

## IRAQ

### Drought

**Near complete failure of winter cereal crops results from continued Iraq drought. 500,000 in need of food assistance. An estimated 14,000 sheep, goats and camels perish**

**Value of U.S. Assistance ..... \$2,408,000**

#### DETAILS

During the planting and harvest years 1969-1971, scarce rainfall (lowest recorded in 50 years) caused the near complete failure of winter cereal crops and the loss of vegetative growth in all desert and natural range areas, especially in the Provinces of Ninauri, Kirkuk and Arbil.

In the northern part of the country, the area most affected by the drought, over one million hectares of wheat and 232,500 of barley had been planted. Normally, these plantings would have produced 650,000 tons of wheat and 188,000 tons of barley. However, seeds did not germinate (in 90% of the planted area), and the harvest was no more than 6% of normal.

It was estimated that 7% of the nomadic livestock perished (total estimated population of 3,000 sheep and goats and 200,000 camels). In an effort to minimize their losses, nomads sold their lambs for the equivalent in Iraqi dinars of \$3.36 as compared with the usual \$15.68.

As a consequence of the drought, the Bedouin tribes migrated to the high mountain areas in search of fodder, eventually penetrating beyond the Syrian and Jordanian borders. The migration to less affected areas caused overgrazing of the already poor pasture land.

The drought affected the progress of development programs such as, resettlement of the nomadic population on agrarian reform land, drilling of deep wells for drinking water, construction of dams and reservoirs, the installation of fenced enclosures, and the establishment of veterinary clinics and feed reserves.

#### ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ:

The Government of Iraq requested that the World Food Program approve a food-for-work project for the drought affected families who had suffered significant loss of income

Also, the GOI imported 400,000 metric tons of wheat from Australia to stabilize local prices, which had peaked at \$168 per ton. Later 72,000 metric tons of barley and another 250,000 tons of wheat were imported for the same purpose. Value over \$50 million.

#### ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT:

The World Food Program requested and received from the U.S. Government 15,000 metric tons of wheat and 1,000 tons of vegetable oil for their food-for-work project, planned to assist 250,000 drought victims.

Value of this wheat and oil .....	\$1,698,000
Ocean freight charges (estimate) .....	710,000
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	\$2,408,000

#### ASSISTANCE BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES: None

**World Food Program**—In addition to 15,000 metric tons of wheat and 1,000 tons of oil supplied by the USG, the WFP provided 750 metric tons of dry milk valued at about ..... \$412,500

