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FILE TITLE:		SERIES			
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PART BEGINS: 26 December 04	PART ENDS: 5 JANUARY 05	CAB ONE:			
	Labour Administration	3988			

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5 JANUARY 05

Series: Disasters

File Title: S E ASIA TSUNAMI

Part: 2

Date	From	То	Subject	Class	Secret
05/01/2005	SOC	PM	Asian Tsunami Disaster: Establishment of Ministerial Group	U	
06/01/2005	FA/APS	PM	Tsunami: Ministerial Meeting, Friday 6 January, 0800	С	
06/01/2005			Statement at the Special Asean Leaders' Meeting on the Aftermath of	U	
06/01/2005	FA/PS	SOC	Asian Tsunami Disaster: Establishment of Official Committee	U	
06/01/2005	FA/PS	HMT	Asian Tsunami: Debt Relief: Dutch Position	R	
06/01/2005			Natural Hazard Early Warning Systems	U	
06/01/2005		1.	CHAD Operations Situation Report	U	
06/01/2005	FA/APS	PM	Tsunami memorial message	U	
06/01/2005	DEC	PM	thankyou for meeting at Disasters Emergency Committee	U	
07/01/2005	SS/DFID	PM	Visit to Indonesia	U	
07/01/2005	SS/DFID	PM	Visit to Indonesia 6-7 January 2005	R	
07/01/2005	SS/DFID	CH/EX	Government funding of aid response	С	
07/01/2005	DFID	FA/APS	SITREP 1400 hours	U	
07/01/2005	FA/APS	PM	Tsunami: Parliamentary Statement and Ministerial Meeting on Monda C		
07/01/2005		FA/APS	From Hiroyuki Kishino Minister/Embassy of Japan: Copy of Speech b	U	
08/01/2005	DFID		CHAD Situation Report - Sitrep No. 19	U	
09/01/2005	DFID		CHAD Situation Report - Sitrep No. 20	U	
10/01/2005	FA/APS	fco	(M) PM's meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister 10 January 2005	С	
10/01/2005	CH/EX	SS/DFID	Governments response to the Tsunami	U	
10/01/2005			Situation Report - Indian Ocean Earthquakes	U	
10/01/2005	FA/APS	fco	PM's phone call with Kofi Annan India Ocean Disaster and Iraq	С	
10/01/2005	FA/APS	PM	Meeting with the Indonesian foreign minister	R	
10/01/2005	FA/APS	fco	Indian ocean disaster - ministerial conference call Saturday 8 Jan	С	
10/01/2005	PM	Italy/PM	G8 Countries helping	U	
11/01/2005	India/PM	PM	(H) thank you for condolence message	U	
11/01/2005	DFID	FA/APS	Sitrep No 22 at 1400 Hours	U	
11/01/2005	DPM	HS	Asian tsunami - connected with central and local government	U	
12/01/2005			CHAD Operations Situation Report	U	
14/01/2005	DFID		CHAD Operations Room Situation Report No 24	U	
14/01/2005	PM		To Mrs Lilley - Son died on Thailand	U	
17/01/2005	PM		To John Butterfill - Statement on Monday 10 january	U	



Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

PRIME MINISTER

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ASIAN TSUNAMI DISASTER: ESTABLISHMENT OF MINISTERIAL GROUP

Following the decision at your meeting yesterday to hold a series of Ministerial meetings to deal with the aftermath of the tsunami disaster, it has been proposed that these meetings should be formalised in the MISC series, together with the meetings of officials to be chaired by Sir Nigel Sheinwald.

- 2. I am attaching the proposed terms of reference for the Ministerial and official groups (MISC30 and MISC30(O)) and their membership. If you are happy with these, the Secretariat will inform Ministers in the usual way.
- 3. Are you content?

PP Much Malab

ANDREW TURNBULL

05 January 2005

Margaret Aldred, Co

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MINISTERIAL GROUP ON THE ASIAN TSUNAMI DISASTER (MISC30)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chair)
Deputy Prime Minister
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Secretary of State for International Development

Other Ministers and representatives of Departments and the police force will attend as necessary.

Terms of Reference

To coordinate the Government's response to the Asian Tsunami disaster.

OFFICIAL GROUP ON THE ASIAN TSUNAMI DISASTER (MISC30(O))

Composition

Defence and Overseas Secretariat (Chair)

and membership of representatives of:

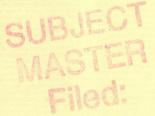
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Department of International Development
Ministry of Defence
HM Treasury
Department of Health
Office of Science and Technology
Cabinet Office
Metropolitan Police

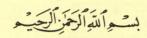
and representatives of other Departments will attend as necessary.

Terms of Reference

To coordinate the Government's response to the Asian Tsunami disaster and advise Ministers.











TELEGRAM

5th January 2005

The Rt Hon Tony Blair Prime Minister The United Kingdom

We have followed with deep emotion the news of the Tsunami earthquake, which affected many countries of East Asia and the huge subsequent floods, which caused the death and disappearance of thousands of people and the destruction of amenities and property.

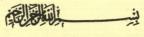
May I express to you and to the families of the British victims sincere condolences and sympathy. We pray for the dead and for the speedy recovery of the injured and reiterate Kuwait's empathy with your country in this tragic catastrophe.

Please accept the assurance of my sincere consideration.

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prime Minister Embassy of
the State of Kuwait
London



Protocol Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Old Admiralty Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AF





7th January 2005

سفارة دولة الكويت لنحدن

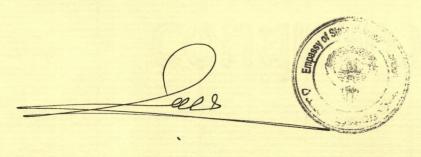
MA
Please take a copy, ten
formed letter to NO.10.

Mal. 1.



The Embassy of the State of Kuwait presents its compliments to the Protocol Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to enclose a message addressed to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Tony Blair, from His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait.

The Embassy of the State of Kuwait avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Protocol Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurance of its highest consideration.







REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PRIME MINISTER

SUBJECT
Tirana, 5 January 2005

MASTER
Filed: Disaster
SE Asia Tsonami PM 4

Your Excellency,

Please allow me to express to You my deepest condolences for the tragic loss of Your compatriots in the terrible natural disaster which struck the coasts of the South Eastern Asia.

A tragedy of such a big scale has caused a deep sorrow to all Albanian people, whose thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims.

Expressing to You the sympathy and the solidarity of my Government in these grievous moments, please accept with my condolences, Honorable College, the assurances of my highest consideration.

FATOS NANO

His Excellency Mr. Tony Blair Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland London

RESTRICTED



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)



D/MST 4/1

S January 2005

Dear Moazzam

INDIAN OCEAN DISASTER: MINISTER (ARMED FORCES) PHONE CALL TO MINISTER FOR DEFENCE LUXEMBOURG

Following a request from Luxembourg Mr Ingram called Mr Luc Freiden this morning, Luxembourg's Defence Minister, to discuss the EU response to the tsunami humanitarian effort.

Mr Freiden commented that he was impressed that there are so many Armed Forces actively assisting in the region. In line with Luxembourg's EU Presidency status, he had already discussed co-ordination of the EU military relief effort with other partners (France and Germany were mentioned specifically); whilst not going into detail, he wondered if there was a more visible role for the ESDP to play. If Mr Ingram agreed, he would instruct Brussels to co-ordinate a combined EU response, albeit within a UN framework.

Mr Ingram replied that the UK had already committed military forces to the disaster area and that reconnaissance teams were deployed in various locations to scope the scale of the problem. He undertook to inform Mr Freiden of the UK military contribution to date. (Comment: I have asked Dr Roger Hutton (our Director (Policy) of Joint Commitments (DJC)) to lead on drafting a response to Mr Freiden outlining the UK military contribution to tsunami disaster relief so far, with an indication (where appropriate) of possible future activity. Additionally, I have requested that James Morrison (Councillor (Presidency), UKREP Brussels) provides information of any

Moazzam Malik Esq PPS to Hilary Benn Esq MP Department for International Development 1 Palace Street London SW1E 5HE

Private Office





States. He will attempt to do this at the PERMREP meeting scheduled for Friday 7 January 2005, where he will also re-emphasise the UK position on co-ordination of disaster relief, as outlined in this letter). Mr Freiden was not forthcoming regarding any unilateral commitment by Luxembourg. Mr Ingram did highlight that the Prime Minister had been involved in recent discussions at his level about the initial international response and co-ordination of the next phase. He stressed that the UK view remains that the lead lies firmly with the UN, supplemented by a US core team (mentioning that there were three UK liaison officers embedded in the US planning cell in Thailand), and that the UN would continue to be supported along these lines. Mr Ingram felt that effective co-ordination and appropriate targeting of military capability was the key issue here, not the 'badging' of contributions.

Mr Freiden said that he agreed that any military commitment needed to be coordinated by the UN, but again inferred that the EU might be well placed to play a more active role (especially during the transition from emergency aid to an intermediate stage). Whilst standing by his previously stated position, Mr Ingram responded that he would not rule anything out at this stage and undertook to canvass a cross-Government Ministerial view at the next tsunami disaster relief meeting. (Comment: Doctor Hutton has agreed to raise this point at the next meeting, reporting back to this office).

Mr Freiden stated that he fully understood the UK position. He made reference to an EU meeting on Friday of this week (understood to be the GERC or PSC) which might mean that Luxembourg intend to pursue the matter. Mr Ingram closed the cordial conversation by re-iterating that good co-ordination was vital for optimum effect and that this seemed to be working under present (UN led) arrangements. He stressed that duplication of effort should be avoided.

I am copying this letter to Laurie Lee (No. 10), Margaret Aldred (Cabinet Office), Lucy Bell (ODPM), Kara Owen (FCO), Chris Sharrock (HMT), Sir John Grant (Brussels) and Sir Emyr Jones Parry (UKMIS, New York).

Yours ever

COMMANDER IAN McGHIE Royal Navy Military Assistant

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5/1/05

Head PCRU

TRIP REPORT 01 - OP GARRON

The Head of PCRU Operational Planning, Gil Baldwin, with Dr Gilbert Greenall and Clare Harkin (DFID), accompanied Chief Joint Force Operations, Brigadier White-Spunner on his mission to the Asian disaster zone. The Team departed London evening 3rd January for Thailand to examine where the UK might commit extra military support to the relief effort. but The party arrived late afternoon on 4th Jan and met with the DA and HMA Thailand. DIFID were represented by Bob Leverington, the deputy head of office. Later that evening there was a meeting with the UN OCHA Team charged with setting up the UN's regional coordination centre.

HMA detailed how the Thai Government had reacted to the disaster. Reconstruction and relief efforts were well in hand and many of the effected areas were now reopening for business. The Thais therefore probably did not need much help but there were a couple of areas that might warrant specific attention:

- An integrated Tsunami Warning System for the Indian Ocean. There is a conference covering disaster prevention, mitigation and management at Kobe, Japan later in January that might be an opportunity to make proposals of UK support for such a system. At the least the UK should be prepared to articulate its view concerning any proposals that will inevitably arise.
- Help to overcome the perception that the Thai coastline was now a 'no go' area. This being the major tourist season, any assistance to reinforce the message that much of the tourist industry was open and functioning well, would be welcome. The Foreign Secretary's visit to Thailand later this week might be such an opportunity and it is anticipated that the topic of tourism will be on the Thai PM's list of topics to be discussed. HMA hoped that the FCO travel advice would accurately reflect the situation.

Related to this issue was one raised by the OCHA Team later that evening concerning the lack of coordination amongst the international forensic teams deployed to help with identification of bodies. Whilst the Thai Authorities were able to cremate Thai dead relatively swiftly in accordance with Buddhist tradition, any dead foreigner has to be identified. Lack of cool storage had made genetic profiling the only reliable method of such identification. Profiling was being carried out in China, causing delay to the process. In addition, the number of forensic teams had leapt from 20 to 30 within the last 24 hours. The Thai Authorities were being swamped as a result. Again, the Foreign Secretary might consider offering UK assistance with this coordination task.



HMA went on to say they had seen little evidence of the UN. Within the IO and NGO community, coordination remained poor. The local DIFD office (also the regional focus for DFID) had not yet taken significant part in the disaster leaving regional offices to deal direct with CHAD OT in London. The US military regional HQ was setting up in Utapao, outside Bankok, but limited contact had been made.

Finally the DA described the lack of coordination amongst the international community. It would appear each nation was conducting repatriation activity as national business. Flights chartered, for instance by Germany, were returning half full to Europe. Although now rather late in the day, it might be of value to examine whether greater coordination amongst European nations could be effected.

Later that evening a long meeting was held with the OCHA Team, led by Gerhard Putman-Cramer, the Chief of Emergency Services Branch. He was accompanied by Merete Johansson, the OCHA head of office for Thailand. Putnman-Cramer had been in country for only 24 hours having been charged by Jan Egealand to establish the UN's regional Headquarters. He was not yet fully up to speed and was reluctant to commit to details of location or role. However, he was clear that although he could see the utility of putting a liaison team with the US Military HQ in Utapao he would not be collocating with them. The role of Clare Harkin, DFID, should she remain in Utapao will therefore become critical if we are not to have a dysfunctional US/UN relationship at the regional level. This is particular so given that Putnam-Cramer's view was that despite recent US rhetoric, the best the UN could hope from the US led core group (now including Canada) was "collaboration and coordination" rather than full and direct support of the UN.

Putnam-Cramer stated that although every effort was being made to pull the relief effort into greater coordination, the scale of the task was daunting. The task of his regional centre would be to match assets with requirements. But as yet no system for prioritising effort across the region was had been implemented, with UN offices dealing direct with New York and acting autonomously. In addition there were a number of organisations interested in taking up a regional coordination role. The World Food Programme had established a presence with the US Military in Utapao and ESCAP (the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific) were keen to play a leading role. Putnam-Cramer's view was that he would try to build a joint regional coordination centre with UNDP and ESCAP to draw together these competing organisations.

In a private session with Putnam-Crammer the possibility of restarting dialogue between the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) was discussed. Putnam-Crammer saw the utility of exploring whether the Centre for Human Dialogue could restart its dormant program. Martin Griffiths, the Director, was in Malaysia and had been in contact. It was felt

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that Egealand would recognise the need to prevent any recommencement of insurgent activity undermining relief efforts and may well be prepared to support such an initiative. Putnam-Crammer undertook to speak to both Griffiths and Egealand today. In a similar vein, Sri Lanka was discussed with Putnam-Crammer wondering if there was a similar organisation involved with reconciliation with the Tamil Tigers and the Government of Sri Lanka. The UK's role, possibly in its role as a Commonwealth country, in helping promote further reconciliation was raised. I professed to being unqualified to reply but promised to pass on his thoughts.

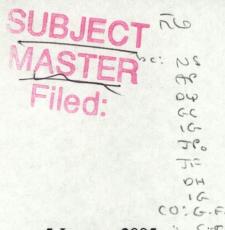
Conclusion

A busy first day where a number of issues that might be considered by HMG for action were identified. The Team visits the US military today and then flys onto Columbo on Thursday under current planning.

GT Baldwin Head Operational Planning PCRU

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From the Private Secretary

5 January 2005

Dear Moazzam,

INDIA OCEAN DISASTER: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The Prime Minister visited the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) call centre in London this morning, to thank some of the volunteers who have been taking calls from the public in the last two weeks. Gareth Thomas accompanied him.

The Prime Minister also met some of the NGO leaders which are members of the DEC: Brendan Gormley and David Glencoss of the DEC, Barbara Stocking from Oxfam, Nick Young from the Red Cross, Richard Miller from Action Aid, Carolyn Miller from Merlin, Ken Caldwell from Save the Children and Raj Jarrah from CARE.

They said that the main problems they now faced were about <u>access to Aceh</u>. The Government of Indonesia needed to keep the ceasefire and guarantee not to close access to Aceh again after the immediate emergency was over.

Comment: this was also raised in the Prime Minister's Ministerial meeting this morning. Action: FCO to raise with the Government of Indonesia.

The Prime Minister noted the importance of <u>co-ordination</u>. He said your Secretary of State was looking at ways to strengthen the international system's ability to respond disasters. He also said that he had discussed co-ordination with President Bush who was very happy for the UN to be in the lead with the US and others in support.

The NGOs were clear that they were not putting pressure on the Government to increase our <u>pledge</u> to the disaster. They had their own concerns about spending their huge donations effectively. They understood that the Government would respond to needs as assessed by the UN. But they were concerned that our assistance was 'additional' and not taken from other poor people, eg in Africa. The Prime Minister was clear that he did not want to let this

disaster displace our resources or plans for <u>Africa</u>. He was hesitant to increase the £50m pledge before it was clear what was needed. He hoped that we would be able to turn the generosity of people in response to this disaster into a wider mobilisation for Africa this year. But the public needed to be made more aware of the scale of the problem in Africa. The NGOs agreed; they had worked out that in Africa there was the equivalent to a Tsunami every week.

The NGOs briefly raised the issue of <u>trade</u> preferences for Sri Lanka and other affected countries. The Prime Minister explained his concerns that the Government and the NGOs get onto common ground on this issue (see the Prime Minister's letter to your Secretary of State on 13 December). A confused message about free trade for Africa but not for the rich countries risked giving G7 nations an escape route when it came to political negotiations with them.

Nick Young from the <u>Red Cross</u> referred to his letter to the Prime Minister of 3 January (on which you are providing advice). The Prime Minister said he was open to the suggestion of a meeting at 10 Downing Street in late January. Nick also said that he wanted HMG to work with the Red Cross to learn the lessons from the Tsunami disaster, particularly on co-ordination between FCO and the Red Cross. He was particularly concerned that lots of the families in the UK which would need emotional support were not the families of tourists but families of people who actually live in Sri Lanka, India etc. **Comment**: this was discussed briefly by COBR on Sunday. **Action**: Nigel Sheinwald's meeting this afternoon will look at these issues.

I am copying this letter to Margaret Aldred (Cabinet Office), Lucy Bell (ODPM), Kara Owen (FCO), Chris Sharrock (HMT), Matthew Hilton (DTI) and Chris Baker (MOD).

Yours ever

LAURIE LEE

Moazzam Malik DFID









SOUTH EAST ASIA



Geographic Support Main Building, DGC, GSGS 12315, Edition 5, November 2003 2/05 OP5/1/2005

For briefing purposes only. Maps produced by DGIA are not to be taken as necessarily representing the views of the UK Government on boundaries or political status.

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SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI UPDATE AT 4 January, 0745.

Casualty Details

Media reporting over 150,000 dead across the affected region, with 5 million displaced. Numbers continue to rise. 41 Britons confirmed dead. The number continues to rise as identifications are completed and may eventually exceed 100. The Foreign Secretary confirmed to the press on 3 January that, in addition to those confirmed dead, the Met Police had at that stage categorised another 159 as highly likely to have been involved as victims of the disaster.

In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are reports of up to 30,000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 10 Britons confirmed dead so far but the number expected to rise. British citizens wanting to leave have been able to do so by commercial means.

Commercial flights are operating normally and have spare seats.

- In Maldives, there were over 3500 Britons on holiday – some reported injured by their tour companies. 3 Britons confirmed dead. The Maldives' Government confirm 75 dead and 435 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown). Most British tourists able to leave have now done so.

- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 4812 dead (of which 2407 said to be foreign nationals), 10479 injured and 6541 missing overall. 28 British nationals confirmed among the dead (number will rise, there are still 1171 listed as missing). Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights. We arranged an additional BA flight, which arrived at Heathrow on 1 January.

- Reports of many confirmed deaths in Malaysia, but no Britons so far.

- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in Indonesia and India.

But local casualty estimates are very high (80,000 at least in Indonesia). Tel from Jakarta (013 of 4 Jan) suggests that the number of casualties there will rise significantly when remoter areas are reached

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we have kept in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. For the most part, these appear to have gone well.

We have put in place a package of assistance measures for victims and their families. This includes: repatriation of bodies or mortal remains; immediate medical expenses for those seriously injured; medical evacuation; return travel for two members of the victim's family; and assistance with psychological support services.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT sent from London supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another four-person RDT replaced some of them on 31 December.
- Colombo consular officer who was in the Maldives has now returned to post.
- The High Commission believe that most Britons who wished to leave, and were physically able to do so, have already gone.

There will be a trickle of further departures including those released from hospital, plus family members. 15 British patients still in hospital at 3 January but some expected to be discharged soon. Regular hospital visits.

Police forensics/identification team arrived on 30 December and is working with the High Commission. Two separate teams touring the south and east of Sri Lanka

searching for bodies.

FROM

The High Commission is open 24/7.

020 7008 3823

Thailand

09:18

04-JAN-2005

Throughout the last week 52 volunteers from neighbouring posts (and FCO officers on leave) have at varying times reinforced Bangkok Embassy Staff (and family volunteers) to form a Tsunami Response Team. Many are now returning to parent missions, some already replaced. Currently 32 in Thailand. Many volunteers expected to leave by 8/9 January to coincide with arrival of Consular Support Team.. Phuket based staff continue to operate from temporary accommodation. HMA based in Phuket area until returned to Bangkok on 1 January. Staff have also travelled extensively to cover at least worst hit areas. Embassy is closed for normal business but looking to re-open on phased basis over the next week.

Britons arriving in Bangkok from Phuket receive assistance from the Embassy at Help Desks set up at Bangkok Airport. BA operated an additional flight from Bangkok to Heathrow on I January, with about 90 (mainly British) passengers.

Arrangements went well on departure and arrival.

Police forensic/identification team arrived on 30 December and is working with Embassy staff in Phuket and liaising with other teams from Australian and EU

countries. About 50 Britons still in hospital in Bangkok and 13 in Phuket/Pnanga/Krabi. All

regularly visited. HMA visited hospitals in Bangkok on 2 Jan. The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on morning of Sunday 26 December to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we quickly transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: 0207 008 0000.
- Police opened further call centres on 28 December (all with same telephone number). We have issued press notices and web-site information that this number is only for family and friends to get and provide information.

On 3 January, calls were being answered in 5-10 seconds. Call numbers were about 70 per hour.

Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.

Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre were identified over the holiday and increased. A Tsunami Crisis Unit has operated in the OAB throughout the weekend. Staff for this will be further increased from 4 January

We are working closely with the Police and Travelcare (a charity we help fund) to help distressed tourists and others returning to the UK

- Travel advice being amended as information comes in. We are now advising against all but essential travel to the worst affected areas in Thailand and Sri Lanka.

We remain in regular touch with tour operators and EU colleagues.

- Help line set up in co-operation with the British Red Cross to assist those returning from the affected areas, and their families, opened for business on 1 January. The FCO is funding this initiative.

We are also funding a five-man British Red Cross team for Thailand. This includes a medical doctor and clinical psychiatrist. Th first two members left on 3 January.

Whitehall Co-ordination

- A COBR meeting was held in the Cabinet Office on Sunday 2 January at 11.00 hrs.

Political/Diplomatic/Events

- FS Press Conference at lunchtime on 3 January confirmed 40 dead, (NB now 41) and a further 159 missing feared dead.
- a letter from the PM to G8 colleagues (copied to UNSG, Heads of IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank EU Commission) is issuing through FCO posts on 4 Jan. This sets out how G8 can best co-ordinate activity to assist countries affected by the tsunami.

Colin Powell is in Phuket at the time of writing.

- An ASEAN and others conference is to be held in Jakarta on 6 January. The Indonesians are expecting attendancefrom Heads of Govt/FMs from ASEAN, China, India and leading donor nations. FS expected to attend to represent the UK in its G8 Presidency role.

Indonesia looking for debt rescheduling.

Kofi Annan due to travel to the region tonight.

- DEC logistics meeting at CHAD Office, London 1100 Tuesday 4 January.

- 7 January: EU Ministerial meeting (Development Ministers).

- OCHA hosted International Donors Conference in Geneva - 11 January.

DFID

Key Issues - Overview

- With relief arriving in increasing quantities, top priorities are to:
 - Get coordination mechanisms fully operational.
 - Complete assessments, particularly in Aceh and Sri Lanka.
 - Unblock logistic bottlenecks.
 - Ensure the right key personnel are in place.
- Aftershock earthquakes continue registering 5.9 on Richter scale on 1 and 2 January.



- UN requests UK to provide more aircraft for strategic airlifting.

- DFID have sent various advisors and development co-ordinators to the region.

- An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government (total value approx.£250k).

- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka.

Agreed funding of £400k to support Save the Children UK in providing an

emergency response in Sri Lanka.

At request of current EU Presidency, the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

- UK share (18%, value approx. £372k)) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's

Emergency Appeal.

- On 29 December Hilary Benn announced HMG's initial allocation of £15 million for immediate humanitarian needs across the region. This has been increased to £50 million.

- Separate DFID-CHAD report contains full details.

EU Aspects and international cooperation

ECHO, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department, has allocated 3 million Euro to support the Red Cross/Red Crescent Federation to meet vital initial needs, and pledged the rapid release of further substantial aid. The Commission is able to mobilise up to 30 million Euro promptly through its emergency procedures. The exact amount to be allocated will depend on needs assessments and requests. ECHO staff are engaged on needs assessments in the worst-hit regions.

ECHO officials have said that a decision has been taken to commit 10 mEuro for Sri Lanka (8m allocated, 2m in reserve). This is in addition to the initial 3 mEuro and the decision on 31 December to allocate 10 mEuro to Sri Lanka (8m) and the Maldives (2m). (10 mEuro tranches are preferred because these decisions can be taken by the Commission without consulting the Member States, and are therefore quicker). This brings ECHO funding to 23 mEuro and reflects monies that can and are being spent on aid programmes (rather than pledges). ECHO staff are working with NGOs and DFID throughout the area to establish requirements, and subsequent decisions on further allocations of aid, possibly exceeding the 10 mEuro level, will be taken on the basis of reports of what is needed. Commissioner Michel will probably visit Colombo and Aceh over the weekend.

The Presidency will hold a special meeting of Development Ministers on 7 January (probably pm only) to allow Commissioner Michel to return and report to the council. The ECHO/EU position has been, and is expected to remain, that it is for the UN to lead co-ordination of the aid effort. The Development Council is expected to restate this view, notwithstanding the US position.

Consular Crisis Group/Response Centre 4 January 8.00am

CONFIDENTIAL





From: Laurie Lee (x3292)

Date: 4 January 2005

PRIME MINISTER

cc:

Jonathan Powell

Nigel Sheinwald

Ivan Rogers Kim Darroch

Simon Morys Ramil Burden

Antony Phillipson

David Hill Ian Gleeson

TSUNAMI: MINISTERIAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 5 JANUARY, 11.00

This is a short briefing note for tomorrow's Tsunami Ministerial meeting. I attach my note of this morning's meeting. You will also want to take account of the latest DFID SitRep when we receive it and your Today programme interview and visit to the Disaster Emergency Committee in the morning.

You should note that the UK will be observing a 3 minute silence at noon and flying flags at half-mast today, in line with the rest of Europe.

I then suggest you go through the following agenda items:

British Victims

You will want to ask for the latest numbers from the FCO of confirmed dead, probably dead and missing. In particular, you will want to ask if we have been able to examine the last site of bodies in Thailand and are confident enough to release a new figure of probable deaths to the media.

You will also want to ask the FCO if we are fully on top of the media stories about poor service to British survivors, especially in Thailand, no doubt in the light of your Today programme interview.

You might also raise the issue of you and Jack Straw writing condolence letters to the families of British victims as they are confirmed. If you agree, FCO will need to provide names and draft letters. Will you want to hand write them?



Immediate Humanitarian Effort

You will want to ask Gareth Thomas what further requests DFID has received and responded to in the last 24 hours.

You should also ask Gareth for a read-out of Hilary's phone call with Jan Egeland when he was going to suggest the UN appointed a high-level coordinator for Indonesia (and perhaps Sri Lanka).

Hilary noted today that some aid convoys in Aceh were being held up by **fighting** between the rebels and the government. The NGOs may well raise this with you at the DEC. You should suggest to FCO that this is something which the Jakarta conference (which Jack will attend) needs to address, at least in the margins.

You should also ask MOD what response we have received to the **Ghurkhas** offer and HMT what response we have had from the G7 on **debt relief**.

Long-term Reconstruction

You should ask Gareth for a read-out of Hilary's phone call with Jim Wolfensohn. He was going to suggest a donor meeting/Consultative Group for Indonesia or the region sooner rather than later.

You may well also have some messages on this to report back from the NGOs.

Sir David King is due to give some initial advice which Jack can take to Jakarta on the threat of further tsunamis from after-shocks. He will provide fuller advice on the long term issues next week.

International Co-ordination

Little new to add to this morning but you should ask FCO and Gareth what we expect the UK line to be on assistance at the **Jakarta Conference on Thursday**.



Media Handling

You will want to check that **DFID** are putting out daily updates on what they are doing and that DFID-MOD-HMT are putting together a more comprehensive picture of all UK assistance (cash, gift-aid, military, debt relief).

You will also have some thoughts on this following your Today programme interview. So will David.

Future meetings

You will chair another meeting at 08.00 on Friday. You will want to say today or on Friday, what you think about future Ministerials. How often do we need them and who needs to chair them? I think we should be aiming to pass this back to FCO/DFID by the end of next week.

Nigel will hold a follow up meeting with officials tomorrow afternoon and will continue officials meetings as necessary, in the light of your decision on Ministerials. Nigel will use his meeting tomorrow to ensure follow-up to your meeting and also get work started on some of the longer term issues, including lesson learning on how to make the Met phone bank work better, Hilary's points about a standing international (UN/EU) capacity, and the need for warning systems in the Indian Ocean and possibly the Atlantic.

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LAURIE LEE

CONFIDENTIAL



From the Private Secretary

4 January 2005

Dear Kara,

INDIA OCEAN DISASTER: MINISTERIAL MEETING, TUESDAY 4 JANUARY

The Prime Minister chaired a meeting of Ministers and officials this morning on the tsunami in Asia. The Deputy Prime Minister, the International Development Secretary and your Secretary of State were there, as well as officials from various departments.

The Prime Minister began by thanking those present and those working in all departments for the excellent work they had been doing for the last ten days.

British Victims

Your Secretary of State said that the number of category 1 (highly likely to be involved) names had increased overnight from 199 to 275; this figure was updated again during the meeting to 282. However, it could rise again as there was still a site in Thailand which had not been fully examined. It was agreed that we should check that site before issuing a revised figure. Action: The Met. We will review this tomorrow morning at 11.00.

The number of category 2 (likely to be involved) names had fallen again from 5723 to 4768. This was number was still being cleaned up and should not be released. The Embassy in Bangkok thought it would fall as low as 1100.

Immediate Humanitarian Effort

The Prime Minister said that it seemed that the situation in India, Thailand, Maldives and Somalia was under control by the local authorities. The International Development Secretary agreed, noting that although there were still concerns that we did not know the full extent of the problems in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India wanted to control the relief effort there anyway.



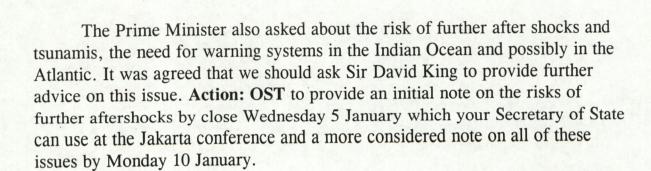
So our focus would be on Sri Lanka and Indonesia, the Prime Minister said. On Sri Lanka, the International Development Secretary said the UN was doing ok. DFID had given some support to the Government of Sri Lanka to help them co-ordinate their emergency response and this was helping. Military assets including HMS Chatham and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Diligence and an RAF C130 would be available for distributing aid in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

It was agreed that **Indonesia** posed the biggest problem, both in terms of the scale of the impact (100,000 dead and likely to rise much further; up to 1.5 million displaced) and the internal difficulties of working in Aceh province. The Prime Minister asked who was co-ordinating the effort in Aceh. For the Indonesian Government it was effectively the military, who were working closely with the US and Australian military. We had been helping the UN to set up their co-ordination. The International Development Secretary said he would advise the UN to appoint a high-level UN co-ordinator for Indonesia in the region when he spoke to Jan Egeland today. **Action: DFID**. The MOD advised that we should also provide the UN with military liaison officers to help them co-ordinate with the Indonesian, US and Australian military. It was agreed we should do this. It was also agreed that one C17 would remain in theatre (tasked by DFID) and that we should offer to deploy a platoon of Ghurkhas from the Brunei garrison. **Action: MOD**.

HM Treasury explained the **debt relief** proposal that the UK was making to the G7, to suspend debt interest payments for those affected countries who wanted it (effectively Sri Lanka and Indonesia) until a discussion could be had on a longer term arrangement and to extend our 100% multilateral debt relief initiative to Sri Lanka. This would cost DFID about £45 million a year if it remained a unilateral UK initiative but if the Paris Club agreed next week, it could be treated as an ECGD write-off. HMT thought that the G7 would back the proposal this week.

Long-term Reconstruction

The Prime Minister asked who would lead on this. The International Development Secretary said it would be the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions. He was speaking to James Wolfensohn this afternoon and would ask the World Bank to consider bringing forward the planned Consultative Group meeting with donors for Indonesia, or holding a regional meeting soon. **Action: DFID.**



It was also noted that there would be other lessons to learn in terms of international responses to crises. Nigel Sheinwald's officials meeting will consider this issue initially tomorrow afternoon.

International Co-ordination

The Prime Minister said he had been discussing the idea of a Friends Group for the UN in Indonesia. There was broad support for the idea from the UN, US and others. It was agreed that this should be one output of the Jakarta conference on Thursday, which your Secretary of State would attend.

It was noted that in addition to the Jakarata conference, EU Development Ministers were meeting on Friday and the UN would also meet in Geneva next week (11 January).

Media Handling

The Prime Minister said that DFID should make sure we were producing daily updates for the media on what we were doing, especially in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. **Action: DFID.** Today we would be able to announce the C130 for Sri Lanka, and the C17 and the Ghurkhas for Indonesia.

The Prime Minister said we also needed a more comprehensive account of the assistance we were providing in cash, in-kind (military assistance), in gift-aid on donations to NGOs and in debt relief. **Action: DFID, MOD and HMT**, for use on Thursday 6 January.

Next meeting

The Prime Minister will chair a further meeting tomorrow at 11.00. The agenda will follow the same format as today's:

- British Victims
- Immediate Humanitarian Effort
- Long-term Reconstruction
- International Co-ordination
- Media Handling

I am copying this letter to Margaret Aldred (Cabinet Office), Lucy Bell (ODPM), Moazzam Malik (DFID), Chris Sharrock (HMT), Chris Baker (MOD), Dominic Hardy (DoH), Jonathan Sedgwick (HO), David Veness (The Met) and Michael Evans (OST).

Yours ever

LAURIE LEE

Kara Owen FCO

CONFIDENTIAL



SUBJECT MASTER Filed:/

AC NS

CO: G. Fergusson C-Chalmer J. Caue

4 January 2005

From the Private Secretary

Dear Moazzam,

INDIA OCEAN DISASTER: SRI LANKA & INDONESIA: PRIME MINISTER'S PHONE CALLS TO PRESIDENTS KUMARATUNGA & YUDHOYONO

The Prime Minister called Presidents Kumaratunga (Sri Lanka) and Yudhoyono (Indonesia) this morning, about the tsunami in Asia.

Sri Lanka

The Prime Minister expressed his condolences to the President. She also expressed her condolences and thanks for everything the UK Government and British public had done and given.

The Prime Minister explained that the UK would be suspending debt service payments for Sri Lanka and encouraging the rest of the G7 to do the same. The Royal Navy was there helping. Was there more we could do, in the coming weeks or months?

The President said that the immediate relief effort was under control. They had established 700 camps for destitute people and were providing them with food, water, clothes, shelter, healthcare and schools. There had been no epidemics so far. They were now looking at reconstruction, renovation and rebuilding, including roads and some 100,000 homes. They would welcome support with this. The Prime Minister assured her that we were ready to do this and they agreed they would keep in touch.

Indonesia

The Prime Minister expressed his condolences to the President and asked if there was anything specific we could do. In particular, it would be immensely

difficult to manage all of the assistance Indonesia had been offered. The Prime Minister had spoken to Annan yesterday, and suggested it might be a good idea to establish a small core group to help the UN and Indonesia organise everyone.

The President said that Indonesia was doing its best to deal with the damage caused by the Tsunami. The meeting in Jakarta on Thursday would be important. He was glad the UK was coming. He welcomed the Prime Minister's suggestion of a core group and would discuss it with Kofi Annan. He thought that this could be an output of the Jakarta meeting and said he would write to the Prime Minister to inform him of the conclusions of the conference.

The Prime Minister welcomed this and said the Foreign Secretary would be at the President's disposal during the Conference to discuss the idea further if need be. The UK would have a major role to play this year as Presidency of the G8 and later the EU; if Indonesia wanted the UK to be part of this core group, we would be happy to do so.

The Prime Minister also noted that we had decided to suspend debt interest payments for Indonesia and thought the rest of the G7 would follow suit.

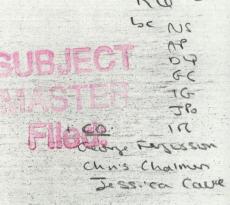
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Yours ever

LAURIE LEE

Moazzam Malik DFID CONFIDENTIAL





From the Private Secretary

4 January 2005

Dear Moazzam,

INDIA OCEAN DISASTER: PRIME MINISTER'S PHONE CALL TO KOFI ANNAN

The Prime Minister called UNSG Kofi Annan last night, about the tsunami in Asia.

The Prime Minister thanked Annan for everything the UN was already doing. Annan said he was very grateful for all of the UK contributions and for the way your Secretary of State was working with Jan Egeland.

The Prime Minister said that Indonesia seemed to be the biggest problem. He wondered if there was a case for a small contact group of leading countries to help the UN and Indonesia lead and co-ordinate that aid effort, in the short and longer term. It was up to the UN and Indonesia who should be in such a group, the Prime Minister was not lobbying for a seat for the UK. But it was clear that military capacity was needed to provide logistics and infrastructure needed to be repaired.

Annan said this sounded like a good idea; the UN did it in other crises. He would consider it further, including how to set it up and who should be on it. He would discuss it with the Indonesian President and he would stay in touch with the Prime Minister on this. (Comment: the Prime Minister will also speak to the Indonesian President about this idea later today).

Follow-up: I would be grateful if UKMis NY would follow up urgently with UNSG's office. We need to agree if this is to be an outcome of the Jakarta conference on Thursday.

Annan also told the Prime Minister (by implication, following the Prime Minister's recent advice) that he had appointed Mark Malloch Brown as a new Chief of Staff. The Prime Minister said this was an excellent appointment.

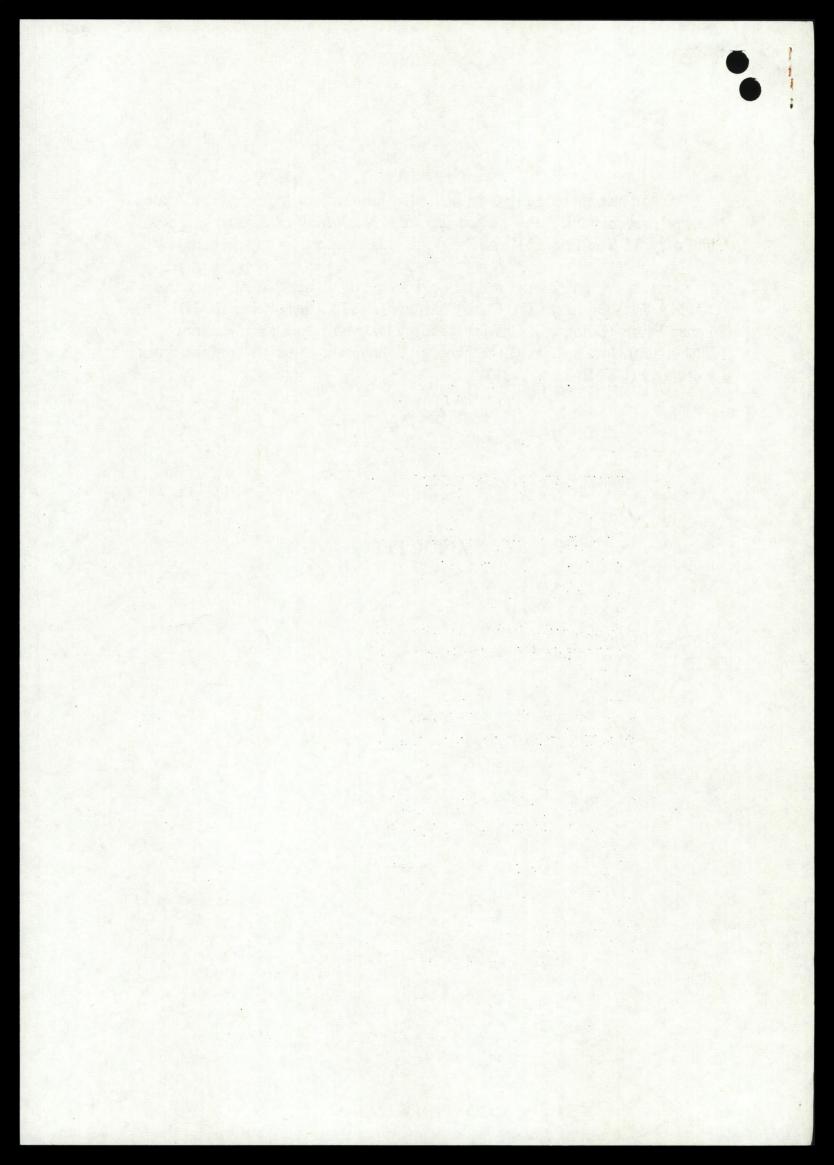
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Yours ever

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LAURIE LEE

Moazzam Malik DFID



Duty Clerk - Desk -

From:

Laurie Lee

Sent:

04 January 2005 11:42

To:

Jonathan Powell

Cc:

Foreign & European Advisers; Duty Clerks; Rosalind Redfern

Subject:

RE: PHONE CALL BETWEEN PM AND PRESIDENT YUDHOYONO: UK G8

PRESIDENCY ROLE IN DEBT RELIEF

Importance: High

The PM will call the new (male) Indonesian President, Susilo Yudhoyono, later this morning.

As discussed at the 10am meeting with DPM, Jack Straw and Hilary Benn, the PM will want to:

- · express condolences
- say UK is ready to help; what do they need?
- say you have been discussing with Annan and others, the possible need for a core
 groups of countries to assit the UN and Indonesia deal with the immediate crisis
 and the longer term. This might be a useful outcome of the Jakarta conference on
 Thursday. UK might be involved but not pushing; to be decided on Thursday. Jack
 Straw will be there.

The President will be very interested in what the UK will do as G8 Presidency, on debt relief (we are aiming to get agreement by G7 this week and Paris Club next week to suspend debt service payments) but also on long term recovery (where we will ask Wolfensohn to consider an early Consultative Group meeting to examine the needs).

Laurie



Casualty Details

- Media reporting over 150,000 dead across the affected region, with 5 million displaced. Numbers continue to rise. 41 Britons confirmed dead. The number continues to rise as identifications are completed and may eventually exceed 100. The Foreign Secretary confirmed to the press on 3 January that, in addition to those confirmed dead, the Met Police had at that stage categorised another 159 as highly likely to have been involved as victims of the disaster.
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are reports of up to 30,000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 10 Britons confirmed dead so far but the number expected to rise. British citizens wanting to leave have been able to do so by commercial means. Commercial flights are operating normally and have spare seats.
- In Maldives, there were over 3500 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. 3 Britons confirmed dead. The Maldives' Government confirm 75 dead and 435 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown). Most British tourists able to leave have now done so.
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 4812 dead (of which 2407 said to be foreign nationals), 10479 injured and 6541 missing overall. 28 British nationals confirmed among the dead (number will rise, there are still 1171 listed as missing). Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights. We arranged an additional BA flight, which arrived at Heathrow on 1 January.
- Reports of many confirmed deaths in Malaysia, but no Britons so far.
- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in <u>Indonesia</u> and <u>India</u>. But local casualty estimates are very high (80,000 at least in Indonesia). Tel from Jakarta (013 of 4 Jan) suggests that the number of casualties there will rise significantly when remoter areas are reached

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we have kept in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. For the most part, these appear to have gone well.

We have put in place a package of assistance measures for victims and their families. This includes: repatriation of bodies or mortal remains; immediate medical expenses for those seriously injured; medical evacuation; return travel for two members of the victim's family; and assistance with psychological support services.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT sent from London supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another four-person RDT replaced some of them on 31 December.
- Colombo consular officer who was in the Maldives has now returned to post.
- The High Commission believe that most Britons who wished to leave, and were physically able to do so, have already gone.

- There will be a trickle of further departures including those released from hospital, plus family members. 15 British patients still in hospital at 3 January but some expected to be discharged soon. Regular hospital visits.
- Police forensics/identification team arrived on 30 December and is working with the High Commission. Two separate teams touring the south and east of Sri Lanka searching for bodies.
- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

- Throughout the last week 52 volunteers from neighbouring posts (and FCO officers on leave) have at varying times reinforced Bangkok Embassy Staff (and family volunteers) to form a Tsunami Response Team. Many are now returning to parent missions, some already replaced. Currently 32 in Thailand. Many volunteers expected to leave by 8/9 January to coincide with arrival of Consular Support Team. Phuket based staff continue to operate from temporary accommodation. HMA based in Phuket area until returned to Bangkok on 1 January. Staff have also travelled extensively to cover at least worst hit areas. Embassy is closed for normal business but looking to re-open on phased basis over the next week.
- Britons arriving in Bangkok from Phuket receive assistance from the Embassy at Help Desks set up at Bangkok Airport. BA operated an additional flight from Bangkok to Heathrow on 1 January, with about 90 (mainly British) passengers. Arrangements went well on departure and arrival.
- Police forensic/identification team arrived on 30 December and is working with Embassy staff in Phuket and liaising with other teams from Australian and EU countries
- About 50 Britons still in hospital in Bangkok and 13 in Phuket/Pnanga/Krabi. All regularly visited. HMA visited hospitals in Bangkok on 2 Jan.
- The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on morning of Sunday 26
 December to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of
 callers we quickly transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing
 arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same:
 0207 008 0000.
- Police opened further call centres on 28 December (all with same telephone number). We have issued press notices and web-site information that this number is only for family and friends to get and provide information.
- On 3 January, calls were being answered in 5-10 seconds. Call numbers were about 70 per hour.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre were identified over the holiday and increased. A Tsunami Crisis Unit has operated in the OAB throughout the weekend. Staff for this will be further increased from 4 January.

- We are working closely with the Police and Travelcare (a charity we help fund) to help distressed tourists and others returning to the UK
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in. We are now advising against all but essential travel to the worst affected areas in Thailand and Sri Lanka.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators and EU colleagues.
- Help line set up in co-operation with the British Red Cross to assist those returning from the affected areas, and their families, opened for business on 1 January. The FCO is funding this initiative.
- We are also funding a five-man British Red Cross team for Thailand. This includes a medical doctor and clinical psychiatrist. Th first two members left on 3 January.

Whitehall Co-ordination

- A COBR meeting was held in the Cabinet Office on Sunday 2 January at 11.00 hrs.

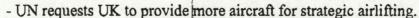
Political/Diplomatic/Events

- FS Press Conference at lunchtime on 3 January confirmed 40 dead, (NB now 41) and a further 159 missing feared dead.
- a letter from the PM to G8 colleagues (copied to UNSG, Heads of IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank EU Commission) is issuing through FCO posts on 4 Jan. This sets out how G8 can best co-ordinate activity to assist countries affected by the tsunami.
- Colin Powell is in Phuket at the time of writing.
- An ASEAN and others conference is to be held in Jakarta on 6 January. The Indonesians are expecting attendance from Heads of Govt/FMs from ASEAN, China, India and leading donor nations. FS expected to attend to represent the UK in its G8 Presidency role.
- Indonesia looking for debt rescheduling.
- Kofi Annan due to travel to the region tonight.
- DEC logistics meeting at CHAD Office, London 1100 Tuesday 4 January.
- 7 January: EU Ministerial meeting (Development Ministers).
- OCHA hosted International Donors Conference in Geneva 11 January.

DFID

Key Issues - Overview

- With relief arriving in increasing quantities, top priorities are to:
 - Get coordination mechanisms fully operational.
 - Complete assessments, particularly in Aceh and Sri Lanka.
 - Unblock logistic bottlenecks.
 - Ensure the right key personnel are in place.
- Aftershock earthquakes continue registering 5.9 on Richter scale on 1 and 2 January.



- DFID have sent various advisors and development co-ordinators to the region.
- An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government (total value approx.£250k).
- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka.
- Agreed funding of £400k to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At request of current EU Presidency, the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- UK share (18%, value approx. £372k)) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal.
- On 29 December Hilary Benn announced HMG's initial allocation of £15 million for immediate humanitarian needs across the region. This has been increased to £50 million.
- Separate DFID-CHAD report contains full details.

EU Aspects and international cooperation

ECHO, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department, has allocated 3 million Euro to support the Red Cross/Red Crescent Federation to meet vital initial needs, and pledged the rapid release of further substantial aid. The Commission is able to mobilise up to 30 million Euro promptly through its emergency procedures. The exact amount to be allocated will depend on needs assessments and requests. ECHO staff are engaged on needs assessments in the worst-hit regions.

ECHO officials have said that a decision has been taken to commit 10 mEuro for Sri Lanka (8m allocated, 2m in reserve). This is in addition to the initial 3 mEuro and the decision on 31 December to allocate 10 mEuro to Sri Lanka (8m) and the Maldives (2m). (10 mEuro tranches are preferred because these decisions can be taken by the Commission without consulting the Member States, and are therefore quicker). This brings ECHO funding to 23 mEuro and reflects monies that can and are being spent on aid programmes (rather than pledges). ECHO staff are working with NGOs and DFID throughout the area to establish requirements, and subsequent decisions on further allocations of aid, possibly exceeding the 10 mEuro level, will be taken on the basis of reports of what is needed. Commissioner Michel will probably visit Colombo and Aceh over the weekend.

The Presidency will hold a special meeting of Development Ministers on 7 January (probably pm only) to allow Commissioner Michel to return and report to the council. The ECHO/EU position has been, and is expected to remain, that it is for the UN to lead co-ordination of the aid effort. The Development Council is expected to restate this view, notwithstanding the US position.

Consular Crisis Group/Response Centre 4 January 8.00am



be: NS GC 160 IPO 117

CO: G. Fergussaa

C. Chalmen

4 January 2005 J. Caule

Dear Kara,

From the Private Secretary

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The Prime Minister asked who would lead on this. The International Development Secretary said it would be the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions. He was speaking to James Wolfensohn this afternoon and would ask the World Bank to consider bringing forward the planned Consultative Group meeting with donors for Indonesia, or holding a regional meeting soon. **Action: DFID.**



The Prime Minister also asked about the risk of further after shocks and tsunamis, the need for warning systems in the Indian Ocean and possibly in the Atlantic. It was agreed that we should ask Sir David King to provide further advice on this issue. **Action: OST** to provide an initial note on the risks of further aftershocks by close Wednesday 5 January which your Secretary of State can use at the Jakarta conference and a more considered note on all of these issues by Monday 10 January.

It was also noted that there would be other lessons to learn in terms of international responses to crises. Nigel Sheinwald's officials meeting will consider this issue initially tomorrow afternoon.

International Co-ordination

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Yours ever

LAURIE LEE

Kara Owen FCO

From: Laurie Lee (x3292) Date:

4 January 2005

Jonathan Powell cc:

Nigel Sheinwald Ivan Rogers

Antony Phillipson

Justin Forsyth David Hill Ian Gleeson

Kate Garvey

TSUNAMI: VISIT TO DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE CALL **CENTRE**

You are going to visit the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) call centre in London tomorrow morning, after the Today Programme. The DEC co-ordinates emergency appeals for the biggest NGOs in the UK, so people can call one number and the 'spoils' are shared properly. They have received most of the £76 million pledges made by the British public.

Justin and I will accompany you, along with one press officer (just in case; we have not invited the media). Gareth Thomas will meet us there.

The DEC is based in a small mews house. You will arrive at 8.45 and be met by Brendan Gormley (the Head) and David Glencoss (the Chair) of the DEC. They will take you and Gareth (only) upstairs to meet the 20 or so volunteers working on the phones. The main purpose of this is to say thank you to these volunteers and, by extension, all of the NGOs working on the disaster and all of the British public who have donated so generously. They may also ask you whether this will 'displace' your planned focus on Africa next year; you will want to assure them that it won't and that it gives you reassurance that people do care about development issues. You may also have an opportunity to reassure them of your own involvement in the issue over the last ten days.

You will then be brought back downstairs for a (30 minute) meeting with some of the senior managers of some of the key NGOs that make up the DEC:

Barbara Stocking, Oxfam

PRIME MINISTER



Nick Young, Red Cross Richard Miller, Action Aid Caroline Miller, Merlin Ken Caldwell, Save the Children Raj Jarrah, CARE

You will also want to thank them for what their organisations are doing.

You will want to set out how you see the situation:

- Short term need for co-ordination of massive aid effort (by UN)
- Need for longer term plan, covering reconstruction, debt relief and future prevention (by World Bank)
- Turn the public and political support for the disaster into a wider movement for development and Africa in 2005
- Learn the lessons for strengthening the international system in the future

You will them want to ask them what they think the priorities are; the immediate needs, the practical obstacles, whether co-ordination is working, and how to build on this for wider development objectives for this year.

I set out below some of the issues they are likely to raise and our views on them.

<u>Humanitarian aid:</u> Governments should immediately pledge to fully fund the new appeal the UN Secretary General announces on 6 January. We will have to examine the appeal but will certainly do our bit.

The rest of the world: Governments should also fully fund the UN's 2005 Consolidated Appeals for other crises, launched by the Secretary General in November 2004, and still sorely underfunded. We are committed not to divert all aid resources into this disaster. This issue will be examined in Geneva on 11 January.

Humanitarian coordination: The UN should lead this. We agree and have made clear the G8 will support UN leadership.

<u>'Reconstruction plus':</u> Affected governments and donors should commit now to a long-term, (no less than 5 years) plan for 'reconstruction plus': aiming to reduce poverty and ensure environmental sustainability in the blighted regions.



We broadly agree and will use G8 to promote this, working with the World Bank and others.

<u>Debt:</u> Debt relief must be strictly ring-fenced to reduce poverty and rebuild affected communities. There should be an immediate moratorium on all bilateral and multilateral debt repayments from the worst affected countries. We agree and have proposed this.

Trade: The reconstruction of Sri Lanka and the Maldives at least may be hampered by their unfair terms of trade with the US and EU. Their clothing exports, which account for half of Sri Lanka's export earnings, are threatened by the phasing out of quotas under the Multi Fibre Agreement, high tariffs and restrictive rules of origin in the US and EU. Unilateral and permanent measures by the US and EU to make their markets more accessible to these clothing exports would demonstrate that they were making a joined-up response to the tsunami disaster. Phasing out of the Multi Fibre Agreement is all about providing more fair access to US, EU and other markets for producer countries.

<u>Local capacity</u>: Aid agencies should seek to use and strengthen local capacity during the aid effort. We agree. We are supporting many NGOs who do this.

Early warning: The disaster shows the need for a new early warning system and generally improved disaster preparedness for developing countries. We agree and are looking at these issues with partners.

We plan to leave at about 9.30. You are chairing another Ministerial meeting on the disaster at 11.00

/a de

LAURIE LEE





Nission Ma

United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations New York

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Laurie Lee PS/No 10

4 January 2005

Dear Lami.

INDIAN OCEAN DISASTER: INDONESIA

When the Prime Minister lobbied Kofi Annan on 3 January on the case for a small contact group of leading countries to help the UN and Indonesia with the short and longer term aid effort, Annan responded positively (your 4 January letter to Moazzam Malik). You asked us to pursue this urgently with Annan's office.

Annan is now on the way to Jakarta with much of his staff (including Mark Malloch Brown). Those who remain are defering to OCHA. We have been unable to connect with Egeland today (although I understand that the Development Secretary spoke to him). But I have gone over the ground with Egeland's Chief of Staff who will speak to him.

For the short term, OCHA assume that the US-led group including Australia and Japan would serve, adapted as necessary. But OCHA believe that US logistic support for Indonesia may not last long. They therefore see merit in a contact group for the longer term (sought by President Yudhoyono). I will continue to pursue Egeland.

The UN's understanding is that there will be a declaration from Jakarta. But it is the Aseans who hold the pen. OCHA and Annan's office urge that we follow up with Annan on the ground in Jakarta.

Adam Thomson 170000, Deputy Permanent Representative

ce: Moazzam Malik, DFID Kara Owen, FCO





SUBJECT file
MASTER Disarros Indian
Filed:

10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SW1A 2AA

\$2/05

From the Private Secretary

4 January 2005

Dear Moazzam,

INDIA OCEAN DISASTER: PRIME MINISTER'S VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT BUSH

The contents of this letter are sensitive and should only be seen by those with a real need to know.

The Prime Minister held a video-conference with President Bush this afternoon.

The Prime Minister said that he thought Indonesia was key and that the US idea of a core group, working with the UN, was the right one. The meeting in Jakarta on Thursday would be a huge event but something smaller was needed if it was to be effective.

President Bush agreed. He saw dangers of the conference becoming a bidding conference when money was not the immediate issue. He also noted that it was important to see Indonesia as a 'world power' and not a victim.

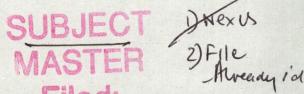
I am copying this letter to Margaret Aldred (Cabinet Office), Lucy Bell (ODPM), Kara Owen (FCO), Chris Sharrock (HMT), Chris Baker (MOD), Sir David Manning (Washington) and Sir Emyr Jones Parry (UKMis New York).

Yours ever

LAURIE LEE

Moazzam Malik DFID





High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh 28, Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5JA

> Phone: 020-7584 0081 Fax: 020-7581 7477 E-mail: bdesh.Lon@dial.pipex.com

No. BHC(L)-Admn(Msg.)-01/02

The High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh presents its compliments to the South Asian Department of Her Majesty's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London and has the honour to forward herewith a message of condolence addressed to His Excellency Rt. Hon'ble Tony Blair, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh on the death of British citizens in the sunami disaster in the region of South Asia and South East Asia.

It would be deeply appreciated if the message could be forwarded to its highest destination.

The High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest considerations.

Her Majesty's
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
South Asian Department
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH
Fax: 0207 008 3258

London, 03 January 2005

HIS EXCELLENCY
RT. HON. TONY BLAIR, MP
PRIME MINISTER
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
LONDON

EXCELLENCY,

I AM DEEPLY GRIEVED TO LEARN THAT MANY BRITONS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES AND MANY ARE STILL MISSING IN THE TIDAL SURGE THAT RESULTED FROM TSUNAMI IN SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA.

THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH JOIN ME IN PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS OF THE VICTIMS AND THAT THEY MAY REST IN PEACE. WE CONVEY OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND, THROUGH YOU, TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT AT THIS TRYING HOUR, THE AFFECTED FAMILIES WILL BE ABLE TO FACE THE SITUATION WITH COURAGE AND FORTITUDE.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

KHALEDA ZIA
PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

From: Laurie Lee (x3292)
Date: 3 January 2005

cc:

Jonathan Powell

Nigel Sheinwald Sally Morgan Simon Morys Kate Gross

Antony Phillipson David Quarrey David Hill Anne Shevas Ian Gleeson

PRIME MINISTER

TSUNAMI UPDATE

Headline numbers:

- 40 (up 5) Britons confirmed dead: 29 in Thailand, 8 in Sri Lanka and 3 in the Maldives. Total will probably eventually rise to 100-200.
- Media reporting over 150,000 dead across the affected region, including over 100,000 in Indonesia alone, with 5 million displaced. Numbers continue to rise.
- Over \$2billion aid now pledged. UK donations top £60m. (unchanged)

The DPM will call you this afternoon, after you land. The main issues from his watch meeting this morning are:

- Agreement that Jack Straw should tell the media that we think the British death toll will rise over 100.
- FCO will give us advice tomorrow on the missing numbers (now down to 5723, from 6060 yesterday) and when we should make them public.
- We have now been invited to the Jakarta conference on Thursday. Gareth Thomas will attend. FCO/DFID will provide you further advice tomorrow on whether we should propose a Friends of the Chair group, but will speak to the US, UN first. They will also advise on whether you should call the Indonesian President before the 6th.

- MOD recce team in Indonesia will advise tonight/tomorrow on whether we should deploy Ghurkhas from Brunei.
- DPM will reply to letter from Michael Howard tomorrow, on what the UK has done. (Jack Straw and Hilary Benn have already written to all MPs)

The DPM will also want to discuss what Ministerial oversight arrangements you want to have, from tomorrow. Should you chair meetings, or him (or Jack Straw)? And how often?

Leve

LAURIE LEE

From: Laurie Lee

Date: 3 January 2005

PRIME MINISTER

cc:

Deputy Prime Minister

David Hill

Nigel Sheinwald Jonathan Powell Antony Phillipson Sally Morgan Simon Morys

Ian Gleeson
David Quarrey
Anne Shevas

TSUNAMI UPDATE MEETING: TUESDAY 4 JANUARY, 1000

I suggest you divide the agenda into two main halves – British victims and the aid effort – and then look at media handling in the round at the end.

On British victims, you will want to ask for an update from the FCO, and Cabinet Office, on behalf of Department of Health, Home Office and others.

You should also invite HMT to respond to the Cabinet Office on possible costs.

The main issue is whether or when we should release the figure of Brits unaccounted for. This has fallen from 7500 to 5700 and continues to fall. The British Embassy in Bangkok thinks the realistic figure is 1100 at most. You will want to discuss political and media handling but the basic question is probably how soon can we get a more accurate, credible and less alarming figure to release.

On the <u>humanitarian effort</u> you will want to ask for updates from DFID, MoD, FCO and others.

There are two main issues you will want to raise, both related to Indonesia.

Firstly, you should ask MoD for a read out from their recce team in Indonesia. Do they advise we should deploy the Ghurkas, helicopters and boats from Brunei (and if not, why not)? Can they deploy additional C17s to Indonesia (noting we'll probably need one for another sensitive operation within the next fortnight)? And what is their more general advice.

The second issue is to give people a readout of your conversation with Kofi Annan and ask Jack Straw for a readout of his call to Colin Powell and to discuss the idea of a contact group. The decisions are who should go to the Jakarta meeting on 6 January (Jack Straw) and what they should say about money (ask DFID) and a contact group (we'll need to hear back from the UNSG).

In the light of the above, you will want to be sure that we have a proper media handling strategy in place, to deal with stories about your role, Ministerial travel, deaths and numbers missing, our aid contribution, international aid co-ordination, and the letter from Michael Howard. You should ask David Hill and the DPM to lead this discussion.

Finally, you might want to put in place an arrangement for ongoing Ministerial oversight. Officials will continue to meet regularly to deal with both British victims and the aid effort. Regular Ministerial meetings are probably also still

- 3 -

appropriate for the time being. You/DPM or Jack Straw could chair. They could be daily and probably should be at least three times a week.

Signed: Laurie Lee 03/01/2005

LAURIE LEE

DFID CHAD OPERATIONS ROOM SITUATION REPORT INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS SITREP No 14 as at 19.00 hrs 03 January 2005

CHAD Operations Room – 020 7023 1471 Email – ot-information@dfid.gov.uk

This sitrep is internal to HMG. An external version is posted to DFID's web-site daily. Updated status reports on each country, and on action taken by selected organisations, are maintained by the CHAD Operations Room and are available on request. The sitrep covers the past 24 hours, plus a roundup of key statistics and DFID action since the start of the crisis.

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AT A GLANCE

Key Issues

Overview

- With relief arriving in increasing quantities, top priorities are to:
 - Get coordination mechanisms fully operational.
 - Complete assessments, particularly in Aceh and Sri Lanka.
 - Unblock logistic bottlenecks.
 - Ensure the right key personnel are in place.
- Aftershock earthquakes continue registering 5.9 on Richter scale on 1 and 2 January.
- UN requests UK to provide more aircraft for strategic airlifting.

Indonesia

- DFID urgently seeking clearer picture of impact on west coast of Aceh.
- DFID has now contracted 3 Mi8 helicopters, to be sent soon to support UN in Aceh.

- The second IHP airlift with equipment for the UN due to arrive Banda Aceh 4 January.
- Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) equipment and vehicles, bound for Banda Aceh, are provisionally due to leave on 6 January.
- Over 270,000 now reported by Ministry of Health to be in established IDP camps in Aceh.

Sri Lanka

- DFID considering UN request for C130 aircraft for Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- · Sri Lankan air force carrying food and water to affected areas.
- Coordination does not yet appear to be strong.
- DFID finalising tasking for HMS Chatham and APV Diligence.

India

Government say 364,200 displaced.

Maldives

 Approx 17,000 IDPs in Maldives. All are likely to need food aid during reconstruction.

Seychelles

 Government has requested UNDAC team assessment, which will take place shortly.

Funding requests

• DFID has received and is working on funding requests from 3 UN agencies: UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and from IOM.

Forthcoming key events and meetings

- Kofi Annan due to travel to the region tonight.
- DEC logistics meeting at CHAD Office, London 1100 Tuesday 4 January.
- 7 January: EU Ministerial meeting (Development Ministers).
- ASEAN summit in Indonesia Thursday 6 January, UN Flash Appeal may be launched at the meeting with a parallel briefing by Egeland in New York. The Foreign Secretary plans to attend.
- Peter Troy, CHAD, DFID to host an NGO meeting at DFID pm Thursday 6 January.
- OCHA hosted International Donors Conference in Geneva 11 January.

Key statistics

Worldwide pledges total US\$ 1,452,308,750 (Source: OCHA 2 January)

Location	Dead	Missing	Injured/sick	Displaced	Affected
Indonesia	94,081 AFP	1,541 OCHA		271,908 MoH	500,000
Sri Lanka	29,729 to 46,000 (estimated) dead AFP and other media	5,023 OCHA	12,482 OCHA	889,175 OCHA	
India, Andaman & Nicobar Is	12,829 AFP	3,874 AFP	4 1V44418 G	364,200 Gol	3,500,000 Gol
Maldives	75 AFP	42 OCHA	160	12,200 OCHA	100,000
Thailand	5,104 Thai Govt	6,384 Thai Govt	10,469 Thai Govt		
Myanmar	90 AFP	21	43		
Malaysia	66 AFP	29	183		
Somalia	176 Int Media			50,000 BBC	15,000 – 30,000 OCHA
Kenya	1 AFP				
Tanzania	10 AFP				
Seychelles	1 BBC		44		
Bangladesh	2 AFP				

DFID response to date

New developments are in bold/italic

- 1. We have received and are considering four requests for funding from UN agencies and IOM:
 - UNICEF Regional Donor Alert
 - WHO Donor Alert
 - WFP EMOP (Emergency Operations) & Special Operations (logistics, air support and establishment of the UNJLC).
 - IOM Flash Appeal Indonesia only
- 2. Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn, speaking on BBC Radio, told of how this tragedy was leading to greater awareness of the conditions in which our fellow human beings find themselves and that a greater understanding of this by us all will assist us to make progress on key development issues in 2005.

DFID Planning

- 3. DFID is actively seeking to verify reports on large scale destruction in the west coast of Aceh Province with HMG colleagues, NGOs and other organisations (as reported in yesterday's SITREP).
- 4. Following request from Jan Egeland, UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, the UK is considering providing UK operated large aircraft to improve capacity and effectiveness of UN operations in the region.
- 5. DFID is on standby to respond to need from imminent MSF and UNICEF assessments of the scale and impact of storm damage in India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- 6. DFID have finalised the contract for the mobilisation of 3 MI8 helicopters for rapid deployment to be placed at the disposal of UN operations in Banda Aceh.
- 7. UK is presently reviewing a request to provide a C130 aircraft to enable effective disbursement of relief goods for Sri Lanka and potentially the Maldives.

Financial

8. DFID has allocated £50m to the response. Funds allocated to date are given below:

Agency	Brief Description	Value of Appeal	Amount Agreed
WHO	Regional appeal	\$ 37,146,000 (£ 19,245,000 approx)	£ 3,000,000
Federation	Health, Watsan, Logistics, Food and NFIs	CHF 67,000,000 (£30,461,500 approx)	£ 2,000,000
WHO	Procurement of Health Kits		£ 55,000
WHO	Transportation of Health Kits		€ 60,000 (£ 41,500 approx)
SCF	NFIs, Watsan, Food and Shelther – Sri Lanka	£ 1,728,300	£ 400,000
Christian Aid	Food, Shelter, Water and Healthcare - India	£ 845,000	£ 400,000
DFID chartered flight carrying donation	Water, collapsible jerry cans - Maldives		£ 81,000 approx (cost of flight)
	TOTAL		£ 5,977,500

Donations in kind

Quantity	Item	Currency Value	Approximate £ Value	Further Information
	International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) equipment		£ 200,000	
	Humanitarian Information Centre		£ 67,000	
	Vehicle for HIC		£ 30,000	
	Trailer for HIC		£2,500	
14,000	10 litre collapsible jerry cans	\$ 43,050	22,300	

4	Iridium satellite telephones		3,200	
1,000,000	Water purification tablets	€ 8,000	5,500	
392	6x4m rolls tarpaulin	€ 98,000	68,000	THE OWN DOWN
10	WHO New Emergency Health Kits		113,000	Including airlift
20,000	4x5m tarps	\$ 150,000	77,700	
282	Tents			
5000	Plastic sheets 96 (units of 5) – Sarvodaya 316 (units of 5) – Sewalanka 552 (units of 5) – UNICEF warehouse, Colombo		250,000	Including airlift
40,000	Mats	\$ 35,200	18,200	
4,500	Cook Sets	\$ 46,125	23,900	
5,040	10 litre collapsible water containers	\$ 7,308	3,790	
	TOTAL		£ 885,090	

- 9. The International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) airlift task will require a total of 3 aircraft sorties: 2 x RAF C-17 and one RAF Tristar. This is a joint DFID-Finland-Sweden-Norway-Denmark operation, to establish working environments and communications capability for UN staff. The C-17 aircraft left Denmark 1 January and arrived in Banda Aceh 1600 GMT 2 December with 13 technicians on board, (it is then going onto Penang to pick-up the Tristar materials that arrived at 0620 (GMT), today, Monday 3 January from Norway and is due to arrive Banda Aceh 4 January). The next two flights will carry another 3 technicians and:
 - Food
 - Water
 - Tents
 - Office and communication modules
 - Land Cruisers
 - Water purification equipment.
 - 3 people
- 10. The total cost of the IHP airlift is £250,000.
- 11. A DFID funded DC8 aircraft bound for the Maldives carrying 40 tonnes of water (donated by Scottish Water and Strathmore Water) and collapsible plastic jerry cans (donated by Scottish Water) on schedule to leave the UK today, 3 January.
- 12. We are currently arranging transport of Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) equipment and a Land Rover vehicle and an accompanying trailer, provisionally leaving on Thursday 6 January as well as 1 million puritabs to Banda Aceh or Medan. The HIC will enable the UN to collate, map and analyse humanitarian needs.
- 13. At the request of the UN, we have contracted MI8 helicopters and are arranging the necessary transportation by which to transfer these to Banda Aceh for UN operations.

DFID support to the DEC

14. Nothing further to report

Other donations

15. Pakistan has sent 2 navy ships with three helicopters and other rescue operation equipment to Colombo. (DPA)

Locations of field teams

Field Team 1: Jakarta - Steve Ray, Alan Matthews and Annabelle Newbigging.

Field Team 2: Colombo - John Adlam and Mark Bulpitt.

- 16. Philip Upson is employed by DFID, Sri Lanka and is providing advice to the Sri Lankan Government's emergency management organisation.
- 17. Clare Harkin, Civil Military Affairs Adviser, is due to deploy to the region tonight with UK military forces Joint Task Force Headquarters Command Group to ascertain the role of other military forces in the region.

CURRENT SITUATION

Developments in the last 24 hours, by country

Indonesia

Summary: West coast, and many other areas, still hardly assessed. Many IDPs may be invisible in inland forest. Alternatively there may only be few, with the remainder dead. US and Australian military assistance rapidly increasing. Improving coordination still a high priority.

- 18. AFP reports that the Ministry of Health has increased its estimate of 198,906 living in established camps in Aceh province to 271,908 with 17,720 living in camps in Banda Aceh alone. However, the ICRC and Oxfam report between 60,000 and 108,000 IDPs living in camps around Banda Aceh. AFP also quote the MoH stating that the island of Simeulue off the coast of northern Aceh has the largest number of people living in refugee camps with 73,015. Sinabang, another island off the north coast, was next with 72,002, followed by the north Aceh district of Bireuen, which is west and inland of Banda Aceh.
- 19. There are commercial flights (Garuda) to both Medan and Banda Aceh from Jakarta, but delays and cancellations must be taken into account. As previously mentioned, personnel need to be fully self sufficient.
- 20. At Meulaboh, a short airstrip has been cleared for use by Twin Otters or similar aircraft. Mercy Corps will start air operations into this airport.
- 21. Apple Air is offering free cargo flight to Banda Aceh from Jakarta every second day starting today (Monday 3 January). UNICEF has gained use of the first flight.

- 22. International Humanitarian Partnership module arrived on Monday 3 January. 2nd IHP flight due to leave Penang, Malaysia Tuesday 4 January bound for Banda Aceh.
- 23. The field team reports that it is not now necessary for DFID to source bulldozers for clearing Banda Aceh as these are being supplied by another donor.
- 24. PLEASE PROTECT a US Geological Survey source has expressed concern that given that 1.25 million people live in northern Sumatra and the severe shaking resulting from a 9.0 magnitude earthquake, the current media reports may not be reflecting the full extent of the damage. They estimate casualties from this region are currently under-reported. Furthermore, they emphasise that there is a significant risk of aftershocks, which includes a small chance of submarine displacement generating a second tsunami.
- 25. Recent Diptel (Humfrey/Jakarta) states damage to the western coast road, the main artery, is beyond repair and that large sections need rebuilding. States there are continuing reports of GAM attacks on TNI food convoys. Also states that Djalal, the President's Private Secretary had travelled by helicopter from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh (240km) and stated that the whole beach front.was devastated and that there were no signs of life. Also stated that the TNI had cleared the main road but they only have one excavator available.
- 26. The Government of Indonesia's relief agency, Bakornas is holding daily coordination meetings in Banda Aceh.
- 27. Iridium satellite phones are working in Banda Aceh. Agencies should bring their own communications. Ericsson Group are sending a Mini GSM, 26 satellite phones, 500 mobile phones to be used by aid agencies and a further 300 to be distributed to aid personnel as and when required. An Ericsson Response volunteer, Sarah Gannon will also support UNHCR relief operations.
- 28. CARE report that there are 175 informal camps in the region of Banda Aceh.

Sri Lanka

Summary: Coordination and logistic constraints, combined with flooding, are hindering the operation. But considerable quantities of aid are in country.

- 29. Request from UN that DFID task an RAF C130 to be based in Sri Lanka and utilised in Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- 30. The Sri Lankan Air Force has built up a relief operation using 5 Bell-212 aircraft dropping 24 MT of food and water every day in the costal areas around Ampara in this eastern coastal region of Sri Lanka. (AFP)
- 31. There is as yet little evidence of improved coordination following the establishment of the Center for National Operations. A special Sri Lankan presidential team was set up on Sunday 2 January to steer the reconstruction effort with coordination of all international assistance although the distribution of food looked to be going more smoothly. (Reuters)
- 32. Rumours abound in Sri Lanka at the moment and it appears that the government is being slow to quash them. Whilst the general fear of another

tsumani seems to be subsiding, people are refusing to eat fish (a staple food) believing it to be contaminated having fed on human flesh. Fear of looting at night is also prevalent especially in Galle where 200 prisoners are reported to have escaped from the local jails. This feeds rumours of riots and banditry. (Christian Science Monitor).

- 33. The influx of relief items into the country is increasing. There are logistical constraints and many reports of problems with onward distribution of the items to beneficiaries major UN agencies and INGOs report that in country logistics are working well. (DFID field staff)
- 34. Local aid officials have said that, despite their good intentions, some donors were clogging up distribution channels with inappropriate items. (Reuters)
- 35. HMS Chatham arrived in Colombo, Monday 3 January.
- 36. First US troops have arrived at Colombo airport ahead of the 1,500 strong.deployment. (AFP).
- 37. THW and GTZ sent an assessment team to Ampara to investigate options for water purification on Monday 3 January. (THW)

India

Summary: Lost livelihoods a priority.

- 38. Government of India report 364,200 people displaced. View from DFID India on assessments to date (but subject to more detailed assessment over the coming days), that the priorities are water and sanitation, healthcare including the prevention of outbreak of communicable diseases and responding to widespread psychological trauma. This view is shared by USAID/DART Team assessment. USAID are committing US\$3.1m for NGOs for water and sanitation works and psycho-social programming.
- 39. DFID also judge that targeted provision for lost livelihoods needs to be made in order to off-set protracted relief support.
- 40. Awaiting assessment reports from Andaman and Nicobar Islands from MSF and UNICEF.

Maldives

Summary: Assessments improving, some assistance arriving.

- 41. Reports from Oxfam that 2 person team public health and WATSAN experts have arrived today. Further water distribution a concern due to saline water pollution of fresh water sources.
- 42. UNDAC and UN country team sitrep of 2 January reiterates the scale of damage in the Maldives. Reports that UNDAC and WFP estimate there are approximately 17,000 IDPs who will require food assistance for the period of reconstruction.

- 43. UNICEF report that 116 schools have been damaged (17 completely destroyed) across the Maldives. 20% (37) of the inhabited islands are still without safe water and have no possibility for water collection points. Health infrastructure on the islands has been severely damaged. All inhabitants are reported to have received an emergency ration of 3 days food from Government reserve stock but future supplies remain a concern.
- 44. International Health Partners offering medical supplies on activation from WHO. The Federation has produced list of items required, as have the Government of Maldives.
- 45. A 23-member German Technical Team providing four water purification plants they are also looking to rehabilitate damaged water tanks.

Thailand

Summary:

- 46. 19-nation forensic task force has been set up to oversee the identification of bodies -- mainly through dental records and DNA testing.
- 47. Thai police ordered foreign families and friends on Monday to stay away from tsunami-hit areas, including temporary morgues in Buddhist temples, where they have searched for missing loved ones to allow hundreds of forensic experts to get on with the job of identifying bodies. (Reuters)

Myanmar

48. UN Agencies report Myanmar authorities have capacity to meet needs of damage and casualty inflicted. No further detail on casualty numbers.

Malaysia

49. Nothing to Report.

Somalia

Summary: 176 dead. Detailed information on relief efforts remains limited.

- 50. WFP reports that fishing activity along the whole of the coast of Somali has been suspended temporarily. Fatalities now reported as at 176 (with 34 drowning when single vessel capsized) (All Africa Press).
- 51. Reports that presence of large numbers of anti-aircraft guns owned by local warlords was said to have prevented UN officials from flying over some parts of the Somali coastline to assess the damage in those areas (BBC).
- 52. WFP are currently distributing 270 tonnes of food to about 15,000 people but have been unable to access all affected areas so cannot confirm whether all those in need are receiving assistance. (AFP)

Seychelles

53. Request from Government of Seychelles for UNDAC team assessment. OCHA have agreed to deploy the team shortly.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

(DFID response is detailed under 'At a Glance' above)

Summary

MOD support

- 54. HMS CHATHAM arrived Colombo on the morning of Monday 3 January.
- 55. APV DILIGENCE back in Cochin having refuelled CHATHAM. Due to sail to Colombo; ETA Wednesday 5 January.
- 56. RFA BAYLEAF due repairs complete Saturday 8 January; ETA Colombo Wednesday 13 January.
- 57. Vessels are under control of Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team leader Sri Lanka, and are moving to Sri Lanka in anticipation of detailed tasks. These tasks have been identified, and are due to be initiated by the DFID in country, endorsed by DFID in UK, and then passed through to MOD for action where applicable.

UN response

Developments in the last 24 hours

- 58. UNHCR will start the 2nd of January flying about 400 MT of NFI, tents, kitchen sets, plastic sheets etc. to Jakarta by AN124.
- 59. WFP are running shuttles of 20 trucks between Medan and Banda Aceh. To date they have carried 318 MT rice and fish to the area. They are contracting 20 additional 5-10 tonne commercial trucks to assist in food distribution. Food distribution is being undertaken in Banda Aceh by Mercy Corps and local NGOs. They have also delivered an unspecified amount of food by US helicopter to the west coast (destination unspecified).
- 60. UNHCR have despatched teams to Aceh to set up a logistics supply base and will fly 400 tonnes of relief goods (blankets, tents, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting and jerry cans) to Banda Aceh in 6 flights starting 6 January. UNHCR state they will not work with the Indonesian Military (TNI). (field team report)
- 61. UNICEF have sent a watsan adviser to Banda Aceh. They are also in joint operation with the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNFPA on health logistics coordination. UNICEF have also sent 40 emergency health kits for to Banda Aceh.
- 62. In Banda Aceh, UNDP led the first shelter coordination meeting on Monday 3 January (field team report).

- 63. OCHA Indonesia, reinforced by UNDAC is supporting inter-agency coordination in Jakarta, Medan and Banda Aceh (field team report).
- 64. In Indonesia WFP has taken the lead in establishing a UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) coordination office (field team report).

EU response

65. EC actively considering where they may be able to focus their relief and recovery interventions in India.

Red Cross/Crescent Movement

- 66. ICRC to provide operational coordination for the Indonesian Red Cross international response (field team report).
- 67. ICRC to provide 60,000 family kits (shelter for 300,000), watsan equipment including water tankers and bladder systems and a 100 bed field hospital, medical supplies and 20 doctors and nurses to support operations in Indonesia. (field team report).
- 68. Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) to deploy 800+ relief workers to Aceh and will focus on Meulaboh (field team report).
- 69. Other regional Red Cross/Crescent Societies are operational in the Banda Aceh area (e.g. French and Malaysian) (field team report).

NGOs and other organisations

Developments in the last 24 hours

- 70. In Indonesia CARE is operating in 14 of the largest camps, with populations of 1,000 people or more. CARE staff are distributing more than 200,000 safe water systems and expect to provide safe water for 500,000 people a month a total of 1.8 million bottles of chlorine solution.
- 71. IOM are operational in Banda Aceh and have good links with the Government of Indonesia (GoI) and the Indonesian Military (TNI). (field team report).
- 72. IOM state that several field hospitals have been established in Banda Aceh, Sigli, Meulaboh, and Aceh Timur and that RS Siti Fatimah hospital (location not specified) which was not functional has started to take in patients 2 January.
- 73. IOM state that a joint command centre has been established between Department of Social Affairs (DEPSOS), Department of Health (DEPKES), Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Indonesian Military (TNI) and the Indonesian Police (POLRI). This coordination has been divided into 5 working sectors as follows:
 - Sector I Darussallam (covering 4 villages),
 - Sector II Ulele Karing (6 villages),
 - Sector III Lambaro (4 villages),
 - Sector IV Beurawe (8 villages),

Sector V Mataie (5 villages)
 (IOM status report 2 January)

74. In Sri Lanka, Kilinochchi and Torincomalee health commissioners requested Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) to resume mobile health education immediately in parallel with emergency relief activities. AMDA has been providing public health education to elementary schools since 2004 in cooperation with a local administrative organization. (AMDA)

Other donors

(Selected major news only)

- 75. Development Minister and Foreign Minister of Canada will attend the ASEAN of 6 January. Canada has announced it is now part of the core group, as is the Netherlands. Canada has announced that it will look to match Government donation with those raised by the public, thereby doubling its pledge of funds to Canadian \$80m.
- 76. Pakistan has sent 2 navy ships with three helicopters and other rescue operation equipment to Colombo. (DPA)
- 77. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, who is on his way to Thailand, signalled that Australia will significantly boost its aid funding to countries devastated by last week's tsunami. (ABC)
- 78. The Republic of Latvia has announced that it is sending aid consisting of medical supplies and first necessity housing items to Sri Lanka.
- 79. Worldwide pledges total US\$ 1,452,308,750. (Source: OCHA 2 January)

Logistics

80. Nothing further to report.

Other issues

- 81. Singapore has offered to open up its air and naval bases to countries wishing to send relief supplies into Indonesia.
- 82. Since the earthquake on 26 December, Geoscience Australia has recorded 14 earthquakes of with a magnitude between 6.0 and 7.0 on the Richter scale. There has been one aftershock of magnitude 7.1. None of these have caused a tsunami.



The Rt Hon John Prescott
Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State
26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2WH

2nd January 2005

Dear John

I am writing to you in Mr Blair's absence to ask about the action the Government is taking to help with the disaster in Asia.

lalene taking

First, I warmly welcome the Government's decision to Increase its aid contribution from £1 million to £15 million and then £50 million.

But given that the public has contributed over £60 million, I would urge you now to match that figure. The British people have made clear that helping the victims of the disaster is a priority for our country.

WATE ISUTIO

Second, the United Nations has set out exactly what equipment it needs to help provent the spread of disease and to get supplies to people in the stricken areas: helicopters and ships to transport thom, air traffic control units, landing craft, cargo planes, base camps for aid workers, fuel storage and water treatment units, generators and medical kits.

The British Government will clearly not be able to provide all this kit itself. But I would be grateful if you could make clear today exactly what equipment British intends to provide to the UN.

at or cases

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Michael Howard QC MP



Conservative Central Office 25 Victoria Street London SW1H ODL Tel: +44 (0) 20 7222 9000 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7222 1135

CHAD OT SITUATION REPORT
INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS
SITREP No 13 as at 19.00 hrs 02 January 2005
CHAD Operations Room – 020 7023 1471
Email – ot-information@dfid.gov.uk

Note: Updated status reports on each country, and on action taken by selected organisations, are maintained by the CHAD Operations Room and are available on request. The sitrep now covers the past 24 hours, plus a roundup of key statistics and DFID action since the start of the crisis.

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AT A GLANCE

Key Issues

Indonesia

- In Aceh, assessments still incomplete. Coordination improving but still very weak. Aid arriving in Aceh. Needs massive. Unconfirmed assessment of the west coast reveals an extremely high death toll.
- DFID is arranging the supply and transport of full UN Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) equipment to Banda Aceh.
- At the UN's request, DFID is sourcing 2 Mi8 helicopters and transport for them to Banda Aceh for UN operations.
- Some shooting reportedly heard by an NGO north of Banda Aceh.
- IDPs continuing to gather round the airport at Banda Aceh, with the aim of leaving the city.
- First tranche of DFID supported UN infrastructure landed in Banda Aceh.

Sri Lanka

 Flash floods caused further damage and hampered relief operations in some areas.

- Liberation Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) seem to have been effective in organising the relief effort in the northern states.
- In Galle, 70% of buildings immediately on the coastline have been completely destroyed and at least 30 percent of structures have suffered damage up to 1 km inland.
- · HMS Chatham due to arrive 3 January.

India

- At least 140,000 people, mostly from fishing families, are in relief centres.
- UNICEF have been designated lead UN agency in India, and also have access for assessments and relief operations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Thailand

- Number of dead is believed to be higher than reported to date: estimates of up to 11,000 people killed are being cited.
- PangNga appears to be the hardest hit province in Thailand.
- We have received news of likely ECHO funding decisions.

Forthcoming key events and meetings

- DPM meeting 1000 Monday 3 January note time changed
- ASEAN summit in Indonesia Thursday 6 January
- Peter Troy to host an NGO meeting at DFID pm Thursday 6 January
- International Donors Conference in Geneva 11 January

Key statistics

Worldwide pledges total US\$ 982,430,493 (Source: OCHA 1 January)

Location	Dead	Missing	Injured/sick	Displaced	Affected
Indonesia	79,940 AFP			150,000	500,000
Sri Lanka	29,729 AFP	4,589 GOAL	8,815 WHO	889,175 OCHA	
India, Andaman & Nicobar Is	12,829 AFP	3874 AFP			
Maldives	75 AFP	73	160		100,000
Thailand	4,798 Thai Govt	6,384 Thai Govt	10,469 Thai Govt		
Burma	90 AFP	21	43		
Malaysia	66 AFP	29	183		
Somalia	132 AFP			5,000 BBC	

Kenya	1 AFP		0	
Tanzania	10 AFP			
Seychelles	1 BBC	44		
Bangladesh	2 AFP			

DFID response to date

New developments are in bold/italic

We have requested 12 proposals from NGOs (not 14 as reported yesterday), covering India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia only. The value requested is £8.4 million. We are considering announcing a further call for concept notes for The Maldives and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

We have received and are considering four requests for funding from UN agencies:

- UNICEF Regional Donor Alert
- WHO Donor Alert
- WFP EMOP (Emergency Operations) & Special Operations (logistics, air support and establishment of the UNJLC).
- IOM Flash Appeal Indonesia only

Financial

DFID has allocated £50m to the response. Funds allocated to date are given below:

Agency	Brief Description	Value of Appeal	Amount Agreed
WHO	Regional appeal	\$37,146,000 (£19,245,000 approx)	£3,000,000
Federation	Health, Watsan, Logistics, Food and NFIs	CHF 67,000,000 (£30,461,500 approx)	£2,000,000
WHO	Procurement of Health Kits		£55,000
WHO	Transportation of Health Kits		€60,000 (£41,500 approx)
SCF	NFIs, Watsan, Food and Shelther – Sri Lanka	£1,728,300	£400,000
Christian Aid	Food, Shelter, Water and Healthcare - India	£845,000	£400,000
DFID chartered flight carrying donation	Water, collapsible jerry cans - Maldives		£81,000 approx (cost of flight)
	TOTAL		£5,977,500

Donations in kind

Quantity	Item	Currency Value	Approximate £ Value	Further Information
	International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) equipment		£200,000	
	Humanitarian Information Centre		£67,000	
	Vehicle for HIC		£30,000	

5,040	TOTAL	φ 7,306	£885,090	
4,500 5,040	Cook Sets 10 litre collapsible water containers	\$ 46,125 \$ 7,308	23,900 3,790	
5000	Plastic sheets 96 (units of 5) – Sarvodaya 316 (units of 5) – Sewalanka 552 (units of 5) – UNICEF warehouse, Colombo Mats	\$ 35,200	250,000	Including airlift
282	Tents			
20,000	4x5m tarps	\$ 150,000	77,700	
10	WHO New Emergency Health Kits		113,000	Including airlift
392	6x4m rolls tarpaulin	€ 98,000	68,000	
1,000,000	Water purification tablets	€ 8,000	5,500	
4	Iridium satellite telephones		3,200	
14,000	10 litre collapsible jerry cans	\$ 43,050	22,300	
	Trailer for HIC		£2,500	

The International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) airlift task will require a total of 3 aircraft sorties: 2 x RAF C-17 and one RAF Tristar. This is a joint DFID-Finland-Sweden-Norway-Denmark operation. The first aircraft left Denmark 1 January and is has arrived in Banda Aceh 1600 GMT. The second aircraft left Norway bound for Penang, Malaysia 1400 GMT, final destination Banda Aceh.

The next two flights will carry:

- Food
- Water
- Tents
- Office and communication modules
- Land Cruiser
- Water purification equipment.
- 3 people

First C-17 sortie will cost approx £70,800. The two further flights are being arranged and are not yet costed.

A DFID funded DC8 aircraft bound for the Maldives carrying 40 tonnes of water (donated by Scottish Water and Strathmore Water) and collapsible plastic jerry cans (donated by Scottish Water) is scheduled to leave the UK 3 January.

We are currently arranging transport of Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) equipment and 1 million puritabs to Banda Aceh.

At the request of the UN, we are currently sourcing 2 white MI8 helicopters and the necessary transportation by which to transfer these to Banda Aceh for UN operations.

DFID support to the DEC

We have received one request to date for support to DEC member airlifts (World Vision), which is currently under consideration.

Other donations

A Movement Control Officer seconded to WFP for 3 months w.e.f. 4 January. (circa £40,000)

Locations of field teams

Field Team 1: Jakarta - Steve Ray, Alan Matthews and Annabelle Newbigging

Field Team 2: Colombo - John Adlam and Mark Bulpitt

Philip Upson is employed by DFID, Sri Lanka and is providing advice to the Sri Lankan Government's emergency management organisation.

Clare Harkin on civil military coordination. Currently in the UK, due to deploy to the region soon.

CURRENT SITUATION

Developments in the last 24 hours, by country

Indonesia

Summary: Assessments still incomplete. Coordination improving, but still very weak. Aid arriving in Aceh. Needs massive. Unconfirmed assessment of the west coast reveals an extremely high death toll.

Aceh Province in northern Sumatra has suffered the worst effects from the tsunami. Logistical difficulties with the airports of Banda Aceh and Medan are causing a bottleneck for aid reaching the region. We are hoping this situation will be relieved in the next few days due to permission having been granted to the Australian Military to undertake air traffic control. Assessments, both military and NGO of both the western and eastern coastlines have been performed or are due to be undertaken in the near future. There are reports of 9 ad-hoc IDP camps being established in and around Banda Aceh, reportedly containing between 60,000 – 108,000 IDPs. Other IDPs are gathering in schools, mosques and other community buildings. (Source: Federation and Oxfam)

An urgent request has been received from UNDP for funding of bulldozers (and skilled operators) to clear bodies and debris in Banda Aceh and surrounding area. UNDP are investigating options with commercial construction companies. Our representatives in Indonesia strongly support this request and recommend the UK respond positively and quickly.

IOM is providing the main base for the majority of humanitarian agencies currently working in Banda Aceh. (Source: OCHA)

Several C130 aircraft (Australian, Malaysian, US) are available for regional airlift in Medan. (Source: OCHA)

The DFID mission in Indonesia reports that the official death toll is still around 85,000 (media reporting over 100,000, with 108,000 displaced. More information is emerging on the scale of the disaster on the west coast including the whereabouts of IDPs, helped significantly by the start of US helicopter flights over the area.

MSF are trying to establish a base in Meulaboh and are concerned that with all the organisations working in Banda Aceh (currently 50 Asian NGOs and 50 local NGOs) that it could become difficult to coordinate.

AFP reported (2 January) OCHA chief, Michael Elmquist as saying "things are improving, the backlog is starting to clear". AFP also report that 17 US Navy helicopters have begun airlifting survivors from the west coast of Aceh Province to Banda Aceh.

An NGO has had 4 mobile teams in helicopters undertaking aerial assessment of both the western and eastern coasts of Aceh Province. From Banda Aceh, the helicopters flew to Meulaboh, stopping at Lhokkruet, Calang, Lotimon (not on map) and Meulaboh. They stated that there is devastation to 2 kilometres inland, with only the foundations left of buildings. They estimated the population for this stretch of coastline is 1,000,000. Their flights and ground reconnaissance showed about 1,000 IDPs gathering. This therefore implies almost all of this population are missing, presumed dead. They believe that when the IDPs need water, they go to the hills, which is rebel held territory.

They report the airport at Meulaboh to be destroyed. There is another airstrip at Calang (airport not shown on map) but they do not know if this is functioning or has been affected by the tectonic plate shift.

They have now started performing ground assessment missions along the east coast, and so far have covered Banda Aceh to Sigli (about 1 inch or so down on the map). There are mobile clinics in some villages, estimate 30% psychological trauma, many with infected wounds, incidence of scabies. They have had reports of severe cases of diarrhoea and are currently investigating

They report east coast more difficult for security reasons - some of their team heard what appeared to be shooting just north of Banda Aceh.

COMMENT: This is an early, unconfirmed report, which should be treated with great caution at this stage. Further assessments are underway in the same area, which will be used to triangulate this information. **NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION**

Reports from the field indicate that coordination is improving, but is still very weak. A Joint Logistic Centre (JLC) will be established at WFP Office in Jakarta to coordinate logistics of personnel and relief goods from Jakarta to Aceh and within Aceh to the affected sites. OCHA has established a regional civil military coordination cell, located in Bangkok to coordinate the military assets already deployed or deploying to the region. On-Site Operation Coordination Centres (OSOCC) in Jakarta and in Banda Aceh are being established to track incoming assistance and coordinate assessments and distribution of relief items. A daily inter-agency coordination meeting is in place in Banda Aceh, chaired by the WFP. Coordination is still an issue but is improving. An important meeting was held 2 January between UN (UNJLC & WFP), the Indonesian military (TNI) and US, Australian and Malaysian military officials in order to ensure better coordination of activities and information sharing. A high level follow-up meeting with military commanders and Ambassadors, chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative is planned for tomorrow.

IDPs are gathering around the airport of Banda Aceh, with the aim of leaving the city (Source: Inter-agency coordination meeting notes 1700 31 December). It was also reported that 3,000 IDPs left on relief planes destined for Medan 30 December. (Source: British Embassy Vice-Consul 30 December) We are currently in the process of investigating if there is a significant number of IDPs requiring assistance converging in Medan.

Tropical rains in Aceh province halted some aid deliveries (Source: Reuters). The Met. Office forecast thunderstorms and high winds for 2 January.

The 10 DFID-funded WHO New Emergency Health Kits (NEHKs) They will provide basic pharmaceutical supplies for 100,000 people for 3 months, arrived in Jakarta on 2 January. WHO is arranging customs clearance and will advise when these kits can be received in Banda Aceh, possibly in the next 48 hours.

Up to 12,400 MT of rice, valued at \$6.6 million, including transportation will arrive in Medan 4 January. (Source: USAID)

In Aceh, helicopters and light 4x4 vehicles are best suited to overcome the difficult road situation, bridges destroyed, etc

UNICEF state availability of drinking water on the west coast is a problem.

According to the European Commission Civil Protection Co-operation Mechanism (EU MIC), the Indonesian authorities require the following further assistance:

- Ready to use food supplies (no kitchens available for population); a priority is food supplies for babies, children and elderly
- Water purification and sanitation equipment and teams
- Mobile Medical clinics to take care of victims
- Technical equipment to reinstall road infrastructure
- Shelter

A joint agency report (30 December) states the principal relief priorities for Banda Aceh are:

- Increased drinking and washing water for approximately 100,000 people
- Emergency latrines for 20,000 people
- Shelter materials for IDPs in camps (preferably family sized tents).
- Additional nutritionally balanced food.

Sri Lanka

Summary: Flash floods caused further damage and delays. Further details on scale of destruction. Aid operation well under way. Assessments still incomplete.

As of 1 January 2005, of the 25 districts in the country, 12 have been severely affected. As of 31 December, the Government is reporting over 82,320 houses destroyed. The tidal wave has particularly affected the coastal districts of Jaffna, Mullativu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Hambantota, Matara and Galle. Initial reports indicate that the Liberation Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) have been effective in

organising the relief effort in the northern states. Nevertheless, there is extensive structural damage and wells contaminated with seawater. Prior to the tsunami latrine coverage was only 30% all of which have been washed away. Primary healthcare has been affected but is functioning although it is understaffed (as it was prior to 26 December). (Merlin)

Heavy monsoon rain over the past 24 hours means that many already damaged roads are clogged and flooded. Officials said at least 15 camps sheltering about 30,000 people have been hit by flash flooding (330 mm of rain overnight) in Ampara district. (Sky News)

The Government of Sri Lanka accused members of the LTTE of torching a refugee camp in Kudatane, south east of Jaffna, in which some 60 Tamil families were housed on Sunday 2 January. The LTTE have not responded to the allegation.

