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WHO PROGRAMME OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO WAR-AFFECTED POPULATIONS OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: Report of an external evaluation

In order to help the World Health Organization carry out its health mandate in the situation prevailing in the republics of the former Yugoslavia, the Regional Director invited three external reviewers, as well as an executive secretary from another WHO Region, to make a strategic review of the WHO programme of humanitarian assistance to the war-affected populations in those republics. The external review took place over a ten-day period in June 1994, two years after the initiation of field operations.

The Regional Director welcomes the external evaluation report, contained in Part II of this document, as a timely and constructive contribution to WHO's current and future programmes of humanitarian assistance in the European Region. To his knowledge, no other United Nations agency has taken the step of conducting such an open assessment while its humanitarian assistance programme continues to evolve rapidly. He greatly appreciates the extensive field trips made by the evaluation team and their efforts to tackle the many difficult tasks set out in their terms of reference. He asks the Standing Committee to note that, prior to this external evaluation, a wide-ranging internal review had been made of the management of WHO's relief activities in

the former Yugoslavia and its findings had been implemented. Evaluation is a continuous and ongoing process, and the report contained in this document is just one step in that process. Observations on the external evaluators' report have been provided by the three Special Representatives of the Regional Director who have headed WHO operations from Zagreb over the two-year period of humanitarian operations: these are summarized in Annex 8 of this document. By including Annex 8, the aim is to provide a comprehensive assessment that covers the whole period of WHO operations from the situation that prevailed when WHO field operations began in June 1992 until the external evaluation mission two years later.

This objective process is designed to ensure that the Standing Committee has before it sufficient information to draw conclusions about WHO's role in providing humanitarian assistance in the former Yugoslavia and to assess the implications for other war-affected countries in the Region. The Standing Committee agreed, at its third session, to review the findings of the external evaluation at an additional (fourth) meeting in September 1994, immediately before the forty-fourth session of the Regional Committee, and to inform the Regional Committee of its views on WHO's role in the former Yugoslavia (EUR\RC44\4, paragraph 2.6).

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations used in this report include the following:

CERF	Central Emergency Revolving Fund
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
ECTF	European Community Task Force
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
HEDIP	WHO programme on health and development for displaced persons
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IRC	International Rescue Committee
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
OBA	United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration