIENET: UNX020
T.	Frey	United States of America	Disaster Management Specialist Agency for International Development Department of State Washington D.C. 20523	Tel: (1) 202-647 7541 Fax: (1)202-647 5269 Telex: 023/7108221975 fdcc wsh UNIENET: UNX020
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C.	Mills	United States of America	National Association for Search and Rescue P.O. Box 3709 Fairfax VA 22032	Tel: (1) 703-352-1349 Fax: (1)703-352-0309



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Annex I / Observers

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AAFDRO

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F. Krachler	Austria	Rural Police Command Central Command Oberzellerg. I 1030 Wien	Tel: 0222/713-35-81/250
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H. Liegl	Austria	Military Command Carinthia AAFDRO 9020 Klagenfurt	Tel: 0463/54055/2320
K. Lindner	Austria	Korpskommando II Schwarzenbergkaserne 5071 Wals/Salzburg	

Name Country/Organization Address

Name	Country/Organization	Address	Telephone / Fax / Telex
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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR
(UNDRO)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE WORKSHOP '91
CONVENED BY UNDRO
HOSTED BY THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT
8 - 12 APRIL 1991

PROVISIONAL WORK PROGRAMME AND TIMETABLE

Sunday, 7 April

15:00 - 20:00 Arrivals and Registration

Monday, 8 April

08:00 - 09:00 Registration of late arrivals

09:00 - 10:00 Opening statements by
representatives of the
Austrian Government and UNDRO

Election of officers and adoption of
work programme

10:00 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 Presentation of participants
SAR protocols
Short presentations by drafters

12:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 17:00 Search and Rescue, General
Presentation of papers by
selected participants.

20:00 Social evening

Tuesday, 9 April

08:30 - 09:00	Explanation and setting up of Working Groups
09:00 - 12:00	Working Groups
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 17:00	Working Groups cont/d.
19:00	Tyrolean evening

Wednesday, 10 April

08:30 - 12:00	Working Groups cont/d.
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 17:00	Presentation of the results of the Working Groups. Discussion.

Thursday, 11 April

08:30 - 12:00	Demonstration of Search and Rescue in high mountainous areas.
	- transport by helicopter of rescue workers and dogs;
	- location of and extraction from avalanches;
	- sounding of avalanches by helicopters;
	- "Akja"-sounding;
	- use of skis in search and rescue;
	- introduction to aspects of Alpine topography
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 21:00	Visit to Innsbruck
08:30 - 17:00	Preparation of conclusions/report (Secretariat)

Friday, 12 April

08:30 - 10:00	Presentation and adoption of conclusions/report
10:00 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 12:00	Conclusions/report cont/d
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - onwards	Closing of the meeting (including other business and closing statements)
19:00	Final evening

Agenda for the Working Groups

WG.1:	Disaster Affected Country's Responsibilities
WG.2:	Assisting Country's Responsibilities
WG.3:	On-site Operations Co-ordination Centre (O.O.C.C.)
WG.4:	International SAR Advisory Committee

UNDRO DIRECTORY OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS***Criteria for Teams to be Entered into the Directory******1. Experience***

1.1. As a rule, the Directory will consist of SAR teams which have the capacity and experience for operations abroad.

2. Proven Ability in Search and Rescue

2.1. The SAR teams should have a proven record of SAR.

3. Self Sufficiency

3.1 The SAR teams need to be self sufficient in every possible sense i.e. accommodation, food and equipment. It would be unwise to attract teams who are only partly sufficient as they become a burden to the overall rescue operation and drain on the already scarce local resources.

4. Operational Capability

4.1 SAR teams must have the capacity to operate on site without being re-supplied for minimum period of 14 days.

5. Status of SAR Teams

5.1 The SAR teams should belong to a controlling body by way of registration, regulation, licenses etc. This could be a professional organisation, institute, association etc.

5.2 The teams should have a command/organisational structure for effective and efficient deployment.

6. Components

6.1 In order to maximise the use of the SAR teams, all the teams registered in the Directory should have a dual role. This will consist of the SEARCH and the RESCUE components.

6.2 SEARCH - The ability to deploy in search/scanning buildings and areas for life casualties. This requirement will encompass the use of a variety of detection equipment including ultrasonic, thermal imaging, dogs, fibre-optics, etc.

6.3 RESCUE - The ability to assist in the rescue of trapped persons, using first intervention light rescue and support equipment. Examples of these are: lifting, spreading, cutting equipment and adequate lighting facilities. The team should also have a trauma manager to further support the extrication operation.

6.4 One cannot stress too strongly the need for SAR team members to be skilled and trained to the highest level.

7.1 The SAR teams need to have an operational mobilising system, whereby they can be ready to be airlifted from their country to the stricken area in up to 12 hours after notification.

7.2 The SAR teams should be operational immediately after arriving in the stricken zone.

7.3 All pre-incident checks of equipment and personnel, should be carried out prior to the arrival at the stricken zone, to avoid delays in deployment.

8. Ethical Standards

8.1 SAR teams should have the ability to join and be part of the international SAR effort with the minimum amount of disruption.

8.2 The SAR teams should be able to work to agreed norms of operations and control, to benefit the smooth running of the rescue effort.

8.3 It is of vital importance that the members of SAR teams are sensitive to the customs/religions/social traditions of the stricken community. A negative attitude to these, will make SAR operations extremely difficult and will result in the withdrawal of valuable support from the local community.

8.4 The SAR teams should have a flexible structure and capacity which can be easily adjusted to changes in operational requirements and conditions.

9. Identification of Official Government Representative

9.1 The SAR teams must be clearly identified with their governmental representative(s) in the stricken country, i.e. Embassy official, consulate etc. This will offer a channel of proper executive communication and representation, between officials from the stricken country and/or UNDRO, and a government representative from the donor country.