65% of the homeless are living in 500+ camps/ad hoc concentrations of homeless people which have appeared and are in need of assistance. (WHO)

20% (140,000) of the estimated 700,000 people who need food assistance have already received food. (UN quoted by AFP)

So far safe water is being provided through the municipal piped water supply systems in the camps located in temples and schools in those places where medical teams visited. Sanitation and garbage disposal are the important public health issues, which needs to be addressed in a planned manner. (WHO)

Primary health care in temporary shelters for IDPs is poor, therefore strengthening of the district health sector is a priority. (WHO)

The Ministry of Health has issued a statement saying they have sufficient pharmaceuticals and that no more are required. However, there remain reports that there are shortages at field level. (DFID Field team)

A report of an outbreak of cholera at a camp in Galle has been denied by the director of the local hospital. (Deutsche Presse Agentur)

There are beginning to be some concerns amongst aid agencies that the authorities are delaying the distribution of aid by insisting all aid is routed through official channels; however the authorities say they are merely trying to streamline operations. (BBC)

Galle: While there is access to the district, there is considerable damage to infrastructure including to roads and bridges. 70 percent of buildings immediately located on the coastline have been completely destroyed and at least 30 percent of structures have suffered damage up to 1 km inland. Of immediate concern is the damage caused to the health centres, in particular the Galle Maternity hospital. (Source: OCHA)

There remain fears of potential water and vector-borne disease outbreaks. While there has been a disruption to water supply, potable water is available. However, the lack of sanitation facilities is a major concern. (UNDAC)

The main hospital in Galle is well equipped. It has enough doctors, nurses and plenty of medical supplies but not every one is able to reach the hospital as there is no public transport. (BBC)

Ampara: Damage to infrastructure includes six hospitals which has significantly disrupted health services. Public buildings are being used as temporary shelters for those who have lost their homes. Water supplies are generally disrupted and there remains a shortage of clean drinking water. Food supply is adequate and supported by local donations although will become an issue in the medium term. (UNDAC)

Matara: Secondary roads are in poor condition and may hamper efforts to bring relief supplies to those affected. Food and water is available to affected communities although concerns remain on the health situation in view of the limited sanitary conditions. (UNDAC)

Hambantot: Affected areas are accessible although road clearance remains an issue in some areas. No hospitals in the district were damaged although several health centres have been affected. Electricity and water supplies have been disrupted. 95 % of fishing boats have been lost or destroyed which will have a significant impact on livelihoods. Shelter remains a primary need. (UNDAC)

Secondary threat of water and vector borne disease are well recognised as the greatest concern. Further flooding caused by heavy rains in some areas is hampering the relief effort and exacerbating poor sanitary conditions of those displaced. (OCHA)

The immediate priority areas of response are for water and sanitation, health, shelter, food and non-food items. (OCHA)

Many schools were destroyed by the tidal waves. Others have been turned into welfare centres and it is unlikely that any will be reopened for some time. The Sri Lankan Ministry of Education has taken immediate steps to rebuild schools in the affected areas. (SCF UK)

DFID field team attended a large round-up meeting 2 January at the UN office. The aim was to consolidate the impact and needs assessments. A number of assessments are still not complete. The UN has committed itself to producing a consolidated picture to GoSL by close of play 3 January.

India

Summary: Majority of dead in Tamil Nadu. Distribution problems. UNICEF are confirmed as the lead UN agency for relief in India, and have access in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Majority of dead in Tamil Nadu. The numbers could keep rising as information comes in from remote areas. At least 140,000 people, mostly from fishing families, are in relief centres. There are problems of distribution of aid along the southern coast, with more remote regions still lacking even safe drinking water. (Source: BBC)

Confirmation that UNICEF have access for relief work and to undertake further assessments in N&A Islands and are designated lead, coordinating UN Agency in India. Thought likely that other agencies poised to assist in Andaman and Nicobar

Islands – Oxfam, MSF – will be permitted to act soon on both needs assessments and the provision of relief. Media in India have today reported on a poor response on part of Government of India with respect to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and this may have prompted action. (Source: DFID India)

ADRA report they are distributing non-food emergency items such as blankets and shelter material in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Local NGO; SEEDS, a partner organisation of Christian Aid, issued an early field report which places estimates of casualties in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands at some 15,000.

Maldives

Reports from the High Commission that the Maldives have been "forgotten.

UNDAC and UN country team sitrep of 2 January reiterates the scale of damage in the Maldives. Reports that UNDAC and WFP estimate there are approximately 17,000 IDPs who will require food assistance for the period of reconstruction.

UNDAC team SITREP of 1 January reiterates:

- 100,000 people (one-third of population) require immediate assistance.
- Transport and logistical coordination remain principal priorities given the dispersion of those in need and the difficult conditions for aid delivery.
- Donors to expect significant request in transportation and logistics in the forthcoming flash appeal.
- 29 Islands remain without direct communication links (although 5 have mobile telephony service). (Source: UN Country Team Report 1 January)

The report also covers the initial environmental impact assessment outlining the small amount of environmental damage from a small oil spill.

WHO report 144 cases of diarrhoea and 89 cases of viral fever

Thailand

Summary: Number of dead likely to rise, perhaps considerably. Major volunteer effort. Pang-Nga the hardest hit province.

New bodies are still being discovered daily and the number of dead is still believed to be higher than reported to date: estimates of up to 11,000 people killed are being cited. (Source: OCHA)

Assessments in four districts (Phangna and Ranong in the northern part of the affected area and Krabi and Thang in the southern part) confirmed that the focus is still on the retrieval and identification of dead bodies, so provincial authorities are not yet in a position to provide clear details on to extent of damage to infrastructure and rehabilitation needs. (Source: OCHA)

Shelter and recovery of livelihood seem to be priority areas. (Source: OCHA)

UNDAC reported one of the most striking observations during their field visit to Ranong & PangNga was to see the extensive effort of national Thai volunteers in

helping search and rescue, working in the mortuary, and (donating) and distributing food, bottled water and clothes. However, the relief work is chaotic with a clear lack of coordination, cooperation and communication.

The Thai government have provided initial figures on compensation for affected families. The Red Cross is to appeal for compensation to include 4-5 new boats per community.

PangNga is the hardest hit province in Thailand. Recovery of bodies continues but some clearing and reconstruction work has started. More than 50 hotels were destroyed: rebuilding will take an estimated 6 -12 months. (Source: UNDAC)

Burma

Summary: Real number of dead likely to be much higher than official figure. Water and sanitation likely to be a major issue.

To date, no official request for assistance. However, WFP report that local authorities at all levels have expressed their appreciation for their recommendations on supply of urgent food rations and would welcome donors.

90 dead described as 'fiction' in Sunday Telegraph article. Telegraph correspondent in Burma reports foreign diplomat in Rangoon saying that true figure is "in the thousands". Article reports that town of Kawthong is the worst hit (where Myanmar Red Cross have set up three relief points). Article reports that Aid Workers have continually pressed the Government for permission to inspect the Islands but have been 'rebuffed'. Rangoon have accepted a 'token' amount of aid from China of £104k. Reports that SA backpackers and 'Christian' charity workers have not been contactable for over a week. (Source: Sunday Telegraph)

The Federation report (1 January) states that the area to the south west of Rangoon (Irrawaddy), has also suffered major damage. The Federation stated that aid agencies have expressed concern that casualty figures are being under-reported.

The Federation also reports that the UN has offered basic assistance to the Government (unclear if this offer has been accepted / refused).

Suggestion from UK NGO network that the water (saline pollution of water sources) and sanitation issue could be affecting up to 500,000 people.

Malaysia

Nothing further to report.

Somalia

Summary:

In addition to the two food distribution teams already in place (Harfun, and Gara'ad), the WFP have now begun distributing food in Bander Beyla.

Seychelles

Nothing further to report.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

(DFID response is detailed on pages 2 to 4)

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, the immediate response from the UN system includes the following:

- Release and distribution by UNHCR of relief items totalling USD380,000
- Release and on going distribution of 5,300MTS of food by WFP with USD500,000 made available for the local purchase of urgently needed food stocks
- Provision of 15 UNICEF New Emergency Health Kits (NEHKs) to the Ministry of Health. They will allow 15 hospitals to service the needs of 150,000 people for three months. UNICEF has also distributed shelter and non-food relief packages for up to 30,000 people.
- UNICEF procured three 6,000-litre water bowsers for Batticaloa, Matara and Ampara on 31 December.
- Provision of USD150,000 from UNFPA to support assessment of hygiene needs and psycho social support.
- Provision of 900,000 water purification tablets and four emergency health kits sufficient for 10,000 people for 3 months.
- Support from FAO to assess damages to fisheries and agriculture sector.

Thailand

A task force for Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) has been established and is chaired by Deputy Chief of the Royal Thai Police (contact: +76 220 622/610). 18 international DVI teams are active in Thailand at the moment. There are still some problems in moving forensic teams from Phuket to the different working places by helicopters. The Australian team has provided a liaison officer to coordinate the transport of teams.

The morgue administration has been a critical area with thousands of bodies rapidly decomposing in the warm climate. Temples are used as morgues and in the largest one more than 3,000 bodies are collected. Cold storages are now being organised and will hopefully be in place within the next two days.

The majority of the tourists that survived the tsunami have already been repatriated to their countries of origin. There are still injured people remaining in the local hospitals.

Transport capacity has been enhanced by the arrival of helicopters from Singapore, Japan and US.

A team of five specialist paediatricians and five nurses were dispatched by UNICEF to provide psychosocial care and support to affected children in affected provinces.

MOD support

As reportedly previously, HMS Chatham (frigate) is heading for Sri Lanka and is due to arrive 3 January. RFA Diligence, an engineering support ship is due to arrive in Sri Lanka 4 January. RFA Bayleaf, a refuelling ship, is in Dubai and will support the above two ships. There is a film crew from Shine TV on board HMS Chatham. The DFID representative in Sri Lanka is in the process of drafting tasks to be undertaken by the Chatham and the Diligence upon its arrival. These tasks are likely to include clearing sunken vessels, which are currently obstructing the ports.

A military liaison officer (MLO) will be assigned to the CHAD crisis room from 3 January.

UN response

Developments in the last 24 hours

A Humanitarian Information Centre (equipment funded by DFID) will be deployed to Banda Aceh. Estimated to arrive 8 January.

EU response

As previously reported, ECHO has made a donation of € 23m (UK share £2.9m) to the tsunami relief effort.

Also, previously reported, Louis Michel (EU Development and Humanitarian Commissioner) and Luxembourg Presidency are to undertake a mission to Sri Lanka and Indonesia on 1-6 January; reporting back to EU Development Ministers meeting on Friday 7 January.

ECHO HQ confirm that they have received over 100 proposals/concept notes for consideration for funding. Note: ECHO are funding operations by implementing NGO and multilateral partners and are not undertaking or co-ordinating interventions directly. Following a needs assessment ECHO funding envelope is presently targeted thus:

Indonesia € 8m (additional 2m reserve)

 ECHO responding to recently completed first report on Banda Aceh, likely to fund UNICEF. Also likely to fund WHO regional appeal for epidemiological survey across the region.

Sri Lanka € 8m

 Focus on North of Island on watsan, food supplies, child vulnerability issues, IDPs (through UNCHR) and the provision of medicines.

Maldives EURO 2m

No details at present.

ECHO suggest that it is likely that there will be more funds available should need be identified.

Red Cross/Crescent Movement

A Japanese Red Cross team specialising in emergency health care arrived by helicopter in the town of Meuloboh, on the west coast of the Indonesian province of Aceh, on Saturday. The team is working as part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies operation in Indonesia, which is focusing on the most vulnerable communities on the west coast of Aceh between Tapaktuang and Meulaboh. They have been joined by a Spanish Red Cross water and sanitation team, which is putting in place equipment to provide clean water for up to 40,000 people. (Source: Federation)

NGOs and other organisations

Developments in the last 24 hours

Sri Lanka

Save the Children Response now have 155 staff working in Sri Lanka undertaking the following:

- The distribution of dry food rations, household consumables (such as mosquito coils) and basic personal items (such as soap and items of clothing) to 37,000 families
- A Charter flight will depart from UK on Sunday 2 January carrying large tents suitable for creating child friendly spaces, tarpaulins, bedsheets, water purification tablets and generators and communication equipment. The cost of this flight has been provided by DFID).
- UNICEF and Save the Children will meet with the Department of Child Care and Probation and the National Child Protection Authority on Sunday 2 January to start developing comprehensive plans for the better protection of children affected by this disaster.

An Oxfam aid flight left on the 29 December carrying 27 tons of emergency water equipment worth US\$190,000 going first to Sri Lanka and then to Indonesia. In Batticoloa too, staff were involved in rescue and medical assistance, taking a number of people to hospital. Oxfam staff are already providing temporary latrines, roofing sheets, plastic sheeting for shelter, mats, bed sheets and sanitary towels. In Killinochchi, staff provided cooked food to people waiting for the release of the bodies of their relatives.

Oxfam is preparing locally 25,000 packs of food, containing rice, flour, dhal, fish, sugar and cereal, plus 10,000 packs with soap, sanitary towels, candles and matches IFRC staff visiting Galle, Matara, Hikkaduwa, Kalutawa.

Water bowsers x 11: Matara, Trinca, Ampa, Galle, Batti, Kalutara, Killinochchi, Mullativu.

Other donors

(Selected major news only)

Worldwide pledges total US\$ 982,430,493 (Source: OCHA 1 January)

Logistics

A DEC logistics meeting is planned for 1100 Tuesday 4 January in 20 Victoria Street.

A DFID-funded airlift of bottled water, and jerry cans has been confirmed to depart Monday 3 January from Prestwick for the Maldives.

Other issues

SCF UK are sending a security officer to the Province of Banda Aceh in the next 2 days.



Di Officialità

Casualty Details

- Media reporting over 150,000 dead across the affected region, with 5 million displaced. Numbers continue to rise. Overall, 35 Britons confirmed dead. Total may eventually rise above 100.
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are reports of up to 30,000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 3 Britons confirmed dead so far but the number expected to rise. Most Britons who wanted to leave have already done so by commercial means.
- In <u>Maldives</u>, there were over 3500 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. 3 Britons confirmed dead. The Maldives' Government confirm 75 dead and 435 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown). British tour operators have brought out around 1200 British tourists.
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 4162 people (around 50% foreign tourists) have been killed and 10479 injured and around 6541 missing overall. 29 British nationals confirmed among the dead (number will rise, there are still 1176 listed as missing). Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights. We arranged an additional BA flight, which arrived at Heathrow on 1 January.
- Reports of many confirmed deaths in Malaysia, but no Britons so far.
- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in <u>Indonesia</u> and <u>India</u>. But local casualty estimates are very high (80,000 in Indonesia alone).

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we have kept in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These appear to have gone very well.

We have put in place a package of assistance measures for victims and their families. This includes: repatriation of bodies or mortal remains; immediate medical expenses for those seriously injured; medical evacuation; return travel for two members of the victim's family; and assistance with psychological support services.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT sent from London supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another four-person RDT replaced some of them on 31 December.
- Colombo consular officer who was in the Maldives has now returned to post.
- The High Commission believe that most Britons who wished to leave, and were physically able to do so, have already gone. But there will be a trickle of further departures including those released from hospital.
- Police forensics/identification team arrived on 30 December and is working with the High Commission.
- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

- Volunteers forming an RDT for Bangkok and Phuket arrived from Hong Kong (9), Manila (2), Singapore (1) and Kuala Lumpur (6). FCO staff (on holiday) also helping in Embassy. Others have now replaced some of these from their parent missions. Further staff arrived on 29/30 December from Delhi and Mumbai. The Ambassador remained in Phuket until 1 January (accompanied by a supporting team) but has now returned to Bangkok. Staff have gone on to Krabi further south and to Pangna and Khao Lak. An emergency office has been set up in Phuket.
- Britons are arriving in Bangkok from Phuket and are receiving assistance from the Embassy at Help Desks set up at Bangkok Airport. BA operated an additional flight from Bangkok to Heathrow on 1 January, with about 90 (mainly British) passengers. Initial reports indicate that arrangements went well on departure and arrival.
- Police forensic/identification team arrived on 30 December and is working with Embassy staff in Phuket and liaising with other teams from Australian and EU countries.
- The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on morning of Sunday 26 December to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we quickly transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: 0207 008 0000.
- Police opened further call centres on 28 December (all with same telephone number). We have issued press notices and web-site information that this number is only for family and friends to get and provide information.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre were identified over the holiday and increased during the week. A Tsunami Crisis Unit has operated in the OAB throughout the weekend.
- We are working closely with the police and Travelcare (a charity we help fund) to help distressed tourists and others returning to the UK
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in. We are now advising against all but essential travel to the worst affected areas in Thailand and Sri Lanka.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators and EU colleagues.
- Help line set up in co-operation with the British Red Cross to assist those returning from the affected areas, and their families, opened for business on 1 January. The FCO is funding this initiative.

Whitehall Co-ordination

- A COBRA meeting will be held in the Cabinet Office on Sunday 2 January at 11.00 hrs

DFID

- DFID have sent various advisors and development co-ordinators to the region.
- An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government (total value approx.£250k).
- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka.
- Agreed funding of £400k to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At request of current EU Presidency, the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- UK share (18%, value approx. £372k)) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal.
- On 29 December Hilary Benn announced HMG's initial allocation of £15 million for immediate humanitarian needs across the region. This has been increased to £50 million.

EU Aspects and international cooperation

ECHO, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department, has allocated 3 million Euro to support the Red Cross/Red Crescent Federation to meet vital initial needs, and pledged the rapid release of further substantial aid. The Commission is able to mobilise up to 30 million Euro promptly through its emergency procedures. The exact amount to be allocated will depend on needs assessments and requests. ECHO staff are engaged on needs assessments in the worst-hit regions.

ECHO officials have said that a decision has been taken to commit 10 mEuro for Sri Lanka (8m allocated, 2m in reserve). This is in addition to the initial 3 mEuro and the decision on 31 December to allocate 10 mEuro to Sri Lanka (8m) and the Maldives (2m). (10 mEuro tranches are preferred because these decisions can be taken by the Commission without consulting the Member States, and are therefore quicker). This brings ECHO funding to 23 mEuro and reflects monies that can and are being spent on aid programmes (rather than pledges). ECHO staff are working with NGOs and DFID throughout the area to establish requirements, and subsequent decisions on further allocations of aid, possibly exceeding the 10 mEuro level, will be taken on the basis of reports of what is needed. Commissioner Michel will probably visit Colombo and Aceh over the weekend.

The Presidency plan to hold a special meeting of Development Ministers on 7 January.

Consular Crisis Group/Response Centre



Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

2th January, 2005

Shocked and deeply grieved to learn that your country has suffered severe casualties and many missings caused by the Indian Ocean Tsunami, I wish to express, on behalf of the Chinese Government and the Chinese People, the deep condolences to the deceased and heartfelt sympathies to their families and the wounded.

Wen Jiabao Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Beijing

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

Date: 5 JANUARY 2005

To: FCO KARA ONEN From: Duty Clerks Office

Dept: Fco

Cc: GTN 3580 Ext. 3025

REMEMBER IF YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPLY TO CO-ORDINATE WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

Please deal with the enclosed correspondence as:-

- PM reply
- □ No. 10 PS reply

PLEASE ENSURE YOU CHECK THE BACKGROUND, IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR THE PM, ONE OF HIS PSs OR EVEN YOUR OWN MINISTER TO REPLY?

 Return draft by fax to 020 7839 9044 or e-mail to Privateoffice@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk
 Before:

Thank you

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8	Forward +pps to Lead PS	
9	GR to Despatch/ DCO fax to FCO if required	

BU Date -

ce. Kara Ower, Fco ac 5/1



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 Before: CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

DQ George Fergusson
GC Chris Chalmers
16 Jenica Cave
TPo (CO)

From the Private Secretary

SUBJECT MASTIN Filed:

31 December 2004

bar NS IR

Dear Moazzam,

INDIA OCEAN DISASTER: PRIME MINISTER'S PHONE CALLS TO PM JUNCKER AND PRESIDENT BUSH

The Prime Minister called Prime Minister Juncker (Luxembourg), President Bush and Prime Minister Persson (Sweden) this afternoon, about the tsunami in Asia.

EU Presidency

The Prime Minister told Juncker that the UK was willing to assist the incoming EU Presidency in any way we could. He also said that Silvio Berlusconi had raised the idea of an extraordinary G8 Summit, but accepted the Prime Minister's view that the G8 and EU should come behind UN co-ordination. He said though that Ministers might meet as G8 and/or EU in the margins of planned meetings on 6th (in Jakarta) or 11th (in Geneva) of January.

Juncker said he has spoken to Powell, who had invited the EU to join the US core group. Juncker had also said that he thought the UN should lead. (Action: we need to decide on a UK and EU approach to this core group, as signalled in para 11 of UKMis telno 003 to DFID, before the Prime Minister speaks to Bush again on Tuesday). Juncker also said that he was expecting there to be an EU Development-Health Ministers meeting next week. He had been pressed by the Swedes to hold an extraordinary European Council.

The Prime Minister and Juncker agreed that they did not want Heads' meetings just for show, of the EU or G8. We needed a down-to-earth approach.

Juncker said that he was going to talk to Balkenende this afternoon to ensure a smooth transition between the Presidencies. He also said he would call the Prime Minister next week with any further developments.

United States

The Prime Minister said that Silvio Berlusconi had raised the idea of an extraordinary G8 Summit. He thought in the short term that co-ordination was properly being led by the UN and the US core group. The UK was boosting UN capacity to do this. And it was important that aid was provided according to real needs assessments. Bush agreed that there was a danger of the affected countries falling over all of the aid they were being offered (the US was about to announce \$350m); co-ordination was key.

The Prime Minister and Bush agreed that there was no need for an extraordinary G8 Summit. They also agreed on debt, which had been raised by others, that this might be appropriate but only if the benefits would go to those in need as a result of the disaster.

The Prime Minister said that a key logistical bottleneck appeared to be Aceh airport. He said that understandable Indonesian sensitivities might be part of the problem, but wondered if the US were planning on being involved in this issue. Bush said that we needed to listen to the new Indonesian leadership and experts in the region (comment: he showed no sign of particular sensitivities between the US and Indonesia). He was not specific about whether the US military would deploy at Aceh but welcomed anything the UK could do.

Sweden

Persson said that there were more than 3000 Swedes still missing in Thailand and that the death toll would rise to 1000. The Prime Minister said that he thought the UK death toll would not rise much above 100. Persson said this was a huge trauma for Sweden; they had never suffered anything quite like this. The Prime Minister said this was why he had called; he was very sorry and the UK was willing to help in any way it could. Persson said they were getting on top of the issue. All Swedish survivors were back home now although they had no experience of bringing large numbers of corpses back to Sweden. They had agreed with the Thai authorities in the meantime that these corpses would not be cremated in Thailand.

I am copying this letter to Margaret Aldred (Cabinet Office), Lucy Bell (ODPM), Kara Owen (FCO), Chris Sharrock (HMT), Chris Baker (MOD), Dominic Hardy (DoH), Sir David Manning (Washington),

James Clark (Luxembourg), Anthony Cary (Stockholm), Sir Ivor Roberts (Rome), Graham Fry (Tokyo), Sir John Holmes (Paris), David Reddaway (Ottawa), Sir Peter Torry (Berlin), Tony Brenton (Moscow), John Grant (Brussels) and Sir Emyr Jones Parry (UKMis New York).

Yours ever

LAURIE LEE

Moazzam Malik DFID

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

From: Laurie Lee (x3292)
Date: 2 January 2005

cc: Deputy Prime Minister

Jonathan Powell
Nigel Sheinwald
Simon Morys
Kate Gross
Antony Phillipson

David Quarrey David Hill Anne Shevas Ian Gleeson

TSUNAMI UPDATE

Headline numbers

- 35 Britons confirmed dead: 29 in Thailand, 3 in Sri Lanka and 3 in the Maldives. Total will probably eventually rise above 100.
- Media reporting over 150,000 dead across the affected region, including over 100,000 in Indonesia alone, with 5 million displaced. Numbers continue to rise.
- Over \$2billion aid now pledged. UK donations top £60m.

Management

COBR met today; it focused on arrangements for UK victims and families. The DPM will hold a meeting tomorrow morning at 10am (COBR will produce a report for that meeting). Nigel will hold a Cabinet Office meeting on Wednesday to look at the UK aid response. COBR will meet again mid-week.

Humanitarian response

Indonesia is our top priority. Our assistance is currently focused on strengthening the capacity of the UN to coordinate the aid effort (although we have also provided medical kits). RAF planes delivering a UN headquarters to Banda Aceh started arriving today, with fork-lifts, vehicles and computers.



You asked whether there is more the UK could do, to lead/co-ordinate a contact group of donors, working with the UN and the Indonesians. The initial view of HMA Jakarta (Charles Humfrey) is that we should be content with the lead that the Australian and American military are taking. They have both established headquarters. The Indonesians do not appear to be particularly sensitive about accepting help from the US. The Embassy reports that co-ordination between the Government, Army, US/Australian military commanders and the UN is starting to improve. They are encouraging all concerned to work together.

But I have asked the FCO to reflect further and they will provide written advice, which we can discuss at the DPM's meeting tomorrow. An MOD recce team arriving tomorrow will also give us a fresh view.

HMA has discussed possible UK attendance at the donor meeting in Jakarta on 6 January with the Government. They made it clear that they were essentially limiting invitations to the 6 January meeting to the region. Even the EU Presidency had been an add-on. They intended it to help strengthen intra-regional cooperation in line with earlier policy aims. HMA recommends we should accept this with good grace. But it seems likely that the UNSG will attend and launch the UN Appeal from Jakarta. So I have asked FCO/DFID to consider whether Gareth Thomas should go, perhaps in a Troika format with the EU Presidency (this would give us a useful opportunity for meetings in the margins, if we decide to promote a contact group). An alternative is that the Indonesian President calls you at the end of the 6 January conference, to update you as G8 Presidency.

MOD is looking today at whether to deploy a Ghurka garrison (due to go to Afghanistan in one month) from Brunei to Indonesia. It is an infantry garrison, rather than a specialist one, but it does have potentially useful 'riverine capacity' (boats). It should certainly go if the Australian HQ thinks they can usefully use them.

Sri Lanka is the next highest priority. Despite media reports, the relief effort is well under way. There was a donor co-ordination meeting in Colombo today. 2 Royal Navy vessels will arrive on Tuesday (incidentally, that would put them another week away from Aceh) and an MOD recce team is already there.

Elsewhere, although we suspect difficulties in the outlying Nicobar and Andaman islands of **India**, the authorities are insisting they do not want outside assistance, apart from supplies. Local aid agencies in **Somalia** are coping. The situation in the **Maldives** and **Thailand** is under the control of local authorities.



Meanwhile, the EU Presidency plans to go ahead with a meeting of EU Development Ministers on 7 January. But the UN meeting in Geneva on 11 January will probably still be the key one in the next two weeks.

Arrangements for UK victims and families

There are now 35 confirmed British deaths. 3 in Sri Lanka and 3 in the Maldives which we don't expect to increase. But we expect the 29 British deaths in Thailand are likely to increase to around 125. We should start to prepare the public for this. We are just into double figures of returned bodies.

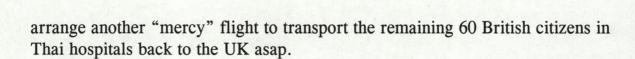
We have been checking another 7500 names of people who are unaccounted for and were likely to have been in the affected region at the time. To put this in perspective, the tourist industry estimates that there would have been about 10,000 British tourists in the whole region at this time of year. So most of these people we can realistically expect to be ok, barring something unexpected in areas north of Phuket we have not been able to assess fully yet (which might increase the death toll into the low hundereds). We have already been able to bring the 7500 figure of missing people down to 6060 and we think this will fall much further in the next 36 hours which is why we have not released the figures so far, for fear of spreading unnecessary panic. But the media are asking.

Visual/dental identification of decaying bodies is becoming more difficult and we will probably have to rely on DNA IDs from now on, which will cause some delays (potentially lengthy in some cases).

It is likely that **some bodies will never be recovered**. We are now preparing families and the public for this and providing counselling. The Home Office is also looking at establishing special judicial arrangements to allow certification of death of missing persons much more quickly that the common law 7-year period.

At COBR today, it was clear that good arrangements were in place for assisting victims and families returning to the UK, although there had been the odd saddening case which had slipped through some of the nets. We will strengthen staffing in Bangkok in response.

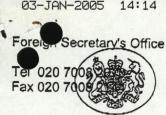
We think most British citizens who want to leave, have left Sri Lanka and the Maldives. There will continue to be a stream/trickle (we are not sure) of returns from Thailand and we will maintain reception facilities for now. FCO/DoH will



We will also provide counselling for others affected, including those with families in affected countries (especially Sri Lanka and India).

La de

LAURIE LEE





DFIDDepartment for International Development

l Palace Street, London SWIE 5HE

But on police

31 December 2004

Dear Colleague

Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami: what the UK is doing to help

We are writing to Parliamentary colleagues to provide information about what the UK is doing to help following the Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami. This letter covers both our contribution to the relief effort and the steps we have taken to help British citizens caught up in the disaster. We hope you will find this helpful in responding to what will no doubt be many queries from constituents and members of the public.

As you will be aware, a major earthquake struck off the western coast of Northern Sumatra at 8am local time (1am GMT) on Sunday 26 December. This triggered a massive tidal wave that swept through coastal towns and villages around the Indian Ocean from Indonesia in the east to Somalia in the west. Although information is still coming in, especially from Indonesia, the total number of people killed is thought to be around 125,000 at time of writing. However, this will almost certainly rise still further. The largest death tolls have been in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. People have also been killed in the Maldives, Malaysia, Somalia, Bangladesh, Burma, Kenya, Tanzania and the Seychelles, although the numbers are smaller. There has also been a very large number of people injured and 5 million are homeless.

The main responsibility for the relief effort is being carried by the emergency services of the countries affected, but the world has launched a huge international relief effort, co-ordinated by the United Nations. The main needs are for food, shelter, water and sanitation, and medical supplies, as well as providing help to the injured and the bereaved.

The UK's Relief Effort

The Departmenmt for International Development - which is responsible for leading Britain's relief effort - began mobilising essential supplies and

2144

specialist staff to provide humanitarian assistance within hours of the earthquake being reported. DFID's emergency operations team, based in London, is now monitoring and assessing the situation on the ground, and working closely with the EU, the UN, the International Red Cross movement and NGOs to provide assistance where it is needed most urgently. DFID assessment advisers have been sent to the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Indonesia and are reporting back on the situation on the ground. We have also provided technical advisers in support of the UN's assessment and coordination role.

DFID has:

- pledged £50 million for the international relief effort the largest offer of relief aid from any country in the world;
- already committed from this pledge: £400,000 for Save the Children UK's emergency relief effort in Sri Lanka; an immediate £50,000 to the World Health Organisation to send medical teams to the region for disease control and surveillance; £372,000 via the EC's contribution to the Red Cross Appeal; £2m to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Regional Appeal; and £400,000 for Christian Aid's work in India. More funding of proposals for help will be announced over the next few days.
- organised the first relief flight to leave the UK the day after the earthquake struck – carried tents and plastic sheeting for Sri Lanka;
- purchased and delivered 20,000 tarpaulins, 40,000 sleeping mats, 5,000 water cans and 4,500 cooking sets. Additional supplies including 1 million water purification tablets are being sent;
- brought together a generous donation of bottled water from Scottish Water with a First Choice Holidays charter plane making its outwardbound journey from Manchester to Malé in the Maldives, to fly out supplies of water to the island in response to an appeal from the government;
- begun flying out medical supplies, together with the World Health Organisation, to Indonesia; this will be enough to provide basic healthcare for 100,000 people over 3 months. Plans are being made plans for further airlifts of shelter materials, water and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region;
- agreed, at the UN's request, to help airlift in and set up a field office, equipment and support staff in Aceh in Indonesia. We are doing this together with Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

The Prime Minister has today authorised the use of UK military forces to help with the relief effort as required. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Diligence and the



frigate HMS Chatham have been directed into the disaster zone, and are expected to arrive on 4 January. They will provide a range of capabilities to assist in disaster relief, including Chatham's Lynx helicopters. The ships' precise destination will be determined by a recce team leaving for the area today, but is likely to be either Sri Lanka or the Maldives. A Royal Air Force C-17 transport aircraft will also assist in the aid operation. The MOD is also in discussion with DFID and FCO about other ways in which UK armed forces might be of assistance especially in the Aceh area of Indonesia.

We have also offered, following a meeting held today with representatives of the UK relief agencies making up the Disasters Emergency Committee, to meet the cost of transporting any relief supplies to the countries affected. In addition, we are looking to provide help with airlift in Indonesia.

There has been an extraordinarily generous response from the public to the appeal for funds launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) on behalf of the main relief NGOs. For members of the public who want to contribute to the DEC appeal, the contact number is: 0870 60 60 900. Further details can be found on the DEC website (www.dec.org.uk). Detailed information on the crisis and the UK's relief effort, including the daily situation report, can be found on the DFID website (www.dfid.gov.uk).

Helping British citizens caught up in the Earthquake and Tsunami

We have positive confirmation of the death of 34 UK nationals. This number is however likely to rise.

What has the FCO done?

- The FCO response has been swift, operational and comprehensive. We are now moving to the next phase in the operation in response to the disaster, helping British Nationals affected by the earthquake, as many start to return home. We are also beginning the sad task of repatriating the remains of victims.
- Sadly, given the conditions in the affected areas it now seems likely that many of those missing may never be found, and it may not be possible to formally identify the remains of those victims who are. Many victims were swept away by the force of the tsunami, and their remains may never be recovered. Simultaneously, for understandable public health reasons, the authorities in the disaster areas have resorted to burying victims in mass graves. We have asked the authorities concerned to try to ensure no British victims are included in these burials. But it is possible, given the state of many of the remains, that some foreign victims, including British nationals, may be buried, unwittingly, in this way. In other cases, where remains which have been found are thought to be those of British nationals, their state may mean that forensic identification is difficult, or impossible.



- The FCO responded quickly to the earthquake through the immediate deployment of staff from the High Commission in Sri Lanka and the Embassy in Thailand to the affected areas. They were supplemented swiftly by staff from posts in region and deployment of consular response teams on 27 December. The FCO's emergency response will continue, with additional staff being deployed to posts in the region as required, and a special unit has been established at the FCO in London.
- We immediately established, with the support of the Police, a call-handling centre for those in the UK worried about relatives and friends in the affected area. Over 40,000 calls were made to the casualty bureau on 28 December. (To put this in perspective on an average day there are about 25,000 "999" calls made to all police forces across the UK). We simultaneously opened our emergency response unit at the FCO in London to deal with consular casework arising from the disaster.
- The British Police are appointing Family Liaison Officers (FLOs) to support the families of each of the British families of UK nationals who have been killed.
- We now have temporary offices in affected areas to deal directly with British nationals affected by the disaster, and deal with local authorities on the ground. Staff have also been deployed at airports to help with British nationals' problems and issue emergency passports to those without travel documents.
- The FCO has collaborated closely with the travel industry since the onset of the disaster. We have kept in close contact with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Maldives.
- The FCO has chartered a British Airways flight from Bangkok to London for 1 January to return British nationals stranded in Thailand. Arrangements will be made to help those who need it on arrival. Arrangements are also in place to notify those providing reception facilities for British nationals arriving on other flights. Reception facilities have been provided by 'TravelCare' (a partly FCO-funded charitable organisation) and the British Red Cross.
- We are funding the deployment of portable mortuary facilities to the disaster areas in Sri Lanka and Thailand, and are working closely with international undertakers to facilitate repatriation of bodies once they have been positively identified.
- The FCO has commissioned the British Red Cross Society to open on 1
 January a Help Line for victims of the disaster and their families. We shall
 also be funding the Red Cross to develop a family support network for
 those affected.



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- FCO Travel Advice is being kept under constant review to ensure British nationals have access to up-to-date information about conditions in the region.
- The FCO has established a package of assistance to be provided on a case by case basis to those who would otherwise not have the means to meet costs associated with the death or serious injury of a British national affected by the disaster.
- The 020 7008 0000 emergency line remains open to handle enquiries from relatives and others about those who have been caught up in the tragedy. Up-to-date Travel Advice is available on www.fco.gov.uk or on 0860 606 0290, and you can, during working hours, continue to contact consular staff on the Consular Directorate's existing special help line for MPs 020 7008 0999.

If we can provide any further information or help, then please do not hesitate to contact us. We will of course, be reporting further to colleagues as soon as Parliament returns.

Yours sincerely

HILARY BENN

JACK STRAW



SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI UPDATE AT 31 DECEMBER, 0745

Casualty Details

- Media now reporting over 125,000 dead across the affected region, with 5 million displaced. Numbers continue to rise. Overall, 29 Britons confirmed dead. Awaiting formal notification of about 20 more. Many more still unaccounted for (total may rise to over 100).
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are reports of up to 30,000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 3 Britons confirmed dead so far. Many tourists, including British nationals, are still arriving in Colombo from coastal resorts. Best estimate of Britons affected is 2,000. Tour operators continuing to arrange charter flights to bring out over 1100 in total (operation now almost complete). High Commission assess small numbers (50 or so) still remaining.
- In <u>Maldives</u>, there were over 3500 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. 3 Britons confirmed dead. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 55 dead and 59 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown). British tour operators are continuing to bring out tourists (around 1200 Britons expected to leave in total by the end of the week).
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 1975 people (around 50% foreign tourists) have been killed and 9808 injured and around 6043 missing overall. 23 British nationals confirmed among the dead (formal notification likely to rise during the day). Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights. We are arranging with BA to send an additional aircraft on 1 January when seats are scarce.
- Reports of many confirmed deaths in Malaysia, but no Britons so far.
- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in <u>Indonesia</u> and <u>India</u>. But local casualty estimates are very high (80,000 in Indonesia alone).

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we have kept in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These seem to have gone very well.

We have put in place a package of assistance measures for victims and their families. This includes: repatriation of bodies or mortal remains; immediate medical expenses for those seriously injured; medical evacuation; return travel for two members of the victim's family; and assistance with psychological support services.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT sent from London supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another four-person RDT team will replace some of them on Friday.
- A consular officer from Colombo is in the Maldives assisting tourists to depart.
- Refuge Centre set up in Colombo. Number of British nationals arriving in Colombo and awaiting charter arrangements out (see above) now decreasing.
- Police forensics/identification team arrived on Thursday and is working with the High Commission.

- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

- Volunteers forming an RDT for Bangkok and Phuket arrived from Hong Kong (9), Manila (2), Singapore (1) and Kuala Lumpur (6). FCO staff (on holiday) also helping in Embassy. Further staff arrived on 29/30 December from Delhi and Mumbai. The Ambassador is in Phuket with a large team and drivers. Some have gone on to Krabi further south and to Pangna and Khao Lak. An emergency office has been set up in Phuket.
- Britons are arriving in Bangkok from Phuket and are receiving assistance from the Embassy at Help Desks set up at Bangkok Airport. We are arranging with BA to send an additional aircraft on 1 January when seats are scarce.
- Police forensic/identification team arrived on Thursday and is working with Embassy staff in Phuket and liaising with other teams from Australian and EU countries.
- The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we quickly transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: **0207 008 0000**.
- Police opened further call centres on 28 December (all with same telephone number). We have issued press notices and web-site information that this number is only for family and friends to get and provide information.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre were identified over the holiday and increased during the week. We now have a consular Crisis Unit operating in OAB.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in. We are now advising against all but essential travel to the worst affected areas in Thailand and Sri Lanka.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators and EU colleagues.

DFID

- DFID have sent various advisors and development co-ordinators to the region.
- An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government (total value approx.£250k).
- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka.
- Agreed funding of £400k to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At request of current EU Presidency, the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- UK share (18%, value approx. £372k)) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal.

 On 29 December Hilary Benn announced HMG's initial allocation of £15 million for immediate humanitarian needs across the region. This has been increased to £50 million.

EU Aspects and international cooperation

ECHO, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department, has allocated 3 million Euro to support the Red Cross/Red Crescent Federation to meet vital initial needs, and pledged the rapid release of further substantial aid. The Commission is able to mobilise up to 30 million Euro promptly through its emergency procedures. The exact amount to be allocated will depend on needs assessments and requests. ECHO staff are engaged on needs assessments in the worst-hit regions.

ECHO officials have told us that they are preparing a decision to be taken probably today (Friday) allocating 10 mEuro for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and a further decision probably in 2-3 days time allocating a further 10 mEuro for Indonesia. (10 mEuro tranches are preferred because these decisions can be taken by the Commission without consulting the Member States, and are therefore quicker.) ECHO staff are working with NGOs and DFID throughout the area to establish requirements, and subsequent decisions on further allocations of aid, possibly exceeding the 10 mEuro level, will be taken on the basis of reports of what is needed. Commissioner Michel will probably visit Colombo and Aceh over the weekend.

The Presidency plan to hold a special meeting of Development Ministers on 7 January.

Consular Crisis Group/Response Centre

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VPM seen.

From: Laurie Lee (x3292)

Date: 31 December 2004

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Jonathan Powell

Nigel Sheinwald
Ivan Rogers
Kim Darroch

Antony Phillipson

David Hill Ian Gleeson

TSUNAMI: CALLS TO JUNCKER, BUSH, PERSSON

You are making calls this afternoon (from 3pm your time) to PM Juncker, President Bush and PM Persson, in that order.

The background of what the UK is doing to help is as follows:

- We mobilised essential provisions, including shelter, water purification and other essential supplies, and specialist staff, within 24 hours.
- We have pledged £50m in aid
- We are sending two military ships and a transport plane to the region

EU Presidency

With the US co-ordinating with Australia, Japan and India, there is an important need for EU co-ordination. But we don't want to start a competition. Juncker may also be aware of Berlusconi's suggestion of an extraordinary G8 Summit. You should say you think it is more important for all G8, EU and regional countries to support UN co-ordination.

EU co-ordination is broadly working well on the ground. The Presidency will need to ensure that the Commission is doing all it can. Hilary Benn and Louis Michel have discussed having an EU Ministerial meeting in the margins of forthcoming donor meetings in Indonesia (6 Jan) or Geneva (11 Jan). The UK has been providing reporting for the Netherlands Presidency and the EU Monitoring and Information Centre. We are happy to provide similar support to the Luxembourg Presidency. You should offer this.

CONFIDENTIAL



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The Commission and Germany are starting to suggest an approach of dividing up responsibilities between donors for different affected countries/areas. Juncker may also make this suggestion. Our initial view is that this idea has not been fully thought through and has potential holes in it. We should not rush into backing it. With good co-ordination, the current approach of different countries providing different types of support provides more comprehensive cover.

United States

The main issue to raise with **Bush** is international co-ordination. You told Berlusconi (and we told the press) that we would be contacting other G8 countries about his proposal for an extraordinary G8 Summit. You will want to agree our proposed approach with Bush:

- UN should lead on co-ordinating immediate aid but needs help.
- Important role for all G8 and EU countries to support UN lead.
- May be useful to identify G8 contact points to ensure good communication and co-ordination though.
- Will be key G8 role for longer term reconstruction.
- Not helpful to have an extraordinary G8 Summit now.
- G8 Ministers likely to meet at donor meetings already planned in next two weeks (in Indonesia and/or Geneva).

You may also want to ask Bush how the <u>US-led core group</u> (with Australia, Japan and India and now the UN, according to reports) will function and whether the EU should join it or co-ordinate with it.

You should mention that transport access to Indonesia and co-ordination of aid arriving at <u>Aceh</u> airport appears to be a major bottleneck now. Is this part of the US plan? Are they having political difficulties with the Indonesian authorities (as we hear)? Perhaps the UK and Australia can take this on, if the US cannot. We are looking at offering an air traffic control team.

You should also thank Bush for his letter on <u>Guantanamo</u>; but you can discuss this (and other issues) in more detail in the VTC on Tuesday. You should be aware that Nigel has informed Jack Straw and Lord Goldsmith about the letter, on a confidential basis.

CONFIDENTIAL



-3-

Sweden

Sweden has confirmed deaths of 44 but 1500 people missing. The Swedish government have been criticised for tardiness in reacting to this crisis, and Jack Straw suggested you might call Persson to offer your personal support. FCO is in direct contact with the Swedish MFA, we have offered them help and contacts on finding charter planes, and informed them of spaces on our flights. Persson has promised to do all he can to help their people involved. They are now chartering aircraft to bring citizens home, with our help. They should ask the FCO if there is anything more we can do.

Lale

LAURIE LEE

RESTRICTED

TSUNAMI: ANNAN TAKES CHARGE

From: UKMIS NEW YORK

TO IMMEDIATE DFID TELNO 003 OF 300121Z DECEMBER 04 OF 3U0121Z DECEMBER 04 AND TO IMMEDIATE FCO, MODUK
INFO IMMEDIATE CABINET OFFICE, CANBERRA, DFID BANGLADESH
INFO IMMEDIATE DFID EASTERN AFRICA, DFID INDIA
INFO IMMEDIATE DFID SOUTH EAST ASIA, EU POSTS, NAIROBI, OTTAWA
INFO IMMEDIATE TOKYO, UKDEL WASHINGTON, UKMIS GENEVA
INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP UN ROME, WASHINGTON
INFO IMMEDIATE ASIA PACIFIC COMMAND POSTS

MY TELNO 1253 SUMMARY

1. Annan returns to New York to lead the UN response to the tsunami crisis, Meets UN agency heads, representatives of affected countries, and key donors including the EU and the US group - which he welcomes, but which should be enlarged. Tells press that this unprecedented global catastrophe requires an unprecedented global response. Annan satisfied with the \$500m pledged so far, but cautions that we must be in for the long haul. Confirms flash appeal in New York on 6 January and Geneva conference on 11 January. UN staff delighted with UK leading contribution and efforts on the ground. Powell will meet the SG in New York on 31 December.

DETAIL

- 2. Cutting short his leave, the Secretary General returned to New York on 29 December to take charge of the UN response to the Indian Ocean crisis. On 30 December Annan met with UN agency heads (the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on humanitarian relief); Ambassadors from the 12 countries most affected; the US "core group" of US, Japan, Australia and India (including a videolink to Powell and Grossman in Washington) and the EU Troika. He was also scheduled to speak to World Bank President Wolfensohn.
- 3. Annan told a large press conference that he had been talking to world leaders since the disaster struck. He had returned to New York to take charge of UN coordination. This unprecedented global catastrophe required an unprecedented response. The response so far had been good - around \$500m had been pledged from bilateral and multilateral donors and from private citizens. Effective coordination of the response was now essential. The international community needed to be committed for the long term and follow through on its pledges. And the response to this humanitarian crisis should not deplete resources from development budgets.
- 4. Egeland (Humanitarian Coordinator) updated on the logistical challenges, especially in Aceh - where 50 relief trucks would have arrived today and 8 planes would arrive tomorrow. He had spoken to the US about provision of assets to set up an airfreight handling centre in Aceh. He also reiterated World Health Organisation concerns about the potentially huge impact of disease.

International Coordination

5. Annan brushed off press hints of competition between the US-led "core group" (Washington telno 1394) and the UN. He applauded Bush's initiative to bring countries together. He had spoken to Colin Powell on 29 and 30 December; and expected the core group to grow and to support the UN effort. In response to questions about

- Berlusconi's proposal for a G8 summit, Annan confirmed that the UN would launch a flash appeal (in New York) on 6 January, to be followed by a further conference (in Geneva) on 11 January. The appeal would not be limited to any group of countries. Annan noted that some 30 countries had contributed already, as well as the World Bank and private donations. Egeland highlighted that in addition to traditional donors, aid was being pledged from the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.
- 6. We spoke to the Dutch and Egeland's (OCHA) staff before and after the series of meetings (advance copy of the Dutch COREU record forwarded to DFID and FCO by e-mail) briefing on the Prime Minister's 29 December discussion with Annan.
- 7. With the Trolka the SG had thanked the EU for its pledges to date and given his assessment. He had been particularly anxious about Aceh: the scale of the disaster combined with the sensitive security environment. Although the Indonesians had opened up access, welcomed assistance, and there had been no security incidents to date (Jakarta telno 216), concerns remained about the safety of foreign aid workers.
- 8. The SG believed that China and Singapore also belonged in any core group, as well as the EU and the World Bank, OCHA similarly encouraged EU participation. They told us they were delighted to hear about the huge increase in the UK pledge and the work we were doing on the ground. It was for EU member states to work out whether they should have collective or individual representation in the core group. The Dutch told us that they were inclined to join the group on a national basis once they had relinquished the Presidency and hoped other significant and like-minded EU donors would do the same.
- 9. The SG discussed with the Troika the relationship between the EU Ministerial on 7 January and the Geneva conference on 11 January. The Dutch questioned whether EU Ministers would want to come to Geneva four days after making pledges at the EU meeting. OCHA considered the 11 January meeting would be more than a traditional pledging conference it should take stock of the response to the flash appeal and consider the state of coordination. They told us that they hoped for Ministerial representation from key donors, but acknowledged that work was needed to clarify the objectives. They would welcome further DFID views.

COMMENT

- 10. At the end of what he recently dubbed his "annus horribilis", Annan appeared determined to demonstrate that he was taking charge. Both UN and US officials have been playing down any suggestion of tension between the core group initiative and UN leadership, despite private comments from some OCHA staff that the US announcement was "ham fisted". Instead they have been underlining the need for strong international cooperation and coordination. Secretary Powell will call on the SG in New York on 31 December to discuss the crisis.
- 11. On the core group, there are some internal EU and EU-US issues to negotiate. If, as the Dutch suggest, EU members join on a national basis, the UK should clearly be one of the first give the size of our bilateral pledge, our G8 Presidency and the local leadership role DFID is taking in some areas. But if EU member states rush to join, the group could become unwieldy.
- 12. In any case, there is scope for an important UK role in the

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reconstruction phase as well as the relief phase. Annan was understandably cautious in public about Berlusconi's proposal for an emergency G8 meeting. OCHA noted that typically a reconstruction conference should take place in the region and involve donors and recipients, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UNDP. But they indicated interest (as discussed by the SG and PM by phone) in a sort of "G8 plus" conference somewhere down the line to address the long term reconstruction effort.

Contact: James Kariuki (james.kariuki@fco.gov.uk; tel: 1 212 745 9275).

JONES PARRY

JONES PARRY

Sent by UKMIS NEW YORK on 30-12-2004 01:21 Received by No10 on 31-12-2004 02:34





CHAD OT SITUATION REPORT INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS

SITREP No 11 as at 19.00 hrs 31 December 2004

CHAD Operations Room – 020 7023 1471 Email – ot-information@dfid.gov.uk

This report covers key issues, developments, DFID responses to date, planned responses and UN and Red Cross/Crescent actions.

Changes from previous sitreps are in **Bold Italics**. Country and International response data is available on request from CHAD Operations Room.

The final page of this document includes hyperlinks and phone numbers for major NGO appeals and Red Cross Movement.

KEY ISSUES

- A key DFID objective at this stage is to provide capacity for the UN to become fully operational. Aceh is assessed to be a particularly urgent need in this respect. Ms Wahlstrom, UN Special Coordinator for the crisis, has called for military support to provide infrastructure necessary for UN teams to operate.
- DFID received 40 concept notes from humanitarian agencies by today's deadline. DFID plans to review and respond to all of these by the end of Saturday 1 December.
- DFID have received an IOM regional appeal and the WHO regional appeal 'Emergency Health Action Programme for South East Asia' and are discussing both with the field.
- Full assessment received from DFID Sri Lanka team on Ampara District (E of Sri Lanka).
- 7,000 foreign tourists are reported to be missing throughout the region (press reports).
- Confirmed British dead are now at 34; 28 in Thailand; 3 in Sri Lanka; 3 in the Maldives (press reports.)
- The USA has raised its aid for the crisis to \$182 million.

Overall statistics

- WHO estimates up to 5 million people displaced by tsunamis.
- Total estimated number of dead: 124,000, according to media reports.

Forthcoming events

- Reuters state that The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold a meeting next week to coordinate relief and reconstruction efforts.
- Indonesia plans to hold a summit on the tsunami crisis on 6 January.

DFID RESPONSES TO DATE:

- > Secretary of State announced a further £35 million for humanitarian response to the tsunami crisis. (Total now stands at £50 million.)
- > DFID have agreed to meet the costs and/or arrange consolidated airlifts of cargo and relief items to the affected areas on behalf of DEC members. This will include airlifts within, as well as into, the affected region.
- ➤ DFID has dispatched to Denmark, vehicles, electrical lighting, generators and water purification units from the DFID stockpile, to be consolidated with equipment from other donor nations before shipment to support the UN Field Office in Banda Aceh. Estimated departure date (emphasise: unconfirmed) is Sun 2 Jan PLEASE PROTECT until timing is confirmed.
- > DFID approved funding of £400,000 to Christian Aid for their response in India 30 December.
- > DFID approved funding of £2,000,000 to the Federation 30 December.
- > Following a request from WHO we have funded, procured and arranged transportation for 10 Emergency Health Kits to Jakarta. These are due to arrive on 1 January.
- ➤ A First Choice Holidays plane left Manchester Airport 29 December loaded with 17.28 tonnes (17,280 litres) of bottled water donated by Scottish Water, following an urgent request from the Government of the Maldives.
- > Team of 3 CHAD humanitarian advisers deployed to Indonesia 29 December to support the DFID Office.
- ➤ The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to €540,00 (approx. £372,000).
- > We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- > We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- > We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.

> At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

DFID PROJECT FUNDING

Agency	Brief Description	Value of Appeal	Amount Agreed
IFRC	Health, Watsan, Logistics, Food and NFIs	CHF 67,00,000	£2,000,000
WHO	Procurement of Health Kits		£55,000
WHO	Transportation of Health Kits		€60,000 (£41,500 approx)
SCF	NFIs, Watsan, Food and Shelther – Sri Lanka	£1,728,300	£400,000
Christian Aid	Food, Shelter, Water and Healthcare - India	£845,000	£400,000

ITEMS FUNDED AND PROCURED BY DFID

Quantity	Item	Currency Value	Approximate £ Value	Further Information
14,000	10 litre collapsible jerry cans	\$43,050	22,300	
4	Iridium satellite telephones		3,200	
1,000,000	Water purification tablets	EUR 8,000	5,500	
392 Rolls	6x4m metre tarpaulin	EUR 98,000.00	68,000	
10	WHO New Emergency Health Kits		113,000	Including airlift
20,000	4x5m tarps	USD 150,000	77,700	
246	Tents 132 – Sarvodaya 144 – Sewalanka 6 – UNICEF warehouse, Colombo		250,000	Including airlift

5000	Plastic sheets 96 (units of 5) – Sarvodaya 316 (units of 5) – Sewalanka 552 (units of 5) – UNICEF warehouse, Colombo			
40,000	Mats	USD 35,200.00	18,200	
4,500	Cook Sets	USD 46,125.00	23,900	
5,040	10 litre collapsible water containers	USD 7,308.00	3,790	

MOD SUPPORT

> Videoconference took place on 31 Dec at MOD to discuss MOD support to relief operations.

PLEASE PROTECT THE FOLLOWING

- > Discussion on deployment of two ships to Sri Lanka, where they will be tasked through MOD after discussion with DFID and BHC according to their capabilities and the needs identified by DFID advisers.
- > MOD will despatch an Operational Reconnaissance and Liaison Team (OLRT) on 1 January, arriving in Colombo the following morning, where they will make contact with DFID advisers to assist in determining tasks for the naval assets.
- > Some discussion regarding the airlift of support staff and equipment from Europe for the UN to Banda Aceh. Options are still being assessed by Defence Transport and Movements Agency, before the final plan is passed to DFID.
- > We are also liaising with the UN over options for tasking of the aircraft in the region after the initial deployment. There are priority tasks to be carried out, including the carriage of communications equipment, vehicles and high energy biscuits from UN stockpiles in Dubai, Pnom Penh and Delhi, after which further tasking will be determined based on the UN's priority needs.

DFID SUPPORT TO DEC AIRLIFTS

> We have not yet received bids from DEC partners, but we expect these to start arriving over the weekend. We will be meeting with logistics officers of DEC partners on 4 January to discuss any issues that might emerge.

DFID PLANNING

- > The next DFID/Number Ten meeting is due on Monday 3 Jan at 0900.
- > We are looking at ways of airlifting water related items from the UK to the region. VERY EARLY STAGES
- > DFID / MOD discussions underway on the use of military assets for ongoing relief operations. Secretary of State for Defence has approved general parameters for use of MoD assets, which will be developed further in the next 24 hours. PLEASE PROTECT
- > Planning underway to provide helicopter support to the UN for a number of affected areas.
- > Planning underway for the airlift of cargo on behalf of DEC members. DFID has a strong preference for DEC members to organise their own airlifts, although if essential DFID will consider taking on the organisation, on a case by case basis.
- > DFID assessment team reports from Sri Lanka indicate immediate significant needs.
- Seeking funding channels for Somalia.
- > We are putting together contingency plans for further airlifts (from both Europe and other regions) of shelter materials, water and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region.
- > Following a request from the UN, we, together with partners in the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) (Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, UK and The Netherlands) are planning for the provision of field office equipment and support staff to be deployed to Aceh. The UK's contribution is likely to be arrangement and funding of an airlift. The costs of this airlift will be shared between the UK and The Netherlands, whilst equipment and staff will come from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
- > We have now received a considerable number of project proposals from UK NGOs and Red Cross Movement, and we expect to be making funding decisions within the next few days.

DEVELOPMENTS BY COUNTRY

Indonesia

- > The Federation report death toll in Banda Aceh: 9325, Meulabol: 10,000 (estimate), Calang: 5000 (estimate), Pidie: 1359, North Aceh: 1540 with deaths in North Sumatra: 236 PROTECT
- > UN Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) (Nigel Snoad) has requested JLC and Civ-Mil Coord staff secondments in the shape of on-the-ground problem-solvers ASAP. Since he made this request, TNI has been given the lead, which, in our view, reinforces the need for effective civ-mil coordination. (field team sitrep).
- > OCHA (Oliver Lacey-Hall) asks for funding (amount currently unspecified) for a Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) and for Information Officers/GIS specialists to be deployed ASAP. (from field team sitrep)
- > Field team state the key issues in the area are: coordination, logistics, information, political sensitivities
- ➤ Banda Aceh Two battalions of TNI infantry and engineers arrive to provide humanitarian support and to supplement the 40,000 already in place. US military aircraft have delivered supplies and a disaster response team and other airlifts are pending. The USS Abraham Lincoln has arrived off Medan and will make 19 helicopters available for relief operations. The Australian armed forces have a number of C-130 aircraft and helicopters and increasing numbers of personnel operational in theatre.
- > IOM are re-establishing their pre-disaster operational capabilities in the area and are hosting the small UN contingent in Banda Aceh. An IOM convoy is en route from Medan to Banda Aceh.
- > Latest information from UNDP suggests that a Cabinet meeting today has confirmed the Indonesian military (TNI) as the lead agency for the disaster for the Indonesian Government (from field team sitrep)
- > Banda Aceh port is inoperable, the airport overloaded with aircraft trying to get in. Offloading is MANUAL at present, with only 1 forklift available. The distribution system beyond the airport lacks vehicles, fuel and coordination. Efforts to move aid by road from Medan are underway, but this 500km+journey takes about 15 hours. Medan and Banda Aceh are the only two usable airfields in the region and the latter has limited capacity and handling facilities and no fuel. (from field team sitrep).
- > OCHA/UNDAC/JLC team in Jakarta and Banda Aceh is establishing links with GOI, international military authorities and NGOs. (from field team sitrep)
- > Xinhua reports (as yet unconfirmed by other sources) that the Indonesian Government said 31 December it has streamlined procedures for the entry of foreign aircrafts and ships bringing relief supplies to tsunami-hit Aceh.
- > AFP reports that the Indonesian military stated (31 December) that it was continuing to launch raids against separatist rebels in Aceh, despite having

earlier called a ceasefire to help aid efforts and that the only difference is that it may be less in scale and intensity.

- > UNICEF director describes a near-total collapse of the medical infrastructure in Aceh, with just one very basic hospital functioning in the capital of Banda Aceh. Also states the risk of cholera, diarrhoea and disease as enormous.
- > In Banda Aceh, there have been reports of looting as people struggle to find something to eat.
- > OCHA states that the Department of Social Affairs reported that as of 30 December, the number of victims in Aceh and North Sumatra is 45,276 persons and that in Bireun, more than 50,000 houses were badly destroyed.
- > ICRC is well placed to respond in Aceh. It has 6 international delegates in country with a further 10 arriving (relief, logistics, health, watsan) today, and 40 national staff. The pipeline, not based on a robust assessment of need, includes:
- 60,000 family kits providing shelter for 300,000
- Water and sanitation equipment including water tankers and bladder systems
- A 100-bed field hospital with 2 months supplies and 20 doctors/nurses.
- > Transport (airlift and barges), storage and distribution mechanisms are all in place.
- > The Federation will work alongside the ICRC and Indonesian Red Cross (known locally as Palang Merah Indonesia, PMI). Other Red Cross/Crescent Societies are also operational in the area e.g French and Malaysian. (from field sitrep)
- ➤ WHO state 1-3 million people could be affected. UNICEF state 100,000 children may be homeless.
- > The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster and has now called for international assistance. This is limited to direct interventions via Banda Aceh. Increased access to affected regions approved, assessments underway.
- > Scale of disaster in Indonesia (Sumatra) being acknowledged by authorities, some areas only now being reached. DFID team arrived 30 December.
- > Aceh airport reopened on 28 December, however it is subject to heavy traffic and offloading is MANUAL at present, with only 1 forklift available.
- ➤ The UNDAC team advises that infrastructure in Banda Aceh is totally destroyed any organisations that deploy to the area must be fully self-sufficient.

- > Due to lack of local government infrastructure, the Indonesian government have taken over the administration of Aceh Province.
- > Australian air force arriving with 3 C130's into Banda Aceh, with the possibility of sending 2 more at a later date.
- > Indonesian Vice President estimates immediate relief funds required to be approximately \$145 million.

Burma

- > Confirmed 30 deaths, other reports put toll as high as 90. A Government of Burma official said most of the dead were in the Irrawaddy Delta, where 17 villages were hit and 200 people left homeless. (BBC 30 December).
- > WHO voices concerns about the possible contamination of water points and the threat of diarrhoeal disease.
- At present, DFID's representative in Burma states that only one area of the Delta (coastal Pyapon District) is not covered by an assessment mission. The Federation Disaster Management Delegate is trying to organise a joint Federation/MRCS/UNDP mission to that region, however access is made more difficult by the fact that the area is only accessible by boat.

Sri Lanka

- > World Vision report blocked roads and other problems hindering aid convoys taking 8 hours to travel the 75 miles from Colombo to Galle. The Government of Sri Lanka has agreed to a request to provide police escorts.
- > Immediate needs identified as water and sanitation, primary healthcare, basic shelter, clothing and food. Oxfam identify an immediate need to take measures to prevent outbreak of disease.
- > Inadequate availability of trucks is a constraint.
- > Oxfam report local authorities in the east (Batticaloa) still struggling to remove the dead and many are being buried on the spot and not reported.
- > DFID assessment to Ampara district (E of Sri Lanka), received 31 Dec, estimates 18,100 houses destroyed. Access is good by road to all but 3,000 pax. Losses: 1,605 fishing livelihoods; 15% of livestock in affected area. Health services significantly disrupted. Need for heavy and light 4x4 vehicles.
- > NGOs: Oxfam, World Vision and ZOA operational. Goal, MDM, MSF(Spain & Switzerland), Medair and Merlin arriving in country. MSF (Holland) is en route.
- > Government assistance: Two Indian aircraft equipped as mobile hospitals left for Sri Lanka on Friday as part of a USD 23m aid package. The

Philippines is sending a 12-man team of disaster and trauma specialists (doctors, nurses, and sanitary engineers) to Sri Lanka Saturday.

- > Seven flights carrying Red Cross health materials and relief goods have so far arrived in Sri Lanka, with 4 more scheduled to arrive by today.
- > WHO estimates 1,000,000 people affected, with damage to infrastructure as much as 2 kilometres inland. They state that 500 camps / ad-hoc concentrations of homeless people have appeared and are in need of assistance.
- > The authorities have been reinforced by UN staff in the establishment of an operations centre. This should improve the situation previously reported regarding difficulties in coordination.
- > DFID/UN survey identifying Galle and Hikadua amd Matara as worst hit areas. Life returning to normal, no looting, trading occurring, fishing fleet damaged but much intact. Clean up ongoing. Immediate needs are health for displaced population, household items and continued water and food.
- > The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance. The government has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to support evacuation of people.

Thailand

- > Phang Nga is the most seriously affected area with more than 1,000 bodies already found strewn along the beachfront.
- > World Vision are operational distributing food, kitchen utensils and temporary housing materials to both Thai and Burmese migrant workers in the area.
- MSF are conducting exploration missions in the affected Phuket region.
- > Thailand's Minister of the Interior states that there are currently no problems with disease or water contamination. He further stated that offers of assistance are welcome, but not necessary.
- > A team of 5 police forensic scientists have arrived in Thailand to assist the local authorities with victim identification.
- ➤ The Government has presented its statement of needs to the UNDP to be: Body bags and formalin as well as preserving chemicals, forensic experts, freezer containers for storing bodies (mortuary), dried or canned food and rice, clothes, shoes, sandals, underwear, pants and sanitary napkins, medicines (especially anti-diarrhoea, antibiotics and antiseptics), first-aid kits, dressing sets, gauze and bandages, power generators communication equipment and water purifiers.
- India (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

> MSF's website cites the following:

- Government of India reports that 900,000 people have been affected by the tsunami and that extensive damage has been caused in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, affecting a total of 2260 km of the coast line. Total death toll as of 31 December 2004 is 10,763.
- A "strong" response to the disaster from Government of India and local communities reported by international NGOs. 4,000 troops are involved. Paramedics in southern India have begun vaccinating 65,000 survivors against cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and dysentery, and authorities sprayed bleaching powder on beaches where bodies have been recovered.
- Reports that India has mobilised sizeable assets to provide aid to the Andaman and Nicobar islands where 3000 missing persons are presumed dead.
- Main focus is on relief and rescue operations in Nicobar Group of Islands and relief and rehabilitation in mainland States. The Indian Ministry of Defence have been requested to step up airlifting/airdropping of relief material to Nicobar Group of Islands. The Navy is making arrangements to reach supplies to Car Nicobar (one of the islands) through ferry by boats by Ship to the shore.
- > Despite the above, a reputable humanitarian agency reports that their efforts to carry out an assessment mission in the Andaman Islands are being frustrated by local officials.
- > Indian Prime Minister reportedly refuses offer of assistance from the US. PLEASE PROTECT
- Separately, Oxfam also voices concern over the possible destruction in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and dispatches 2 person team for assessment purposes. Initial Oxfam assessment indicates high level of need: they reiterated on 31 Dec their concern at Indian government refusal to accept help. PLEASE PROTECT
- > The WFP state that a formal request has been received from the state government of Kerala, India for assistance.

Maldives

- > An IFRC field assessment team has arrived in the Maldives, where initial reports indicate that the need for safe water and sanitation is high.
- > Over 200 islands scattered over 900 km, all of which were affected by the tsunami. The number of islands presents logistical difficulties for delivery of aid. Large areas of the capital, Male, have been left under water. With most

of the Maldives being only 1m (3ft) above sea level, the damage is extensive. Some of the country's 200 islands cannot be contacted.

- At least 75 people dead. 11,000 people displaced. Authorities estimate that some 100,000 people (one third of the population) were severely affected (rendered homeless, lost most or all of their possessions, forced to evacuate their islands or have no access to food, water, and sanitation). WHO agrees with this estimate.
- ➤ UNDAC reports that funding has been pledged by China, Japan and the US, however the actual amount is unclear. A further \$450,000 been made available from other UN agencies.
- > The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance "for environmental disaster".

Somalia

- > 120 people killed, 35 missing and some 50,000 displaced.
- > The Government of Somalia (based in Kenya) has appealed for international relief. The Puntland Government has also appealed for immediate international emergency assistance.
- > UN states that tsunami compounds an already serious humanitarian situation in Somalia and there is a risk that Somalia will be neglected in terms of humanitarian relief.
- > WFP reports that it is transporting 31 metric tonnes of food to Somalia, including 2,000 people in Hafun this week.
- > A UN team is visiting the worst-affected coastline in the north-east to assess the scale of the needs. Assessment of the damage is difficult due to the lack of a functioning central government. (Inter News (SA) 31 December)

Kenya

> 1 person reported as killed in coastal resort of Malindi, prompting local authorities to order all beaches along the Kenyan coastline vacated. Order rescinded 29 December. (BBC web-site 31 December).

Tanzania

> Ten people were killed in Tanzania. No further update. (BBC web-site 31 December)

> UN ACTIONS

General	UN appoints Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator as Special Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to tsunami affected countries.
	WHO estimates up to 5 million people displaced by tsunamis.
	OCHA prepared to serve as a channel for unearmarked cash contributions for immediate relief assistance.
	 FAO undertaking damage assessment missions in each of the affected countries.
	 UNICEF warns that lack of access to potable water may result in outbreaks of cholera and diarrhoea.
	UN preparing to launch regional Flash Appeal – due 6 or 7 January 2005.
	 WHO preparing to supply 15 emergency health kits and 13 trauma kits to the affected region. WHO prioritises rapid health assessment by supporting local and national counterparts.
	 UNHCR to provide 18,000 plastic sheets, 17,000 plastic mats, rope, and NFIs for 2,000 families (incl. cooking sets, plastic jerry cans, mosquito nets and clothing).
	 The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) committed up to \$1 million and staff for rapid health assessments, hygiene needs and health supplies, including water purification tablets.
Indonesia	UN country team estimates USD 40.1 million for UN agency projects.
	 UNDAC team in Aceh province undertaking assessments. This team will be reinforced by a further 5 members in due course as well as members of UNJLC. OCHA arranging a joint rapid assessment mission to Banda Aceh (including NGOs and UN agencies). OCHA has released \$50,000 and UNDP \$100,000 in emergency grants.
	 UN agencies in Indonesia in a position to provide immediate assistance worth \$1 million.
	UNDP to deploy recovery expert.
	 WFP assigned \$500,000 for food procurement and distribution. They are also preparing an emergency operation for \$12 million. WFP to establish a presence in Banda Aceh.
	WHO/UNICEF to provide 10 health kits (100,000 people for 3 months). Due 30 December. WHO to provide technical assistance.
	 UNICEF to send tarpaulins and family sets for 8,000 households, plus emergency health kits to supply 200,000 people for 2 weeks.
India	 UNICEF delivered 50 water tanks to Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu and expects to provide southern districts with hundreds of thousands of water purification tables, 1550 community water tanks, 200,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts,

	30,000 blankets and medical supplies sufficient for 30 health centres by 29 December.
	 UNICEF office, Chennai to host coordination team meeting to strengthen information flows.
Malaysia	UNDP has sent a mission to the affected areas (Penang and Kedah).
Maldives	 UN country team estimates USD 19.125 million required for UN agency projects.
	 WFP to set up operation to deliver biscuits by 30 December. WFP: US\$500,000 for airlift of biscuits being arranged
	 OCHA: US\$50,000 for immediate emergency response. OCHA arranging airlift of non-food items (NFIs) and 5 WHO emergency health kits from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot, Brindisi (costs covered by Norwegian Government).
	UNDP: US\$100,000 for disaster management coordination and supplies
	 UNDP reports that 37 islands are completely without water supply with no water stocks available. UNDP state there is an urgent need for 4,000 units of full 20- litre water containers as well as support to transport them to the 37 affected islands.
	UNICEF: US\$100,000 for disaster management coordination and supplies
	UNFPA: US\$50,000 especially toward reproduction health
	WHO: US\$150,000 in medical supplies
	 UNDAC team indicates water shortages, contamination and waste disposal and issue, causing a significant health risk.
	 UNDAC team indicates possible escalation of diarrhoeal disease due to contaminated water sources, poor sanitation and water disposal.
	 UNDAC team indicates islanders have received 3 days food from the Government, but that children and baby food is in short supply.
	UNDAC team indicates a need for clothing supplies.
	 UNDAC team indicates 3860 buildings damaged, most of which could be re- inhabited with only minor repair.
	UNDAC indicates technical assistance required in IDP camps.
Committee of the Commit	

Sri Lanka	 UN country team estimates USD 68,245,806 required for UN agency projects.
	 UNICEF lead on education, water and sanitation, WHO lead on health, WFP on logistics and UNHCR for NFRI.
	UNHCR to supply NFIs worth \$380,000
	 UNICEF have sent a 45 tonne shipment of carrying water related supplies and 20 tonnes of tarpaulins due to arrive 29December.
	WHO Sent 4 emergency health kits to Sri Lanka 28 December.
	UN staff to support establishment of a government operations centre.
	 UNDP released emergency grant of \$100,000, OCHA released \$50,000
	28 December - UNICEF Belgium sent water purification material.
	 WFP assigned \$500,000 for food aid and is providing food for 500,000 people for 2 weeks.
	 OCHA arranging airlift of 15MT of NFIs and 5 WHO emergency health kits (costs covered by Norwegian Government).
	 A UNDAC team has been deployed, supported by a UNJLC 2 person team. This team is to be reinforced with an additional member in due course.
	 At the request of the MOH, UNFPA is providing 25,000 personal hygiene packs for women and girls (value US \$160,000). It is anticipated that a total of 150,000 personal hygiene packs in the total amount of US \$960,000 will be required.
	 UNFPA in collaboration with the MOH will be undertaking a rapid needs assessment covering RH requirements in the affected districts. UNFPA will consider deploying local staff to the most affected districts to assist in coordination efforts. UNFPA is in the process of developing the Flash Appeal Proposal and mobilizing additional financial support.
	 UNICEF sent 2 relief flights with water purification tablets and oral rehydration salts 28 December. UNICEF have reported that landmines in Sri Lanka pose a risk to relief efforts.
Thailand	 UNICEF assessing both immediate and long-term needs in the affected areas. Has offered its support to government for localised needs. Has been designated lead agency in child protection, education, water and sanitation.
	OCHA released emergency grant of \$50,000
	WFP assigned \$500,000 for food procurement and distribution.
	UNDP released emergency grant of \$100,000
	 A UNDAC team has been deployed, with a UNJLC team on standby.
Burma	WFP leading UN Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Group,

	but adequate information still lacking from coastal regions affected by tsunami.
	 WFP & ICRC have allocated funds (\$0.5m and €3m), WHO & UNDP will allocate funds if an emergency declared.
	 WFP have food stocks available and UNICEF, basic drugs and medica supplies.
	UNICEF field officers to reach affected areas 29 December.
Somalia	 UNICEF is undertaking an assessment of the affected areas and have provided oral rehydration salts, chlorine powder and essential drugs.
	WFP have relocated staff from Bossaso to Hafun
	OCHA Somalia and UNICEF planning an interagency assessment to Bosasso.
	 WFP - 29 December 31 MT food (of 1,000 MT available) dispatched to Hafun Northern Somalia.
	WHO is transferring 3 emergency kits to Hafun

RED CROSS MOVEMENT ACTIONS

- ICRC is well placed to respond in Aceh. It has 6 international delegates in country with a further 10 arriving (relief, logistics, health, watsan) today, and 40 national staff. The pipeline, not based on a robust assessment of need, includes:
 - 60,000 family kits providing shelter for 300,000
 - Water and sanitation equipment including water tankers and bladder systems
 - A 100-bed field hospital with 2 months supplies and 20 doctors/nurses.
- Transport (airlift and barges), storage and distribution mechanisms are all in place.
- The Federation will work alongside the ICRC and Indonesian Red Cross (known locally as PMI). Other Red Cross/Crescent Societies are also operational in the area e.g French and Malaysian. (from field sitrep)
- ICRC to concentrate relief efforts on Sri Lanka and Banda Aceh, where it has a strong presence. Overall operations of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement are being coordinated by the Federation.
- The Federation is purchasing body bags, burial cloths and masks. They also sent a medical team of five doctors and nurses to Aceh 29 December. The Federation and the Indonesian Red Cross are arranging helicopters to transport assessment teams and medical personnel to the affected areas.

- FACT team (Field Assessment Coordination Team) including health, telecoms, relief/logistics, water/sanitation, reporting and information specialists arrived in Jakarta 29 December. They are tasked to determine the location of the (Emergency Response Unit) ERU in Meulaboh. Danish logistics ERU, Belgian telecoms ERU arrived 29 December. Japanese basic health care ERU due 30 December, French Watsan ERU due 31 December. Majority of ERU equipment to be sent to Medan, then sent by helicopter to Meulaboh. New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK) are being procured.
- The Federation has allocated CHF 100,000 to the Indonesian Red Crescent. ICRC office in Banda Aceh is reactivated and working closely with the national delegation.
- Thai Red Cross mobilised since 26 December, providing medical care, food, water and clothing to the homeless, injured and affected. The national delegation has also sent 29 doctors, 45 specialist nurses and mobile medical teams (surgeons, plastic surgeons, orthopaedics, anaesthetists and forensic) to supplement local medical teams, the government, the military, medical and relief agencies. The Federation has allocated CHF 100,000 to the Thai Red Cross.
- Malaysian Red Crescent mobilised 5 disaster response members in 3 states to coordinate disaster response, and has also sent 2 assessment teams to Aceh, Indonesia.
- Burmese Red Cross is conducting assessment missions in the Irawaddy delta and Rakhine state coastal area. The Federation has allocated CHF 50,000 for the initial relief operation.
- ICRC establishes 'FamilyLinks' pages for India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand http://www.icrc.org/home.nsf/home/webfamilylinks
- ICRC, in coordination with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has begun to distribute aid (tarpaulins, buckets, cooking pots, and hygiene kits) to 1,000 families in eastern Sri Lanka, to 1,500 families in northern Sri Lanka and is assisting with the evacuation of the wounded. The organisation eventually plans to extend aid to 150,000 persons in the north and east of the country.
- The Federation to take lead role in Burma, but the UN will take over coordination, should the situation deteriorate.
- Consolidated regional appeal launched by Red Cross for £23 million (DFID's contribution is £2 million)
- ICRC now present in Aceh reviewing with PMI undertaking assessment.
- Burmese Red Cross have Non food items (NFIs) for 1800 families on standby,
- Consolidated regional emergency appeal launched for CHF 50 million
- The Federation to chair coordination meeting 28 December.

- A separate FACT Team already on the ground in Sri Lanka, plus an further FACT Team deploying to Maldives. The British Red Cross are pushing for deployment of a further FACT team to the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- British Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (logistics) arrived in Sri Lanka Further ERUs from other national societies (3 health, 2 watsan and 1 telecoms) are en route (due 30 December). ICRC to provide shelter items for 200,000 people in Indonesia.
- Belgian Red Cross will send 40 m3 material including 500 tents, 3,000 jerry cans and sheets to Colombo by plane (departure on December 29)
- 28 December Iranian Red Cross sent 220MT NFIs and food.

OTHER DONORS - MAJOR NEWS

- The US is dispatching a Marine expeditionary unit, the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, and the Maritime pre-position squadron from Guam to the area to help with relief efforts. The US, in conjunction with Japan, India and Australia have announced an international coalition for immediate humanitarian relief and long-term recovery. The Under Secretary of State, will lead a task force with partners to coordinate interagency response.
- PLEASE PROTECT We understand from the MOD that the United States and Australia have formed a combined joint task force based on a Carrier Battle Group. Separately, we understand that this fleet is moving towards Thailand as its primary focus.
- Financial tracking: detailed updates, aiming to list all known donor contributions to the tsunami response, are available on the UN ReliefWeb website at: http://www.reliefweb.int/appeals/fts tsunami.html.

CASUALTIES

Information remains very fluid - communication links are generally down. Figures are constantly being updated. The latest total death toll was being reported in the media as **124,000**. Rough detail as follows:

Location	Dead Reported	Other	Source
Sri Lanka	28,508	800,000 displaced (unconfirmed)	Sky News/BBC
Indonesia	79,940 – government fears final total may be over 100,000	3,000 missing 150,000 displaced 500,000 total affected 100,000 housing deficit	Sky News/BBC
India	10,850	5900 missing – Andaman and Nicobar Islands	
Thailand	6,000 missing, likely dead	8,954 injured 5,000+ missing	Sky News/BBC
Bangladesh	2		
Maldives	75	73 missing, 160 injured, 100,000 severely affected	BBC/UN Country Team
Malaysia	65	29 missing, 183 injured	
Somalia	120	5000 displaced	BBC
Burma	90		
Kenya	1		
Tanzania	10		
Seychelles	1	44 injured	

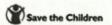
Some agencies responding to the Tsunami crisis:



0870 606 0900



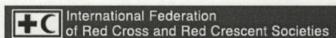
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what you can do/give to oxfam/donate/asiaquake1204.htm 0870 333 2700



https://www.bmycharity.com/V2/main.aspx?p=donation&id=500946 020 7012 6400



http://www.worldvision.org.uk/waystodonate/makeadonation/default.asp?AppealRef=ED AQ 0800 088 088



http://www.ifrc.org/helpnow/donate/donate response.asp



Christian TAid

http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/give/appeals/seasia1.htm

CHAD OT SITUATION REPORT INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS

SITREP No 9 as at 19.00 hrs 30 December 2004

CHAD Operations Room – 020 7023 1471 Email – ot-information@dfid.gov.uk

N.B. We have changed the format in order to cut down on the volume of paper presented each time. The report covers key issues, developments, DFID responses to date, planned responses and UN and Red Cross actions. Changes from SITREP No 6 in *Bold Italics*. Country and International response data (previous part 2) is available on request from CHAD OT. Please note that the final page of this document includes hyperlinks and phone numbers for major NGO appeals and Red Cross Movement.

KEY ISSUES

- Secretary of State announces a further £35,000,000 for humanitarian response to the tsunami crisis. DFID are now the largest bilateral donor. (Secretary of State announced an initial £15 million for immediate humanitarian response in the region 29 December.)
- DFID have agreed to meet the costs and/or arrange consolidated airlifts of cargo and relief items to the affected areas on behalf of DEC members. PROTECT UNTIL 31 DECEMBER
- UN appoints Ms Margareta Wahlstrom, UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator as Special Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to tsunami affected countries.
- Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi calls for extraordinary G8 summit to discuss tsunami response.
- WHO estimates up to 5 million people displaced by tsunamis.
- Reuters state that The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold a meeting as early as next week to coordinate relief and reconstruction efforts.
- The US is dispatching a Marine expeditionary unit, the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, and the Maritime pre-position squadron from Guam to the area to help with relief efforts. The US, in conjunction with Japan, India and Australia are looking to build and international coalition for immediate humanitarian relief and long-term recovery. The Under Secretary of State, will lead a task force with partners to coordinate interagency response.
- PLEASE PROTECT We understand from the MOD that the United States and Australia have formed a combined joint task force based on a Carrier Battle Group. Separately, we understand that this fleet is moving towards Thailand as its primary focus.

- Concern about level of Indian government support to Andaman and Nicobar Islands with reported rises in casualties. Indian Prime Minister reportedly refuses offer of assistance from the US. PLEASE PROTECT
- Separately, Oxfam also voices concern over the possible destruction in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and dispatches 2 person team for assessment purposes.
- The Government of Somalia (based in Kenya) has appealed for international relief. The Puntland Government has also appealed for immediate international emergency assistance.
- The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster and has now called for international assistance. This is limited to direct interventions via Banda Aceh. Increased access to affected regions approved, assessments underway.
- The WFP state that a formal request has been received from the state government of Kerala, India for assistance.
- The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance "for environmental disaster".
- The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance. The government has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to support evacuation of people.
- Scale of disaster in Indonesia (Sumatra) being acknowledged by authorities, some areas only now being reached. DFID team arrived 30 December.

DFID RESPONSES TO DATE:

- > We have dispatched to Denmark, vehicles, electrical lighting, generators and water purification units from the DFID stockpile, to be consolidated with equipment from other donor nations before shipment to support the UN Field Office in Banda Aceh.
- > DFID approves funding of £400,000 to Christian Aid for their response in India 30 December.
- > DFID approves funding of £2,000,000 to the Federation 30 December.
- > Following a request from WHO we have funded, procured and arranged transportation for 10 Emergency Health Kits to Jakarta. These are due to leave 30 December, arriving 1900 GMT 1 January.
- > A First Choice Holidays plane, left Manchester Airport 29 December loaded with 17.28 tonnes (17,280 litres) of bottled water donated by Scottish Water, following an urgent request from the Government of the Maldives.

- > Team of 3 CHAD humanitarian advisers deployed to Indonesia 29 December to support the DFID Office.
- > DFID dispatched a team to Sri Lanka on 26 December who are participating in a joint assessment. Full publication of their report is expected by 31 December.
- ➤ The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx))
- > We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- ➤ We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- > We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

DFID PROJECT FUNDING

Agency	Brief Description	Value of Appeal	Amount Agreed
IFRC	Health, Watsan, Logistics, Food and NFIs	CHF 67,00,000	£2,000,000
WHO	Procurement of Health Kits		£55,000
WHO	Transportation of Health Kits	,	€60,000 (£41,500 approx)
SCF	NFIs, Watsan, Food and Shelther – Sri Lanka	£1,728,300	£400,000
Christian Aid	Food, Shelter, Water and Healthcare - India	£845,000	£400,000

ITEMS FUNDED AND PROCURED BY DFID

Quantity	Item	Currency Value	Approximate £ Value	Further Information
14,000	10 litre collapsible jerry cans	\$43,050	22,300	
4	Iridium satellite telephones		3,200	
1,000,000	Water purification tablets	EUR 8,000	5,500	
392 Rolls	6x4m metre tarpaulin	EUR 98,000.00	68,000	
10	WHO New Emergency Health Kits		113,000	Including airlift
20,000	4x5m tarps	USD 150,000	77,700	
246	Tents 132 – Sarvodaya 144 – Sewalanka 6 – UNICEF warehouse, Colombo			
5000	Plastic sheets 96 (units of 5) – Sarvodaya 316 (units of 5) – Sewalanka 552 (units of 5) – UNICEF warehouse, Colombo		250,000	Including airlift
40,000	Mats	USD 35,200.00	18,200	
4,500	Cook Sets	USD 46,125.00	23,900	
5,040	10 litre collapsible water containers	USD 7,308.00	3,790	

DFID PLANNING

- > DFID / MOD discussions underway on the use of military assets for ongoing relief operations. Secretary of State for Defence has approved general parameters for use of MoD assets, which will be developed further in the next 24 hours. PROTECT UNTIL 31 DECEMBER
- > Planning underway to provide helicopter support to the UN for a number of affected areas.
- > Planning underway for the airlift of cargo on behalf of DEC members. See key issues. PROTECT UNTIL 31 DECEMBER
- > DFID assessment team reports from Sri Lanka indicate immediate significant needs.
- Seeking funding channels for Somalia.
- > We are putting together contingency plans for further airlifts (from both Europe and other regions) of shelter materials, water and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region.
- ➤ Following a request from the UN, we, together with partners in the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) (Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, UK and The Netherlands) are planning for the provision of field office equipment and support staff to be deployed to Aceh. The UK's contribution is likely to be arrangement and funding of an airlift. The costs of this airlift will be shared between the UK and The Netherlands, whilst equipment and staff will come from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
- ➤ We have now received a considerable number of project proposals from UK NGOs and Red Cross Movement, and we expect to be making funding decisions within the next few days. We have issued an invitation to NGOs in the UK to present concept notes and proposals for DFID funding across the region. These will be considered alongside those already received.

DEVELOPMENTS BY COUNTRY

Indonesia

- > WHO state 1-3 million people could be affected. UNICEF state 100,000 children may be homeless.
- > Aceh airport reopened on 28 December, however it is subject to heavy traffic and offloading is MANUAL at present, with only 1 forklift available.
- > The UNDAC team advises that infrastructure in Banda Aceh is totally destroyed any organisations that deploy to the area must be fully self-sufficient.

- > Due to lack of local government infrastructure, the Indonesian government have taken over the administration of Aceh Province.
- > Australian air force arriving with 3 C130's into Banda Aceh, with the possibility of sending 2 more at a later date.
- > Indonesian Vice President estimates immediate relief funds required to be approximately \$145 million.
- > The British Ambassador in Jakarta has indicated that aid has been slow arriving to Banda Aceh, however we would expect this situation to improve due to the Indonesian Government's decision to allow increased access to Aceh Province. Assessments are now underway.

Burma

- > WHO voices concerns about the possible contamination of water points and the threat of diarrhoeal disease.
- At present, DFID's representative in Burma states that only one area of the Delta (coastal Pyapon District) is not covered by an assessment mission. The Federation Disaster Management Delegate is trying to organise a joint Federation/MRCS/UNDP mission to that region, however access is made more difficult by the fact that the area is only accessible by boat.

Sri Lanka

- > WHO estimates 1,000,000 people affected, with damage to infrastructure as much as 2 kilometres inland. They state that 500 camps / ad-hoc concentrations of homeless people have appeared and are in need of assistance.
- > The authorities have been reinforced by UN staff in the establishment of an operations centre. This should improve the situation previously reported regarding difficulties in coordination.
- ➤ DFID/UN survey identifying Galle and Hikadua amd Matara as worst hit areas. Life returning to normal, no looting, trading occurring, fishing fleet damaged but much intact. Clean up ongoing. Immediate needs are health for displaced population, household items and continued water and food.

Thailand

- > Thailand's Minister of the Interior states that there are currently no problems with disease or water contamination. He further stated that offers of assistance are welcome, but not necessary.
- A team of 5 police forensic scientists have arrived in Thailand to assist the local authorities with victim identification.

The Government has presented its statement of needs to the UNDP to be: Body bags and formalin as well as preserving chemicals, forensic experts, freezer containers for storing bodies (mortuary), dried or canned food and rice, clothes, shoes, sandals, underwear, pants and sanitary napkins, medicines (especially anti-diarrhoea, antibiotics and antiseptics), first-aid kits, dressing sets, gauze and bandages, power generators communication equipment and water purifiers.

India

- > Concern about level of Indian government support to Andaman and Nicobar Islands with reported rises in casualties. *Indian Prime Minister reportedly refuses offer of assistance from the US.* PROTECT
- > Tsunami warning, later stated by UNICEF to be false, led Government of India to launch an alert and attempt to evacuate people in coastal areas in south India to a position 2km inland. Alert and evacuation created panic and reported to have caused disruption to the relief effort. Alert will remain in place for 48 hours.
- > Additional tremors still being felt in the vicinity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Maldives

- > WHO estimates 100,000 affected by the tsunamis. Cases of diarrhoea on the increase and access to clean water is an immediate priority.
- > UNDAC reports that funding has been pledged by China, Japan and the US, however the actual amount is unclear. A further \$450,000 been made available from other UN agencies.

Somalia

- > UN states that Somalia has been neglected by the international community.
- > UN states that tsunami compounds an already serious humanitarian situation in Somalia
- > The Government of Somalia (based in Kenya) has appealed for international relief. The Puntland Government has also appealed for immediate international emergency assistance.

UN ACTIONS

General	 UN appoints Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator as Special Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to tsunami affected countries.
	WHO estimates up to 5 million people displaced by tsunamis.
	 OCHA prepared to serve as a channel for unearmarked cash contributions for immediate relief assistance.
	 FAO undertaking damage assessment missions in each of the affected countries.
	 UNICEF warns that lack of access to potable water may result in outbreaks of cholera and diarrhoea.
	UN preparing to launch regional Flash Appeal – due 6 or 7 January 2005.
	 WHO preparing to supply 15 emergency health kits and 13 trauma kits to the affected region. WHO prioritises rapid health assessment by supporting local and national counterparts.
	 UNHCR to provide 18,000 plastic sheets, 17,000 plastic mats, rope, and NFIs for 2,000 families (incl. cooking sets, plastic jerry cans, mosquito nets and clothing).
	 The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) committed up to \$1 million and staff for rapid health assessments, hygiene needs and health supplies, including water purification tablets.
Indonesia	UN country team estimates USD 40.1 million for UN agency projects.
	 UNDAC team in Aceh province undertaking assessments. This team will be reinforced by a further 5 members in due course as well as members of UNJLC.
	 29-31 December – OCHA arranging a joint rapid assessment mission to Banda Aceh (including NGOs and UN agencies).
	 UN agencies in Indonesia in a position to provide immediate assistance worth \$1 million.
	OCHA released \$50,000 and UNDP \$100,000 - emergency grants.
	UNDP to deploy recovery expert.
	 WFP assigned \$500,000 for food procurement and distribution. They are also preparing an emergency operation for \$12 million. WFP to establish a presence in Banda Aceh.
	 WHO/UNICEF to provide 10 health kits (100,000 people for 3 months). Due 30 December. WHO to provide technical assistance.
	 UNICEF to send tarpaulins and family sets for 8,000 households, plus emergency health kits to supply 200,000 people for 2 weeks.
India	 UNICEF delivered 50 water tanks to Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu and expects to provide southern districts with hundreds of thousands of water purification

	tables, 1550 community water tanks, 200,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts, 30,000 blankets and medical supplies sufficient for 30 health centres by 29 December. • UNICEF office, Chennal to host coordination team meeting to strengthen
Malaysia	information flows.
Malaysia	 UNDP has sent a mission to the affected areas (Penang and Kedah).
Maldives	 UN country team estimates USD 19.125 million required for UN agency projects.
	WFP to set up operation to deliver biscuits by 30 December.
	WFP: US\$500,000 for airlift of biscuits being arranged
	OCHA: US\$50,000 for immediate emergency response
	UNDP: US\$100,000 for disaster management coordination and supplies
	UNICEF: US\$100,000 for disaster management coordination and supplies
	UNFPA: US\$50,000 especially toward reproduction health
	WHO: US\$150,000 in medical supplies
	 UNDAC team indicates water shortages, contamination and waste disposal and issue, causing a significant health risk.
	 UNDAC team indicates possible escalation of diarrhoeal disease due to contaminated water sources, poor sanitation and water disposal.
	 UNDAC team indicates islanders have received 3 days food from the Government, but that children and baby food is in short supply.
	UNDAC team indicates a need for clothing supplies.
	 UNDAC team indicates 3860 buildings damaged, most of which could be re- inhabited with only minor repair.
	UNDAC indicates technical assistance required in IDP camps.
	 OCHA arranging airlift of NFIs and 5 WHO emergency health kits from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot, Brindisi (costs covered by Norwegian Government).
	 UNDP reports that 37 islands are completely without water supply with no water stocks available. UNDP state there is an URGENT need for 4,000 units of full 20-litre water containers as well as support to transport them to the 37 affected islands.

Sri Lanka	 UN country team estimates USD 68,245,806 required for UN agency projects.
	 UNICEF lead on education, water and sanitation, WHO lead on health, WFP on logistics and UNHCR for NFRI.
	UNHCR to supply NFIs worth \$380,000
	 UNICEF have sent a 45 tonne shipment of carrying water related supplies and 20 tonnes of tarpaulins due to arrive 29December.
	WHO Sent 4 emergency health kits to Sri Lanka 28 December.
	UN staff to support establishment of a government operations centre.
	UNDP released emergency grant of \$100,000, OCHA released \$50,000
	28 December - UNICEF Belgium sent water purification material.
	 WFP assigned \$500,000 for food aid and is providing food for 500,000 people for 2 weeks.
	 OCHA arranging airlift of 15MT of NFIs and 5 WHO emergency health kits (costs covered by Norwegian Government).
	 A UNDAC team has been deployed, supported by a UNJLC 2 person team. This team is to be reinforced with an additional member in due course.
	 At the request of the MOH, UNFPA is providing 25,000 personal hygiene packs for women and girls (value US \$160,000). It is anticipated that a total of 150,000 personal hygiene packs in the total amount of US \$960,000 will be required.
	 UNFPA in collaboration with the MOH will be undertaking a rapid needs assessment covering RH requirements in the affected districts. UNFPA will consider deploying local staff to the most affected districts to assist in coordination efforts.
	 UNFPA is in the process of developing the Flash Appeal Proposal and mobilizing additional financial support.
	 UNICEF sent 2 relief flights with water purification tablets and oral rehydration salts 28 December.
	UNICEF have reported that landmines in Sri Lanka pose a risk to relief efforts.
Thailand	 UNICEF assessing both immediate and long-term needs in the affected areas. Has offered its support to government for localised needs. Has been designated lead agency in child protection, education, water and sanitation.
	OCHA released emergency grant of \$50,000
	WFP assigned \$500,000 for food procurement and distribution.
	UNDP released emergency grant of \$100,000

	A UNDAC team has been deployed, with a UNJLC team on standby.
Burma	 WFP leading UN Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Group but adequate information still lacking from coastal regions affected by tsunami.
	 WFP & ICRC have allocated funds (\$0.5m and €3m), WHO & UNDP will allocate funds if an emergency declared.
	 WFP have food stocks available and UNICEF, basic drugs and medica supplies.
	 UNICEF field officers to reach affected areas 29 December.
Somalia	UNICEF is undertaking an assessment of the affected areas and have provided oral rehydration salts, chlorine powder and essential drugs.
	WFP have relocated staff from Bossaso to Hafun
	OCHA Somalia and UNICEF planning an interagency assessment to Bosasso.
	 WFP - 29 December 31 MT food (of 1,000 MT available) dispatched to Hafun Northern Somalia.
	WHO is transferring 3 emergency kits to Hafun

RED CROSS MOVEMENT ACTIONS

- ICRC to concentrate relief efforts on Sri Lanka and Banda Aceh, where it has a strong presence. Overall operations of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement are being coordinated by the Federation.
- The Federation is purchasing body bags, burial cloths and masks. They also sent a medical team of five doctors and nurses to Aceh 29 December. The Federation and the Indonesian Red Cross are arranging helicopters to transport assessment teams and medical personnel to the affected areas.
- FACT team (Field Assessment Coordination Team) including health, telecoms, relief/logistics, water/sanitation, reporting and information specialists arrived in Jakarta 29 December. They are tasked to determine the location of the (Emergency Response Unit) ERU in Meulaboh. Danish logistics ERU, Belgian telecoms ERU arrived 29 December. Japanese basic health care ERU due 30 December, French Watsan ERU due 31 December. Majority of ERU equipment to be sent to Medan, then sent by helicopter to Meulaboh. New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK) are being procured.
- The Federation has allocated CHF 100,000 to the Indonesian Red Crescent. ICRC office in Banda Aceh is reactivated and working closely with the national delegation.
- Thai Red Cross mobilised since 26 December, providing medical care, food, water and clothing to the homeless, injured and affected. The national delegation has also sent 29 doctors, 45 specialist nurses and mobile medical teams (surgeons, plastic surgeons, orthopaedics, anaesthetists and forensic) to supplement local medical teams, the government, the military, medical and relief agencies. The Federation has allocated CHF 100,000 to the Thai Red Cross.
- Malaysian Red Crescent mobilised 5 disaster response members in 3 states to coordinate disaster response, and has also sent 2 assessment teams to Aceh, Indonesia.
- Burmese Red Cross is conducting assessment missions in the Irawaddy delta and Rakhine state coastal area. The Federation has allocated CHF 50,000 for the initial relief operation.
- ICRC establishes 'FamilyLinks' pages for India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand http://www.icrc.org/home.nsf/home/webfamilylinks
- ICRC, in coordination with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has begun to distribute aid (tarpaulins, buckets, cooking pots, and hygiene kits) to 1,000 families in eastern Sri Lanka, to 1,500 families in northern Sri Lanka and is assisting with the evacuation of the wounded. The organisation eventually plans to extend aid to 150,000 persons in the north and east of the country.
- The Federation to take lead role in Burma, but the UN will take over coordination, should the situation deteriorate.

- Turkish Red Crescent has launched a fund-raising campaign.
- Consolidated regional appeal launched by Red Cross for £23 million (under analysis)
- ICRC now present in Aceh reviewing with PMI undertaking assessment.
- Burmese Red Cross have Non food items (NFIs) for 1800 families on standby,
- Consolidated regional emergency appeal launched for CHF 50 million
- The Federation to chair coordination meeting 28 December.
- A separate FACT Team already on the ground in Sri Lanka, plus an further FACT Team deploying to Maldives. The British Red Cross are pushing for deployment of a further FACT team to the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- British Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (logistics) arrived in Sri Lanka Further ERUs from other national societies (3 health, 2 watsan and 1 telecoms) are en route (due 30 December). ICRC to provide shelter items for 200,000 people in Indonesia.
- Belgian Red Cross will send 40 m3 material including 500 tents, 3,000 jerry cans and sheets to Colombo by plane (departure on December 29)
- 28 December Iranian Red Cross sent 220MT NFIs and food.

CASUALTIES

Information remains very fluid - communication links are generally down. Figures are constantly being updated. At 1900 GMT 28 December, the total death toll was being reported in the media as 125,000+, rough detail as follows:

Location	Dead Reported	Other	Confirmation
Sri Lanka	24,743	800,000 displaced	BBC
		(unconfirmed)	
Indonesia	79,940	3,000 missing	BBC
		150,000 displaced	
		500,000 total affected	
		100,000 housing deficit	
India	10,850	5900 missing – Andaman	
		and Nicobar Islands	
Thailand	2,394	8,954 injured	BBC
		5,000+ missing	
	6,000 missing, likely		
	dead		
Bangladesh	2		
Maldives	67	73 missing, 160 injured,	BBC
		100,000 severely affected	
Malaysia	65	29 missing, 183 injured	
Somalia	120	5000 displaced	BBC
Burma	90		
Kenya	1		
Tanzania	10	·	
Seychelles	1	44 injured	

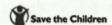


0870 606 0900



http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what you can do/give to oxfam/donate/asiaquake1204.htm

0870 333 2700



https://www.bmycharity.com/V2/main.aspx?p=donation&id=500946

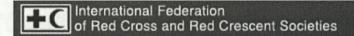
020 7012 6400



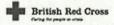
http://www.worldvision.org.uk/waystodonate/makeadonation/default.asp?AppealRef=ED

AQ

0800 088 088



http://www.ifrc.org/helpnow/donate/donate_response.asp



08705 125125

ChristianTAId

http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/give/appeals/seasia1.htm





Casualty Details

- Media now reporting over 83,000 dead across the affected region, but numbers continue to rise (some reports speculate that deaths could reach a six figure total). Overall, 27 Britons confirmed dead. Awaiting formal notification of about 20 more. Many more still unaccounted for (total may rise to over 100).
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are reports of up to 23,000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 3 Britons confirmed dead so far. Many tourists, including British nationals, are still arriving in Colombo from coastal resorts. Best estimate of Britons affected is 2,000. Tour operators continuing to arrange charter flights to bring out over 1100 over next 24 hours. High commission assess small numbers (50 or so still remaining).
- In <u>Maldives</u>, there are over 3500 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. 3 Britons confirmed dead. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 55 dead and 59 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown). British tour operators are continuing to bring out tourists (around 1200 Britons expected to come out in total).
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 1975 people (around 50% foreign tourists) have been killed and 9808 injured and around 6043 missing overall. 21 British nationals confirmed among the dead (formal notification likely to rise during the day). Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights. We are arranging with BA to send an additional aircraft at the end of the week when seats are scarce.
- Also reports of many confirmed killed in <u>Malaysia</u>, but no Britons amongst them so far.
- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in <u>Indonesia</u> and <u>India</u>. But local casualty estimates are very high (45,000 in Indonesia alone).

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we are keeping in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These seem to have gone very well.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT from London now operational supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another four-person RDT team expected to go later in the week.
- A consular officer from Colombo is in the Maldives and assisting tourists to depart.
- Refuge Centre set up in Colombo. Number of British nationals arriving in Colombo and awaiting charter arrangements out (see above) now decreasing.
- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

- Volunteers to form an RDT for Bangkok and Phuket have arrived from Hong Kong (9), Manila (2), Singapore (1) and Kuala Lumpur (6). Members of FCO

staff (on holiday) also helping in Embassy. Further staff arrived on 29/30 December from Delhi and Mumbai. The Ambassador is in Phuket with a large team and drivers. Some have gone on to Krabi further south and to Pangna and Khao Lak. An emergency office has been set up in Phuket.

- Britons are arriving in Bangkok from Phuket and are receiving assistance from the Embassy at Help Desks set up at Bangkok Airport. We are arranging with BA to send an additional aircraft at the end of the week when seats are scarce.

- 5 strong MPS forensic pathologist team arriving in Bangkok on 30 December.

- The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: **0207 008 0000**.
- Police opened further call centres on 28 December (all with same telephone number). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friends to get and provide information.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre were identified over the holiday and increased during the week. We now have a consular Crisis Unit operating in OAB.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators and EU colleagues.

DFID

- DFID have sent various advisors and development co-ordinators to the region.
- An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government (total value approx.£250k).
- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka.
- Agreed funding of £400k to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At request of current EU Presidency, the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- UK share (18%, value approx. £372k)) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal.
- On 29 November Hilary Benn announced HMG's initial allocation of £15 million for immediate humanitarian needs across the region.

CHAD OT SITUATION REPORT INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS 26 DEC 2004 07.00 hrs 30 December 2004

SITREP No 8

N.B. We have changed the format in order to cut down on the volume of paper presented each time. The report covers key issues, developments, DFID responses to date, planned responses and UN and Red Cross actions. Changes from SITREP No 6 in *Bold Italics*. Country and International response data (previous part 2) is available on request from CHAD OT. Please note that the final page of this document includes hyperlinks and phone numbers for major NGO appeals and Red Cross Movement.

KEY ISSUES

- Secretary of State announces an initial £15 million for immediate humanitarian response in the region.
- The US is dispatching a Marine expeditionary unit, the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, and the Maritime pre-position squadron from Guam to the area to help with relief efforts. The US, in conjunction with Japan, India and Australia are looking to build and international coalition for immediate humanitarian relief and long-term recovery. The Under Secretary of State, will lead a task force with partners to coordinate interagency response.
- First report from DFID staff in Sri Lanka arrived. Covering West and South West coastal region joint UN rapid aerial survey.
- PLEASE PROTECT We understand from the MOD that the United States and Australia have formed a combined joint task force based on a Carrier Battle Group. Separately, we understand that this fleet is moving towards Thailand as its primary focus. MOD colleagues may be able to provide further information.
- Concern about level of Indian government support to Andaman and Nicobar Islands with reported rises in casualties. PLEASE PROTECT
- The Government of Somalia (based in Kenya) has appealed for international relief. The Puntland Government has also appealed for immediate international emergency assistance.
- The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster and has now called for international assistance. This is limited to direct interventions via Banda Aceh. Increased access to affected regions approved, assessments underway.
- The WFP state that a formal request has been received from the state government of Kerala for assistance.

- The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance "for environmental disaster".
- The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance. The government has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to support evacuation of people.
- Scale of disaster in Indonesia (Sumatra) being acknowledged by authorities, some areas only now being reached. DFID team leaving 29 December.

DEVELOPMENTS BY COUNTRY

Indonesia

- > Indonesian Vice President estimates immediate relief funds required to be approximately \$145 million.
- > The British Ambassador in Jakarta has indicated that aid has been slow arriving to Banda Aceh, however we would expect this situation to improve due to the Indonesian Government's decision to allow increased access to Aceh Province. Assessments are now underway.
- > Aceh airport reopened on 28 December.
- > Australian air force arriving with c130's into Banda Aceh

Burma

> At present, DFID's representative in Burma states that only one area of the Delta (coastal Pyapon District) is not covered by an assessment mission. The IFRC Disaster Management Delegate is trying to organise a joint IFRC/MRCS/UNDP mission to that region, however access is made more difficult by the fact that the area is only accessible by boat.

Sri Lanka

- > The authorities have been reinforced by UN staff in the establishment of an operations centre. This should improve the situation previously reported regarding difficulties in coordination.
- > DFID/UN survey identifying Galle and Hikadua amd Matara as worst hit areas. Life returning to normal, no looting, trading occurring, fishing fleet damaged but much intact. Clean up ongoing. Immediate needs are health for displaced population, household items and continued water and food.

Thailand

> The Government has presented its statement of needs to the UNDP to be: Body bags and formalin as well as preserving chemicals, forensic experts, freezer containers for storing bodies (mortuary), dried or canned food and rice, clothes, shoes, sandals, underwear, pants and sanitary napkins, medicines (especially anti-diarrhoea, antibiotics and antiseptics), first-aid kits, dressing sets, gauze and bandages, power generators communication equipment and water purifiers.

India

- > Concern about level of Indian government support to Andaman and Nicobar Islands with reported rises in casualties. PROTECT
- > Additional tremors still being felt in the vicinity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- > Tsunami warning issued this morning for south east coast region

Maldives

> UNDAC reports that funding has been pledged by China, Japan and the US, however the actual amount is unclear. A further \$450,000 been made available from other UN agencies.

Somalia

- > UN states that tsunami compounds an already serious humanitarian situation in Somalia
- > The Government of Somalia (based in Kenya) has appealed for international relief. The Puntland Government has also appealed for immediate international emergency assistance.

DFID RESPONSES TO DATE:

- > Following a request from WHO we have funded, procured and arranged transportation for 10 Emergency Health Kits to Jakarta. These are due to leave tonight arriving 19.00 Z 1st Jan.
- > Following the request from GoSL for international support, the aircraft loaded with tents and plastic sheeting sent by DFID arrived in Sri Lanka 28 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- > A First Choice Holidays plane, left Manchester Airport 29 December loaded with 17.28 tonnes (17,280 litres) of bottled water donated by Scottish Water, following an urgent request from the Government of the Maldives.

ITEMS FUNDED AND PROCURED BY DFID

Quantity	Item	Currency Value	Approximate £ Value	Further Information
1,000,000	Water purification tablets	EUR 8,000	5,500	In progress

392 Rolls	60x4m metre tarpaulin	EUR 98,000.00	68,000	
10	WHO New Emergency Health Kits		£113,000	Including airlift
20,000	4x5m tarps	USD 150,000	77,700	
246	Tents		£250,000 Including airli	
5000	Plastic sheets			including airlin
40,000	Mats	USD 35,200.00	18,200	The state of the s
4,500	Cook Sets	USD 46,125.00	23,900	in the second
5,040	10 litre collapsible water containers	USD 7,308.00	3,790	

- > Team of 3 CHAD humanitarian advisers deploying to Indonesia 29 December to support the DFID Office.
- > DFID dispatched an team to Sri Lanka on 26 December who are participating in a joint assessment. Full publication of their report is expected by 31 December.
- > The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx))
- > We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- > We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- > We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- > At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

DFID PLANNING

- Seeking funding channels for Somalia
- > Funding proposals for several agencies to be submitted today
- > We are putting together contingency plans for further airlifts (from both Europe and other regions) of shelter materials, water and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region.
- > Following a request from the UN, we, together with partners in the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) (Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, UK and The

Netherlands) are planning for the provision of field office equipment and support staff to be deployed to Aceh. The UK's contribution is likely to be arrangement and funding of an airlift. The costs of this airlift will be shared between the UK and The Netherlands, whilst equipment and staff will come from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

➤ We have now received a considerable number of project proposals from UK NGOs and Red Cross Movement, and we expect to be making funding decisions within the next few days. We have issued an invitation to NGOs in the UK to present concept notes and proposals for DFID funding across the region. These will be considered alongside those already received.

UN ACTIONS

General	FAO undertaking damage assessment missions in each of the affected countries.
	 UNICEF warns that lack of access to potable water may result in outbreaks of cholera and diarrhoea.
	 UN preparing to launch regional Flash Appeal – exact date not known as yet but it is likely to be around the weekend.
	 WHO preparing to supply 15 emergency health kits and 13 trauma kits to the affected region. WHO prioritises rapid health assessment by supporting local and national counterparts.
	 UNHCR to provide 18,000 plastic sheets, 17,000 plastic mats, rope, and NFIs for 2,000 families (incl. cooking sets, plastic jerry cans, mosquito nets and clothing).
	 The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) committed up to \$1 million and staff for rapid health assessments, hygiene needs and health supplies, including water purification tablets.
Indonesia	 UNDAC team in Aceh province undertaking assessments. This team will be reinforced by a further 5 members in due course as well as members of UNJLC.
	 29-31 December – OCHA arranging a joint rapid assessment mission to Banda Aceh (including NGOs and UN agencies).
	 UN agencies in Indonesia in a position to provide immediate assistance worth \$1 million.
	OCHA released \$50,000 and UNDP \$100,000 - emergency grants.
	UNDP to deploy recovery expert.
	 WFP assigned \$500,000 for food procurement and distribution. They are also preparing an emergency operation for \$12 million.
	 WHO/UNICEF to provide 10 health kits (100,000 people for 3 months). ETA 30 December.
	 UNICEF to send tarpaulins and family sets for 8,000 households, plus emergency health kits to supply 200,000 people for 2 weeks.
	Head of OCHA and Head of WFP to visit the region 29 December.
India	 UNICEF delivered 50 water tanks to Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu and expects to provide southern districts with hundreds of thousands of water purification tables, 1550 community water tanks, 200,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts, 30,000 blankets and medical supplies sufficient for 3 0health centres by 29 December.
	 UNICEF office, Chennai to host coordination team meeting to strengthen information flows.

Malaysia	UNDP has sent a mission to the affected areas/
Maldives	WFP to set up operation to deliver biscuits by 30 December.
	WFP: US\$500,000 for airlift of biscuits being arranged
	OCHA: US\$100,000 for immediate emergency response
	UNDP: US\$100,000 for disaster management coordination and supplies
	UNICEF: US\$100,000 for disaster management coordination and supplies
	UNFPA: US\$50,000 especially toward reproduction health
	WHO: US\$150,000 in medical supplies
	 UNDAC team indicates water shortages, contamination and waste disposal and issue, causing a significant health risk.
	 UNDAC team indicates possible escalation of diarrhoeal disease due to contaminated water sources, poor sanitation and water disposal.
	 UNDAC team indicates islanders have received 3 days food from the Government, but that children and baby food is in short supply.
	UNDAC team indicates a need for clothing supplies.
	 UNDAC team indicates 3860 buildings damaged, most of which could be re-inhabited with only minor repair.
	UNDAC indicates technical assistance required in IDP camps.
	 OCHA arranging airlift of NFIs and 5 WHO emergency health kits from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot, Brindisi (costs covered by Norwegian Government).
	 UNDP reports that 37 islands are completely without water supply with no water stocks available. UNDP state there is an URGENT need for 4,000 units of full 20-litre water containers as well as support to transport them to the 37 affected islands.

Cui Lamba	
Sri Lanka	 UNICEF have sent a 45 tonne shipment of carrying water related supplies and 20 tonnes of tarpaulins due to arrive 29December.
	WHO Sent 4 emergency health kits to Sri Lanka 28 December.
	UN staff to support establishment of a government operations centre.
	UNDP released emergency grant of \$100,000, OCHA released \$50,000
	28 December - UNICEF Belgium sent water purification material.
	 WFP assigned \$500,000 for food aid and is providing food for 500,000 people for 2 weeks.
	 OCHA arranging airlift of 15MT of NFIs and 5 WHO emergency health kits (costs covered by Norwegian Government).
	 A UNDAC team has been deployed, supported by a UNJLC 2 person team This team is to be reinforced with an additional member in due course.
	 At the request of the MOH, UNFPA is providing 25,000 personal hygiene packs for women and girls (value US \$160,000). It is anticipated that a tota of 150,000 personal hygiene packs in the total amount of US \$960,000 will be required.
	 UNFPA in collaboration with the MOH will be undertaking a rapid needs assessment covering RH requirements in the affected districts. UNFPA will consider deploying local staff to the most affected districts to assist in coordination efforts.
	 UNFPA is in the process of developing the Flash Appeal Proposal and mobilizing additional financial support.
	 UNICEF sent 2 relief flights with water purification tablets and orange rehydration salts 28 December.
	 UNICEF have reported that landmines in Sri Lanka pose a risk to relie efforts.
Thailand	 UNICEF assessing both immediate and long-term needs in the affected areas.
	WFP assigned \$500,000 for food procurement and distribution.
	UNDP released emergency grant of \$100,000
	 A UNDAC team has been deployed, with a UNJLC team on standby.
Burma	WFP leading UN Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Managemen Group, but adequate information still lacking from coastal regions affected by tsunami.
	 WFP & ICRC have allocated funds (\$0.5m and €3m), WHO & UNDP will allocate funds if an emergency declared.
	WFP have food stocks available and UNICEF, basic drugs and medica

	supplies.
	 UNICEF field officers to reach affected areas 29 December.
Somalia	UNICEF is undertaking an assessment of the affected areas and have provided oral rehydration salts, chlorine powder and essential drugs.
	WFP have relocated staff from Bossaso to Hafun
	OCHA leading the assessment and response.
	WFP - 29 December 31 MT food (of 1,000 MT available) dispatched to Hafun, Northern Somalia.
	WHO is transferring 3 emergency kits to Hafun

RED CROSS MOVEMENT ACTIONS

- ICRC establishes 'FamilyLinks' pages for India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand http://www.icrc.org/home.nsf/home/webfamilylinks
- ICRC, in coordination with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has begun to distribute aid (tarpaulins, buckets, cooking pots, and hygiene kits) to 1,000 families in eastern Sri Lanka, to 1,500 families in northern Sri Lanka and is assisting with the evacuation of the wounded. The organisation eventually plans to extend aid to 150,000 persons in the north and east of the country.
- IFRC to take lead role in Burma, but the UN will take over coordination, should the situation deteriorate.
- Turkish Red Crescent has launched a fund-raising campaign.
- Consolidated regional appeal launched by Red Cross for £23 million (under analysis)
- ICRC now present in Aceh reviewing with PMI undertaking assessment.
- Burmese Red Cross have Non food items (NFIs) for 1800 families on standby,
- Consolidated regional emergency appeal launched for CHF 50 million
- Federation to chair coordination meeting 28 December.
- FACT Team assembling in Jakarta in readiness for deployment to Aceh. A separate FACT Team already on the ground in Sri Lanka, plus an further FACT Team deploying to Maldives. The British Red Cross are pushing for deployment of a further FACT team to the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- British Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (logistics) arrived in Sri Lanka Further ERUs from other national societies (3 health, 2 watsan and 1 telecoms) are en route (ETA 30 December). Danish Red Cross logistics ERU deploying to Indonesia, possibly followed by watsan and health ERUs.
- ICRC to provide shelter items for 200,000 people in Indonesia.
- Belgian Red Cross will send 40 m3 material including 500 tents, 3,000 jerry cans and sheets to Colombo by plane (departure on December 29)
- 28 December Iranian Red Cross sent 220MT NFIs and food.

CASUALTIES

Information remains very fluid - communication links are generally down. Figures are constantly being updated. At 1900 GMT 28 December, the total death toll was being reported in the media as possibly surpassing 100,000, rough detail as follows:

Location	Dead Reported	Other	Confirmation
Sri Lanka	22,493 likely to reach 25,000+	800,000 displaced (unconfirmed)	AFP
Indonesia	45,000 UNICEF state likely to reach 80,000	3,000 missing 150,000 displaced 500,000 total affected 100,000 housing deficit	AFP
India	10,850	1000s missing	AFP
Thailand	2,000 6,000 missing likely dead	8,954 injured 5,000+ missing	AFP
Bangladesh	2		
Maldives	55	73 missing, 160 injured, 100,000 severely affected	AFP
Malaysia	65	29 missing, 183 injured	AFP
Somalia	114 more expected	5000 displaced	ОСНА
Burma	90		AFP
Kenya	1		
Tanzania	10		
Seychelles	1	44 injured	

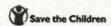


0870 606 0900



http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what you can do/give to oxfam/donate/asiaquake1204.htm

0870 333 2700



https://www.bmycharity.com/V2/main.aspx?p=donation&id=500946

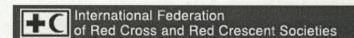
020 7012 6400



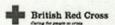
http://www.worldvision.org.uk/waystodonate/makeadonation/default.asp?AppealRef=ED

AQ

0800 088 088



http://www.ifrc.org/helpnow/donate/donate response.asp



08705 125125

Christian HAid

http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/give/appeals/seasia1.htm



VPM seen 29/12

SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI UPDATE AT 29 DECEMBER, 0745

Casualty Details

- Media now reporting over 68,000 dead across the affected region, but numbers continue to rise (some reports speculate that deaths could reach a six figure total). Overall, 20 Britons confirmed dead. Awaiting formal notification of about 20 more. Many more still unaccounted for (total may rise to over 100).
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are reports of up to 20,000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 3 Britons confirmed dead so far. Many tourists, including British nationals, are still arriving in Colombo from coastal resorts. Best estimate of Britons affected is 2,000. Tour operators arranging charter flights to bring out over 1100 over next 48 hours.
- In Maldives, there are over 3500 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. 3 Britons confirmed dead. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 35 dead and 59 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown) British tour operators are bringing out around 1100 Britons over the next 48 hours
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 1538 people (around 70% foreign tourists) have been killed and 8950 injured and around 1100 missing overall. 14 British nationals confirmed among the dead (formal notification likely to rise during the day). Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights.
- Also reports of many confirmed killed in Malaysia, but no Britons amongst them so far.
- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in Indonesia and India. But local casualty estimates are very high (43,000 in Indonesia alone).

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we are keeping in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT from London now operational supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another four-person RDT team on its way to Colombo on 28 December.
- A consular officer from Colombo has arrived in the Maldives and is assisting tourists to depart.
- Refuge Centre set up in Colombo. Increasing numbers of British national arriving in Colombo and awaiting charter arrangements out (see above).
- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

Volunteers to form an RDT for Bangkok and Phuket have arrived from Hong Kong (5), Manila (2), Singapore (1) and Kuala Lumpur (6). Members of FCO staff (on holiday) also helping in Embassy. Further staff on the way on 29 December from Delhi and Mumbai. The Ambassador is in Phuket with a large team and drivers. Some have gone on to Krabi further south and to Pangna and Khao Lak. An emergency office has been set up in Phuket.



- Britons are arriving in Bangkok from Phuket and are receiving assistance from the Embassy at Help Desks set up at Bangkok Airport.
- The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: 0207 008 0000.
- Police opened a second, third and fourth call centre on 28 December (all with same telephone number). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friends to get and provide information.

- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of

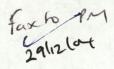
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre identified and increased during the week.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators.

DFID

- DFID have sent various advisors and development co-ordinators to the region.
- An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government (total value approx.£250k).
- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka.
- Agreed funding of £400k to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At request of current EU Presidency, the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- UK share (18%, value approx. £372k)) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal.
- On 29 November Hilary Benn is due to announce a HMG initial allocation of £15 million for immediate humanitarian needs across the region.

Consular Crisis Group/Response Centre





UK RESPONSE TO SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE

What UK is doing

26 December

Sri Lanka

- High Commission operating 24/7 emergency operation.
- 8 person RDT team from London to Colombo (arrived 27 Dec). Deployed in Colombo and to coastal area with HC team. Emergency centre set up in Colombo for British arriving from coast resorts.

Thailand

- Embassy operating 24/7 emergency operation
- 8 person team mobilised from within region (Hong Kong, Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai) (arrived 27 Dec). Ambassador led a 10 person team plus drivers to Phuket additional team of 3 arrived by air from Bangkok. Further reinforced with 4 personnel from Embassy on 27 Dec. Emergency office set up.
- UK desks set up at Bangkok airport to facilitate transfer of passengers back to UK

Maldives

- Consular officer from Colombo arrived 27 December. Assisting tourists board charter flights to UK.
- UK tour operators co-ordinating with FCO operating 5 charter flights from 26 Dec(to date). Aim to evacuate 1200 Britons by Friday 31 Dec

27 December

All Posts issuing emergency passports or letters of authority to British nationals without travel documents.

FCO co-ordinating with HM Immigration Service to facilitate entry to UK ports.

Financial assistance also provided to some on an "undertaking to repay" basis.

28 December

Sri Lanka

- Additional RDT team of 4 despatched to Colombo. ETA 29 December.
- UK tour operators, co-ordinating with FCO operating 4 charter flights from 27 Dec (to date). Aim to evacuate 1100 Britons by Friday 31 Dec.

What is an RDT team?

 Rapid Deployment Team. Trained team of London based FCO staff. Trained to handle consular crises (eg. humanitarian or terrorist incidents). Team is headed by an experienced, senior FCO officer. Group of up to 15 officers have combination of skills and expertise - mainly handling consular crises. But Press Officer also attached to co-ordinate media handling. RDT's also travel with specialist communications equipment.

UK RESPONSE

FCO

- FCO Consular Crisis Group open in addition to 24/7 FCO Response Centre.
- The Consular Emergency Response Team (12 call handlers) set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: 0207 008 0000.
- Police opened a second call centre on 27 December and a third and fourth on 28 December (total 300 call handlers on shift). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friend to get and provide information. Other callers are being directed elsewhere. At peak on 27/28 December Hendon call centre receiving over 10,000 calls per hour.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre identified immediately and increased hroughout the week.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators.

British Dead (at 28 Dec 1600hr)

17 British nationals confirmed dead

- 3 Maldives
- 2 Sri Lanka
- 12 Thailand (see below).
- Not in a position to confirm names.

Police Family Liaison Officers (FLO) will be assigned to bereaved families.

Other European deaths (at 28 Dec -1600hr)

- Netherlands 9 dead
- Germany 8
- France 10
- Italy 14

Casualty Details

- Media now reporting at least 50,000 dead across the affected region.
- But confirmed details still hard to come by.

What HMG doing on arrival in UK?

- Working with Dept of Health, the FCO is facilitating arrival and transfer to hospital of the seriously injured victims.
- Police authorities also meeting flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester.
- Red Cross and Travelcare (a UK charitable organisation) at Heathrow and Gatwick are providing assistance to victims (clothing, counselling facilities).

Repatriation of the dead?

- A team of police forensic identification experts travelling to Colombo and Bangkok to assist in the identification of the British victims.
- Working with International undertakers to repatriate the bodies once positively identified.

UK Humanitarian assistance?

- **DFID** despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka on 26 December. Two more staff on standby for Maldives.
- Following the request from GoSL for international support, despatched an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
- Provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- Provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- Agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

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CHAD OT SITUATION REPORT INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS 26 DEC 2004 2000 28 December 2004

SITREP No 5

N.B. We have changed the format in order to cut down on the volume of paper presented each time. The more dynamic parts of the sitrep, and the ongoing DFID responses and forward plans are now all presented at the beginning, and after today we will only reissue Part 1 each time. Changes from SITREP No 4 in *Bold Italics*.

PART 1

KEY ISSUES

- The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster but has not called for international assistance.
- The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance "for environmental disaster".
- The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance. The government has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to support evacuation of people.

DEVELOPMENTS

- Indonesia
 - UNDAC team (including some NGOs invitees) to deploy 29 December.
 - > Aceh entry restrictions relaxed
 - ICRC ready to send medical kits, but as yet there is nobody in place to distribute.
 - > Some UN expat staff have been allowed in to Aceh as have MSF. ICRC expect clearance 28 December (pm)
 - Deputy Prime Minister of Indonesia reported to fear some 25,000 dead in Sumatra.
 - Situation Update received from Head DFID Jakarta. Raw UN estimate of needs totals \$24 to 25 m over next 3 months. Some indications that access to foreigners being opened up – UN and MSF already, ICRC expected soon.
 - BBC World Service reports that Indonesian separatists, based in Sweden have declared a unilateral ceasefire.

Burma

- > IFRC to chair coordination meeting 28 December. UNICEF field officers to reach affected areas 29 December.
- Burmese Red Cross have NFIs for 1800 families on standby, WFP have food stocks available and UNICEF, basic drugs and medical supplies.
- > WFP & ICRC have allocated funds (\$0.5m and €3m), WHO & UNDP will allocate funds if an emergency declared.
- Post reports lack of confirmation by Government of casualty figures, but paints a picture of evidence of little damage to coastal areas, with assessments still to be conducted of remote areas.

Maldives

- > UNDP reports that 37 islands are completely without water supply with no water stocks available. UNDP state there is an URGENT need for 4,000 units of full 20-litre water containers as well as support to transport them to the 37 affected islands.
- > A UNDAC team has been deployed.

Sri Lanka

A UNDAC team has been deployed, supported by a UNJLC 2 person team

Thailand

> A UNDAC team has been deployed, with a UNJLC team on standby.

DFID RESPONSES TO DATE:

- > A team of 3 humanitarian advisers to deploy to Indonesia 29 December to support the DFID Office.
- > DFID has despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka.
- ➤ Following the request from GoSL for international support, we have despatched an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- > The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
- We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.

- ➤ We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- ➤ We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

DFID PLANNING

- > Following a request from WHO we continue to consider options to procure and airlift 10 Emergency Health Kits to Jakarta.
- > We are putting together contingency plans for further airlifts (from both Europe and other regions) of shelter materials and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region.
- > We are currently negotiating with Scottish Water and First Choice Holidays to arrange for spare cargo space on charter aircraft to be used to deliver bottled water to meet an urgent request from the Government of the Maldives.
- > Following a request from the UN, we, together with partners in the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) (Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, UK and The Netherlands) are planning for the provision of field office equipment and support staff to be deployed to Aceh. The UK's contribution is likely to be arrangement and funding of an airlift. The costs of this airlift will be shared between the UK and The Netherlands, whilst equipment and staff will come from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
- We have now received a considerable number of project proposals from UK NGOs, and we expect to be making funding decisions within the next few days.

UN

- UN preparing to launch regional Flash Appeal exact date not known as yet but it is likely to be around the weekend.
- WHO preparing to supply 15 emergency health kits and 13 trauma kits to the affected region and is sending 4 emergency health kits to Sri Lanka 28 December. WHO prioritises rapid health assessment by supporting local and national counterparts.
- 28 December The UN has sent an assessment team to Aceh. Head of OCHA and Head of WFP to visit the region 29 December

- UNHCR to provide 18,000 plastic sheets, 17,000 plastic mats, rope, and NFIs for 2,000 families (incl. cooking sets, plastic jerry cans, mosquito nets and clothing)
- The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) committed up to \$1 million and staff for rapid health assessments, hygiene needs and health supplies, including water purification tablets.

Red Cross Movement

- FACT Team assembling in Jakarta in readiness for deployment to Aceh. A separate FACT Team already on the ground in Sri Lanka, plus an further FACT Team deploying to Maldives. The British Red Cross are pushing for deployment of a further FACT team to the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- British Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (logistics) arrived in Sri Lanka – Further ERUs from other national societies (3 health, 2 watsan and 1 telecoms) are en route (ETA 30 December). Danish Red Cross logistics ERU deploying to Indonesia, possibly followed by watsan and health ERUs.
- ICRC to provide shelter items for 200,000 people in Indonesia.

CASUALTIES

Information remains very sketchy - communication links are generally down. Figures are constantly being updated. At 1830 GMT 28 December, the total death toll was being reported in the media as over 40,000, rough detail as follows:

Location	Dead Reported	Other	Confirmation
Sri Lanka	18000	800,000 displaced (unconfirmed)	
Indonesia	Vice President fears 25,000	300 missing 50,000 displaced 3000 from Banda Aceh alone	No confirmation, but reports indicate that this could be realistic estimate.
India	 Tamil Nadu - 2367 Andhra Pradesh - 69 Andaman & Nicobar Islands 3000 Kerala - 131 Total 5567 	810 missing 30,000 unconfirmed missing	Official government figures Media sources
Thailand	1439	8432 injured	
Bangladesh	2	Killed by the tsunami	
Maldives	52	73 missing, 160 injured, 100,000 severely affected	Government sources
Malaysia	59	29 missing, 183 injured	
Somalia	100		
Burma	57		Unicef
Kenya	1		
Tanzania	10		
Seychelles	1	44 injured	

PART 2

COUNTRY STATUS REPORTS

Indonesia	The earthquake affected the province of Aceh and
	neighbouring provinces, generating a (reported) five metre high Tsunami. The Gol has declared a national disaster – with local non-governmental contacts in Aceh reporting serious damage. The BBC has reported that most of the damage sustained in Banda Aceh is as a result of tsunami, rather than earthquake. We are in the process of trying to establish whether this is, in fact, the case.
India (From DFID India)	 No call for international assistance. Indian authorities are reported to have responded well to the initial rescue and relief phase. Response led by the security services, now with increasing assistance from Indian NGOs. The Indian Government has sent assistance to Sri Lanka, including naval search and rescue capacity and humanitarian goods.
	 EU Heads of Mission in Delhi met this morning. Discussion focused predominantly on the safety of EU nationals. We briefed that the Indian government had not asked for external assistance, but that we would consider any such request if it came. We also briefed that HMG's initial regional response was focused on relief to those countries worst hit and/or with inadequate domestic capacity to respond.
Sri Lanka	 The northern and eastern coasts of Sri Lanka have experienced very extensive flooding, with water penetrating far inland (up to 2km). Extensive coastal inundation with entire villages submerged, although waters are now beginning to recede. One NGO with a presence on the coast has reported "absolute devastation".
	Colombo airport remains open.
	There are some reports of looting in the wake of the flooding.
	 GoSL has appealed for emergency international assistance, and declared a national emergency; one million people, or 5 percent of the population, may be displaced, with as many as 20,000 injured.
Thailand	Government asked UN to coordinate response and has created an ad hoc task force and appointed a humanitarian relief coordinator to coordinate foreign assistance.
	To the north of Thailand, officials reported that one wave 5 to 10 metres high hit hotel-lined beaches on

	Phuket.
Maldives	The Maldives has experienced a large storm surge (unconfirmed reports of up to three metres).
	 Eyewitness reports of total destruction on some atolls.
	 North of Maldives badly hit - Two-thirds of the Maldives capital, Male, was flooded and officials voiced fears for the fate of dozens of low-lying, palm-ringed coral atolls crowded with international tourists for the Christmas holiday season.
	Airport reopened 27 December 2004
	 Groundwater is feared to have been contaminated and food warehouses flooded.
	The Maldivian High Commissioner has reported a shortage of doctors and nurses.
Bangladesh	 UN Resident Coordinator has received no reports of tsunami or high tides, though information is not complete.
Burma	 Information very sketchy, but (FCO information) no reports of major damage. Figures of deaths and other casualties still not confirmed or endorsed by Govt. Some remote areas still not assessed.
SEYCHELLES	Has experienced a 2m surge.
East Africa	Extreme high tides have been experienced along the East African coast.
Mauritius	Appears to have escaped unscathed.
Diego Garcia	No reports of damage.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE:

Entity	Action	
EU	EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) activated (9 MSs providing material support). Information Sheets now being received.	
ECHO	Dispatched Assessment mission to Sri Lanka. ECH assessment mission on standby for Indonesia. ECH assessment on standby for Tamil Nadu, Indicented €3 million to the IFRC Appeal — adecide on further €10 million by 30 December	
The United States said it would offer:	"All appropriate assistance" to Asian countries, with some aid already on its way to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. US has committed an initial \$100,000 to Sri	

	Lanka and \$100,000 to the Maldives. US is awaiting a revised Red Cross appeal, and will then consider
	further support. The US is deploying an emergency response (DART) team.
Kuwait has announced that it will:	Donate two million dollars as aid to the victims of Asian Quake that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and other countries.
Russian EMERCOM:	Has mobilised a SAR team, with helicopter and an airlift of tents and blankets.
Sweden:	Sent 1 IL76 to Colombo with 320 tents & 3900 blankets
World Economic Forum Airport Emergency Team:	Is expecting to leave DXB 0310 28/12 for Malé (assuming reopens as scheduled on 27/12) to help with the airport operations there as infrastructure is known to be poor.
Australia:	Sent 2 x C130 planes (water purification equipment, medical supplies, drinking water, emergency supplies, blankets and emergency stores. Announced AU\$ 10,000,000 (US\$ 7,600,000 (AU\$5,000,000 to Australian Red Cross, AU\$3,000,000 to Indonesian government and AU\$2,000,000 to Australian aid organisations).
France	100 French rescue workers (including French Red Cross) sent by Airbus A310 to Sri Lanka on 27 December with 6.4 tonnes of equipment and other materials, (including 800 kilos of medicines).
Government of Japan	Emergency assistance survey team sent to Indonesia on 27 December. Has offered emergency assistance equivalent value \$26,000,000 (approx \$250,000) to Indonesia, \$14,700,000 (approx \$140,000) to Sri Lanka, \$9,700,000 (approx \$95,000) to Maldives (tents, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, electric generators, water purifiers and portable water tanks, blankets, plastic jerry cans.
Indian Government	Sent surgical teams, 20 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the Maldives and dispatched three naval ships to the Maldives and four to Sri Lanka to help in the rescue and relief operations.
China	Donated food, cash, tents and sleeping mats worth \$2,700,000 to India, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Maldives.
Denmark	Offered a preliminary amount of approx \$1.8m. A Danish emergency expert has been dispatched with an UNDAC team to the affected area.
Czech Republic	Offered approx \$440,000 to the affected area and will send 8 tonnes bottled water per day until at least 1 January 2005
Greece	Granted \$150,000 each to Sri Lanka and India. Dispatched a C130 with food, NFIs, medical supplies and medical personnel to Sri Lanka and the Maldives
Germany	Granted an initial \$1.4 million in emergency aid to the region.
Portugal	Sent 4.6 tonnes NFIs & 6.9 tonnes medical aid to Sri Lanka



NGOs

NGO Responses are focussing on temporary shelter, food, and water and sanitation: Responses noted to date include:

Oxfam	Initiated an intervention in Sri Lanka (anticipated £350,000);
Christian Aid	Sending immediate relief of up to £250,000 to Sri Lanka and India for relief efforts.
MSF	A cargo plane carrying 32 tons of medical and sanitation materials for the MSF intervention will set off for Southeast Asia as soon as possible.
SCF	Seeking to charter a plane carrying relief supplies.
Islamic Relief	Launched an appeal to raise €1,000,000 for the affected population. An initial €200,000 has been allocated for relief intervention in the region and to help rehabilitate victims of the disaster. A further €20,000 of emergency aid will be sent to affected people in Sri Lanka.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

Sri Lanka	 The Government of Sri Lanka has mobilised 700 doctors, many of whom have been airlifted to affected areas. There are 500 nurses on standby. Military and airforce mobilised, but only have six helicopters for SAR. India has offered six more, and two naval vessels.
	 The Tamil Tigers (LTTE) have appealed for international assistance.
India	 Authorities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were carrying out relief and rescue operation or a war footing, the minister said A large number of government humanitariar response arms continue monitoring and are or standby pending more information. More than 2000km of south-eastern coastline has been swamped by tsunami waves.
	 A large number of Search and Rescue organisations are also on standby pending more information.
Indonesia	Has declared national emergency, allowing vice-President to mobilise all resources to focus of rescue and relief; to direct the armed forces and police to mobilise civic actions in affected areas; to direct all ministries including nationa logistical board to mobilise all efforts for relief Medan City (Capital of North Sumatra) has

been designated as the Operation Centre.
 It is reported that thousands of military, police and rescue workers were dispatched to Aceh, as authorities "feared the death toll was likely to rise".

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Immediate

- Medical support and equipment, including medicines
- Assessment and coordination
- Communication needs
- · Water and sanitation
- Emergency Food
- Emergency shelter

Likely Secondary Humanitarian Issues

- · Large scale displacement of people to temporary shelters
- · Disease and epidemics
- Destruction of crops/ food supplies
- Deterioration of law and order
- Deterioration of situations where civil unrest/ war have already destabilised the environment – e.g. Aceh, Sri Lanka. Possibility of Human Rights Abuses?

CHAD OT December 2004

UK RESPONSE TO SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE

PRESS LINES (at 1800hr) 28 December

British Dead

17 British nationals confirmed dead

Breakdown:-

- 3 Maldives
- 2 Sri Lanka
- 12 Thailand

Confirm details?

• For the time being we are unable to confirm any names of victims of the family.

Likely to be hundreds dead?

Don't know - cannot speculate.

Casualty Details

- Media now reporting at least 59,000 dead across the affected region.
- But confirmed details still hard to come by. Communications still difficult in the worst affected areas.

UK assistance in the Region?

Chronology:-

26 December

Sri Lanka

- High Commission has been operating a 24hr emergency system since 26 December.
- Continually sending buses to pick up British tourists as they become available
- Deployed **three emergency teams** who are scouring the resorts for any British and others who may be in need of help. They have basic first aid equipment.
- A plane is on its way with 50 tonnes of emergency shelter.
- UK officials here are acting as focal point for all donations from other governments, working closely with the UN to assess and send the resources where they are most needed.
- We also have an emergency team in the Maldives.

 8 person Rapid Deployment Team (RTD) from London deployed to Colombo (arrived 27 Dec). Teams deployed in Colombo and to coastal areas with HC team. Emergency centre set up in Colombo for British nationals arriving from coast resorts.

What is an RDT team?

Team of London based FCO staff. Trained to handle consular crises
 (humanitarian or terrorist incidents – previously deployed to Istanbul bombing of
 British Consulate, Austrian coach crash). Team is headed by an experienced,
 senior FCO officer. Group of up to 15 officers have combination of skills and
 expertise - mainly handling consular crises. But Press Officer also attached to co ordinate media handling. RDT's also travel with specialist communications
 equipment.

Other help:

- Military helicopters and planes are evacuating foreign nationals from the worst affected areas (Ampara, Unawatuna, Galle)
- Tour companies have chartered buses to pick up tourists from hotels, putting on chartered flights.
- International Conference Hall in Colombo is providing around 80 Brits with free medical supplies, food, and water. Doctors and Sri Lankan airlines are present.
- Govt of Colombo has set up a hotline for foreign nationals: Sri Lanka 5361938 2437 336 British High Commission general number.

Q&A

How many British involved altogether?

- We do not have exact figures on the number of British nationals involved but the figure is rising all the time.
- The devastation is spread along hundreds of miles of coastline a lot of it impassable by road, with hundreds of tourist resorts.
- Lack of communications over last 48 hours situation slowly becoming clear as people coming in to the High Commission.

How many British Nationals injured?

- Likely to be in the thousands mostly minor injuries.
- Hospitals throughout the region are seriously under strain.
- Our staff are visiting hospitals wherever they can.
- As people arrive at the High Commission we are undertaking initial medical assessments, providing emergency treatment where we can, and transferring to local hospitals.

How many Brits are trying to get out of the country? How will they get out if the flights are booked up?

People are turning up at the airport. We have staff at the airport helping them to get on the first available flight.

What are people doing if they turn up at the High Commission in Colombo?

- Medical assistance (as above)
- Helping those who have lost possessions with emergency travel documents
- Help with getting emergency funds from the UK
- · Helping to find accommodation
- Transport to the airport.

Is the UK Government putting on extra flights?

[Still to be confirmed.]

Is it true a British flight is arriving with tents and sheets?

Yes, UK Govt has sent a plane with 50 tonnes of emergency shelter, which is due to be set up in the worst affected area. We are working closely with the UN. We are working to target resources quickly and effectively.

Are you helping other nationalities?

We are in regular contact with all other missions in Colombo, sharing info, briefing meetings with commonwealth countries, EU and US.

UK officials here are acting as the focal point for all donations from other countries.

Thailand

- Embassy operating 24hr emergency operation
- 8 person team mobilised from personnel working in region (British consulates/embassies in Hong Kong, Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai) (arrived 27 Dec). Ambassador led a 10 person team plus drivers to Phuket additional team of 3 staff arrived by air from Bangkok. Further personnel [3 or 4] from Embassy sent on 27 Dec. Emergency office established.
- UK desk set up at the airport to facilitate transfer of passengers back to UK

Maldives

- Consular officer from Colombo arrived 27 December. Assisting tourist boarding charter flights to UK.
- UK tour operators co-ordinating with FCO operating 5 charter flights from 26 Dec (to date). Aim to evacuate 1200 Brits by Friday 31 Dec

27 December

- All Posts issuing emergency passports or "letters of authority" to British nationals without travel documents to enable them to travel to UK.
- FCO co-ordinating with HM Immigration Service to facilitate entry to UK ports.
- Financial assistance also provided to some on an "undertaking to repay" basis.

28 December

Sri Lanka

Stephen Evans, High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives, said on the Today programme (07.10 28/12/04)

- "We are helping British Nationals affected by the disaster to get to Colombo and then back home. We are also working with the international community on humanitarian assistance."
- "The Sri Lankan Immigration Authorities have been very helpful. The British High Commission are issuing British Nationals who have lost their passports with a piece of paper which will allow them to get back to the UK.
- "We have deployed 3 teams to the South and South West where the majority of the resorts are based. Working to get people back to Colombo hope we will get the majority back to Colombo by Wednesday/Thursday."
- " Emergency office at the Embassy has been set up. Team is helping British Nationals with arrangements to get back home." END
- Additional RDT team of 4 despatched to Colombo. ETA 29 December.
- UK tour operators, co-ordinating with FCO operating 4 charter flights from 27 Dec(to date). Aim to evacuate 1100 Brits by Friday 31 Dec.

UK Operation:-

Call Centres

• Almost 350 [*348] police and civilian staff dedicated Central Casualty Bureau (Hendon) call to handle calls from relatives.

Criticism that people cannot get through to the Emergency response number.

- There has been a huge number of calls which has meant that not everyone has been able to be connected as quickly as we would like. There are large numbers of British Nationals in the region at this time, all with concerned family and friends and this has meant many thousand of calls to the emergency number. Ask that everyone remain patient.
- Have been receiving 17,000 calls per hour. More than during 9/11 crisis.
- The Emergency number is receiving many non emergency calls. For travel advice for the region please contact 0870 6060290 or access the FCO website at www.fco.gov.uk/travel.

• We trying to sift calls by asking non-urgent callers - potential travellers seeking travel advice should call another dedicated number.

Why not open more lines/centres?

• We are exploring opening more call centres. Police call centres are professionally trained staff.

Why you get it wrong?

- Do not believe we got wrong. Chronology on 26 Dec was:-
- 0415hr London altered to the earthquake.
- 0830hr Emergency Response Team in London operational.
- 1400hr Central Casualty Bureau operational.

UK Response

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: **0207 008 0000**.
- Police have opened a secondary call centre and will open a third on 28 December (all same number). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friend to get and provide information. Other callers are being directed elsewhere.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre identified for Monday. Numbers increased for Tuesday and Wednesday Crisis Group will remain open.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in. Advising people not to travel to Maldives.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators.
- Police Family Liaison Officers (FLO) will be assigned to bereaved families.

What the FLO role?

Families are being supported by Police Family Liaison Officer in partnership with the FCO case workers. They assist with repatriation of deceased, material for identifications etc. Two way flow between investigation officers and the family.

UK Government?

- DPM has held morning meetings to be briefed on latest developments in the region (inc British casualties) and UK effort on the ground.
- DPM is in daily contact with the PM to brief him.

Other European deaths (at 28 Dec -1600hr)

- Netherlands 9 dead
- Germany 8
- France 10
- Italy 14

Brits returning to UK?

- By Friday we expect 1100 from Sri Lanka and 1200 from Maldives by charter flights
- Thailand most are leaving on scheduled flights around [???] expected.

What we doing on arrival in UK?

- Working with Dept of Health the FCO is facilitating arrival and transfer to hospital of the seriously injured victims.
- Police authorities also meeting flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester.
- Red Cross and Travelcare (*a UK charitable organisation) at Heathrow and Gatwick are providing assistance to victims (clothing, counselling facilities).

Heathrow Reception Centre:

- There has been a professional multi-agency response, co-ordinated by the Metropolitan Police Service and Heathrow Airport Limited, to those persons returning to London Heathrow Airport from areas affected by the tsunami disaster.
- Two reception centres, manned by specialist staff from a number of agencies, have been created. The reception centres are situated in Terminal 3 and Terminal 4 to meet and assess the needs of those persons returning from the affected areas. They can also meet with their relatives and loved ones at the reception centres
- Every effort is being made by agencies to meet all persons returning from the disaster area assess their needs and provide appropriate care.
- The reception centres are staffed by a number of agencies that can provide care, advice, counselling and support.
- The agencies involved include The Red Cross, who are providing medical advice and treatment and clothing, Travelcare, who provide a social and counselling care

service within the airport environment, the Metropolitan Police Service, British Airport Authority, London Ambulance Service and London Borough of Hillingdon Local Authority.

- Provisions are also in place to help people return to their homes and if need be a locksmith to help them gain entry into their homes.
- The spiritual well being of those returning from the disaster area is addresses by a multi-faith chaplain service. The service is available within the environs of the airport at a multi-faith chapel.

Repatriation of the dead?

- A team of police forensic identification experts travelling to Colombo and Bangkok to assist in the identification of the British victims.
- Working with International undertakers to repatriate the bodies once positively identified.
- International community also received request from Thai government for assistance from foreign forensic experts.

UK Humanitarian assistance?

Key messages

- DfID have contributed £827,000 in aid to the affected region
- They have also contributed to the humanitarian effort by despatching an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents.
- They will also meet requests from the WHO to supply Emergency Health Kits

Lines to take:

- DFID despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka on 26 December. Two more staff on standby for Maldives.
- Following the request from GoSL for international support, we have despatched an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
- We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- Our two-man assessment team has arrived in Sri Lanka.

DFID Planning

• A team of two assessment and emergency response advisers remains on stand by for deployment to the region if required. We are considering project proposals from a number of UK NGOs, and we expect to receive more concept notes and proposals in the coming days.

Following a request from WHO we are considering a request to procure and airlift 10 Emergency Health Kits to Jakarta. We are putting together contingency plans for further airlifts (from both Europe and other regions) of shelter materials and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region.

What is the UK response to these tragedies?

Hilary Benn said on World At One (13.20 on 27 December 2004)

"We are sending a plane to Sri Lanka carrying tents, sheets of plastic covering. Via the EU we have given £400,000 to the Red Cross Appeal. We have also provided funding to the World Health Organisation. We have dispatched 2 people to the UN disaster team. This is part of a huge international response. We will look at all requests we receive. An assessment on the ground is the right thing in the circumstances."

PRESS RELEASES TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2004

STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVES IN ASIA.

Jack Straw said:

"For all the huge advances in the control of our lives through science and technology an earthquake on this scale is truly humbling as well as profoundly tragic for everyone involved.

Messages of condolence from the British Government have been sent to the governments of India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives along with offers of practical assistance. These are being co-ordinated between the FCO, DFID and MOD.

As soon as the news came through in the small hours of this morning our emergency plans for such as situation were activated. In London Consular officials were called back from leave, regional Rapid Deployment Teams in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur put on stand-by. Our Ambassador in Thailand, David Fall and staff are on their way to Phuket. Every effort is being made by British High Commission Staff in Columbo, Sri Lanka (which also covers the Maldives) to provide assistance.

Our staff in London are in close touch with Association of British Travel Agents and the airlines.

For the tens of thousands of British tourists in South East Asia and their relatives and friends here this will I know be a very worrying time. We are doing everything we can to assist but the disruption to communication in the worst affected areas is inevitably making it difficult to confirm exactly the situation on the ground."

HILARY BENN SAID:

"It is clear that many people have lost their lives in this terrible tragedy, while hundreds of thousands of others are now having to deal with the aftermath.

We are doing all we can to offer practical help and support. DFID's disaster response team have been working since early this morning. We have sent two people to join the UN Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination teams heading for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and two other assessment teams are on standby. We have already agreed to help fund the World Health Organisation response team (USD100,000) and we are looking to see if we can charter civilian helicopters to help in search and rescue operations in Sri Lanka."

TRANSCRIPT FROM TODAY PROGRAMME: FOREIGN SECRETARY INTERVIEW

TRANSCRIPT

Programme(s)	Straw on Today		
Date & time	Monday 27 December 2004 0820		
Subject / interviewee	South East Asia Quake – Jack Straw		
Prepared by:	MMU		
Contact numbers:	020 7276 1080		

Jim Naughtie: Foreign Secretary, good morning.

Jack Straw: Good morning.

JN: What's the latest that you've been hearing about British casualties or about the scenes in general in some of these countries?

JS: Well, the latest, in terms of casualties, as your reporter Bob Sinkinson announced earlier is that we have four confirmed deaths, excuse me, and that number is likely to rise. We have had a number of reported deaths, that is deaths of British nationals reported to our embassies and High Commissions, but they've not yet been confirmed. The numbers will be higher and as well as that there are obviously quite a number injured. In Phuket there are 69 British people who have been counted as injured by David Fall, our Ambassador in Thailand, and his staff have literally been going around the hospitals. The situation is inevitably, although sadly for the relatives and friends concerned, still a very confused one and will remain so until the full scale of the damage becomes clear..

JN: .. because some of the outlying areas of course aren't able to be penetrated and we simply don't know what's going on

JS: Yes, in Thailand I was talking to David Fall, our Ambassador, just about half an hour ago um, in Phuket the damage has been very localised he said, it covers an area of three to four hundred yards along the coast and every where else in Phuket thankfully is okay but it is the outlying areas which have suffered the greatest damage and by definition they are both outlying but also now at the moment very difficult to maintain communications with. But let me say although the number of casualties appears to have been mercifully low if you happen to be a British national, uh as far as British nationals are concerned, uh British national, and you have, or your relatives or friends have been injured, or still worse you've lost somebody, it's obviously terrible and we are doing everything we can to assist. And I was very struck in your

report a moment ago by the story of Jeanette Orr (sp?) who is in Phuket and who literally saw her daughter swept away .. these are not things people go on holiday for ..

JN:.. indeed we will give people the emergency number which they can contact after we've finished talking. And of course the scene in general across Asia in many countries is one of terrible devastation and governments begging for help.. I mean not not just simple cash, although they will need resources to repair things, but for medical supplies and for assistance with the rescue and clean up operation.

JS: Yes, cash itself is the thing that is easy to provide, um again, I was talking to Hilary Benn our international development secretary earlier this morning, the more difficult thing to provide is things that come in very short supply in circumstances like this like helicopters and we are ready to provide helicopters in a number of these areas. It is simply accessing the helicopters because those that are commercial helicopters which we would normally use are obviously being used in any event by the emergency services. It has to be said that an earthquake and the tidal wave following on a scale of this is unusual but it also illustrates how we are at the mercy of natural forces however much we think that these days, particularly in the west, that we have control over our own lives through the great advances in science and technology. We do have greater control of our lives but compared to the enormity of natural forces of this kind we are literally sort of pawns in a greater universe and what has happened is terrible it is also I think very humbling to see. From the British government point of view, along with the European Union, we are doing everything that we can to help. Teams of people are going out to various countries from the Department for International Development as well as Foreign Office people to gain assessments and we are also relying on the non-governmental organisations in those areas. What Hilary Benn was saying to me earlier this morning is that obviously what is critical is that you wait a short while so that you can direct the assistance that you have in the best possible way, that is, you don't sent blankets when they need shelters or shelters when they need blankets.

JN: A very quick question Mr Straw because we are hearing from Ukraine that the election is pretty well decided. The result is apparently clear and it's not one that is going to be challenged and the opposition has won. What is your reaction to that?

JS: My reaction is this that we will respect any result that is based on a fair decision by the Ukrainian people ant that's always been our position. We've not been backing one candidate or another ..

JN: ..unlike the President of Russia ..

JS: Well, leave him aside for a second. We've been backing free and fair elections and it looks as though that there will have been a free and fair election in Ukraine. A quite remarkable turn around of events given where we were just six weeks ago.

JN: Foreign Secretary, thank you very much.

-ends-

PRESS OFFICE

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Fox 10 PM

CHAD OT SITUATION REPORT INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS 26 DEC 2004 06.00 hrs 29 December 2004

SITREP No 6

N.B. We have changed the format in order to cut down on the volume of paper presented each time. The report covers key issues, developments, DFID responses to date, planned responses and UN and Red Cross actions. Changes from SITREP No 5 in *Bold Italics*. Country and International response data (previous part 2) is available on request from CHAD OT.

KEY ISSUES

- The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster but has not called for international assistance. Increased access to affected regions approved, assessments underway.
- The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance "for environmental disaster".
- The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance. The government has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to support evacuation of people.
- Consolidated regional appeal launched by Red Cross for £23 million (under analysis)
- UK Disasters Emergency Committee public appeal launched (0870 606 0900)
- Scale of disaster in Indonesia (Sumatra) being acknowledged by authorities, some areas only now being reached. DFID team leaving today.

DEVELOPMENTS

- Indonesia
 - Some areas of Surabaya only now being reached by authorities, scale of disaster emerging
 - > UNDAC team in Aceh province undertaking assessments
 - > Aceh entry restrictions relaxed for existing organisations. Airport status unclear.
 - > ICRC now present in Aceh reviewing with PMI undertaking assessment

- > Second Situation Update received from Head DFID Jakarta, Seeking CHAD support and concerns over local capacities
- Some UN expat staff have been allowed into Aceh as have MSF. ICRC expect clearance 28 December (pm)
- Deputy Prime Minister of Indonesia reported to fear some 25,000 dead in Sumatra.
- ➤ BBC World Service reports that Indonesian separatists, based in Sweden have declared a unilateral ceasefire.

Burma

- > Federation to chair coordination meeting 28 December. UNICEF field officers to reach affected areas 29 December.
- ➤ Burmese Red Cross have Non food items (NFIs) for 1800 families on standby, WFP have food stocks available and UNICEF, basic drugs and medical supplies.
- WFP & ICRC have allocated funds (\$0.5m and €3m), WHO & UNDP will allocate funds if an emergency declared.
- Post reports lack of confirmation by Government of casualty figures, but paints a picture of evidence of little damage to coastal areas, with assessments still to be conducted of remote areas.

Maldives

- ➤ UNDP reports that 37 islands are completely without water supply with no water stocks available. UNDP state there is an URGENT need for 4,000 units of full 20-litre water containers as well as support to transport them to the 37 affected islands.
- > A UNDAC team has been deployed.

Sri Lanka

- > Authorities struggling to coordinate emergency response
- > A UNDAC team has been deployed, supported by a UNJLC 2 person team
- > 22,000 confirmed dead. 1 million homeless

Thailand

> A UNDAC team has been deployed, with a UNJLC team on standby.

India

- Concern about level of Indian government support to Andaman and Nicobar Islands with reported rises in casualties (protect)
- > Additional tremors being felt

DFID RESPONSES TO DATE:

- > Approval for a team of 3 CHAD humanitarian advisers to deploy to Indonesia 29 December to support the DFID Office.
- > DFID has despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka.
- ➤ Following the request from GoSL for international support, we have despatched an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- > The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
- We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- ➤ We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- ➤ We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

DFID PLANNING

- > Following a request from WHO we continue to consider options to procure and airlift 10 Emergency Health Kits to Jakarta.
- We are putting together contingency plans for further airlifts (from both Europe and other regions) of shelter materials and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region.
- We are currently negotiating with Scottish Water and First Choice Holidays and others to arrange for spare cargo space on charter aircraft to be used to deliver bottled water to meet an urgent request from the Government of the Maldives.
- Following a request from the UN, we, together with partners in the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) (Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, UK and The Netherlands) are planning for the provision of field office equipment and support staff to be deployed

to Aceh. The UK's contribution is likely to be arrangement and funding of an airlift. The costs of this airlift will be shared between the UK and The Netherlands, whilst equipment and staff will come from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

We have now received a considerable number of project proposals from UK NGOs and Red Cross Movement, and we expect to be making funding decisions within the next few days.

UN

- UN preparing to launch regional Flash Appeal exact date not known as yet but it is likely to be around the weekend.
- WHO preparing to supply 15 emergency health kits and 13 trauma kits to the affected region and is sending 4 emergency health kits to Sri Lanka 28 December. WHO prioritises rapid health assessment by supporting local and national counterparts.
- 28 December The UN has sent an assessment team to Aceh. Head of OCHA and Head of WFP to visit the region 29 December
- UNHCR to provide 18,000 plastic sheets, 17,000 plastic mats, rope, and NFIs for 2,000 families (incl. cooking sets, plastic jerry cans, mosquito nets and clothing)
- The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) committed up to \$1 million and staff for rapid health assessments, hygiene needs and health supplies, including water purification tablets.

Red Cross Movement

- Consolidated regional emergency appeal launched for CHF 50 million
- FACT Team assembling in Jakarta in readiness for deployment to Aceh. A separate FACT Team already on the ground in Sri Lanka, plus an further FACT Team deploying to Maldives. The British Red Cross are pushing for deployment of a further FACT team to the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- British Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (logistics) arrived in Sri Lanka Further ERUs from other national societies (3 health, 2 watsan and 1 telecoms) are en route (ETA 30 December). Danish Red Cross logistics ERU deploying to Indonesia, possibly followed by watsan and health ERUs.
- ICRC to provide shelter items for 200,000 people in Indonesia.

CASUALTIES

Information remains very fluid - communication links are generally down. Figures are constantly being updated. At 1830 GMT 28 December, the total death toll was being reported in the media as over 68,000, rough detail as follows:

Location	Dead Reported	Other	Confirmation
Sri Lanka	22,000 likely 25,000+	800,000 displaced (unconfirmed)	
Indonesia	30,000 (unconfirmed)	3000 missing 150,000 displaced 3000 from Banda Aceh alone	No confirmation, but reports indicate that this could be realistic estimate.
India	Tamil Nadu - 2367 Andhra Pradesh - 69 Andaman & Nicobar Islands 7000 Kerala - 131 Estimated Total 11,499	810 missing 30,000 unconfirmed missing	Official government figures Media sources
Thailand	1516	8432 injured	
Bangladesh	2	Killed by the tsunami	
Maldives	52	73 missing, 160 injured, 100,000 severely affected	Government sources
Malaysia	59	29 missing, 183 injured	
Somalia	122		
Burma	57		Unicef
Kenya	1		
Tanzania	10		
Seychelles	1	44 injured	

MEDIA MONITORING UNIT



& COMMUNICATION SERVICE

0700 EDITION - Wednesday 29th DECEMBER 2004

TSUNAMI

Headlines

More than 68 000 now confirmed dead in Asia after tsunami .. disease is now biggest threat .. aid orgs step up efforts to reach victims .. Indonesia suffers more than any other country .. officials in Sri Lanka say nearly 22 000 killed .. in Thailand more than 1500 .. at least 18 Brits known to have died (R5 0600) ... Three days later, world prepares to offer help – (Ti splash) ... UN to launch largest aid appeal (FT splash) ... 60 000 dead & 100s of Britons are still missing .. Attenborough mourns his family & 1000s more wait for news (Tele) ... Attenborough nightmare .. famous family's agony symbolises global tragedy (Mail splash) ... The true horror emerges – Death toll approaches 60 000 w/ health chiefs warning disease cld kill as many ppl again if fresh water & medicine does not reach stricken areas soon (Guard splash) ... 60 000 .. half of victims are kids .. Attenborough girls dies (Sun splash) ... The lost generation – up to half 60 000 victims are children (Indy splash) ... My Agony – Lord Attenborough's grief as daughter & granddaughter die (Exp splash) ... Stolen by the sea (Mirr splash)

Coverage

Lord Attenborough confirms 14 yo granddaughter killed in Thailand .. daughter & her mother-in-law feared dead (all) ... 17 Brits confirmed dead .. WHO says focus shld be on preventing spread of disease ... Clinton calls for wealthy countries to take responsibility for indy states ... insurers put cost at £7bn (Guard) ... WHO say disease cld kill as many again ... quick thinking by officials in Kenya may have saved 100s of lives after navy, police & ports auth institute emergency precautions (Tele) ... Long-term damage to land as salt water scours fields (FT) ... Scientist warns mns of Britons & Americans cld be killed by huge tidal waves if a mountain in the Atlantic Ocean collapses as predicted .. Prof Bill McGuire calls for early warning system to be installed .. weather forecasters in Thailand may have delayed warning for fear it cld damage tourism (Mail)

Aid

Tandon: UN talking abt need for £bns but if look at figs countries are donating at moment, we're not getting even close to those no.s (R5 0615) ... 'Stingy' Britain attacked over £1mn aid pledge – Govt has so far pledged just £1mn towards an intl relief effort expected to cost 10s of £bns .. Tory MPs condemn amount as 'peanuts' & Jan Egeland, UN begged 'rich' nations to do more .. **GB** insists Govt wld put 'whatever money necessary' behind intl effort (Mail p2ld) ... UN prepares one of biggest aid ops in its history .. after halting response to tragedy, world finally appears to be coming to grips w/ enormity of op required .. UN says cost will probably be many \$bns .. **Benn** tells *Ti* big challenge wld be to pool resources effectively (Ti splash) ... Govt efforts to provide aid to Sri Lanka & Indonesia cld carry signif political implications for the regions .. key issue will be how Indonesian & Sri Lanka govts organise distribution (FT) ... Relief starts to flow after shaky start – Big British aid agencies say they are running to catch up after it took charities almost 72hrs to coordinate relief efforts .. Disaster Emergency Ctte swings into action .. Mins insist Govt response not hampered by holiday absences .. **Benn** cuts holiday short & **Prescott** chairs 2nd emergency steering grp .. Christian Aid denies any probs caused by DEC not be mobilised till ystdy (Ti) ... Experts warn disorganisation could cost lives .. w/out a firm ld from UN many more lives cld be lost (Guard) ... World answers urgent plea for aid .. aid orgs race agst time to deliver vital relief (Tele)... UN warns wld require world's biggest aid op ever (Tele, FT) ... World unites to help save the stricken as disease threatens (Indy, Mirr) ... 100s of planes carrying aid head for stricken countries (Sun)

Call centre

w/ 100s of British holidaymakers still missing, distraught families jam emergency helpline .. operators deal w/ 4 600 calls in 1 hr(Tele p1)... Pleas from relatives overwhelm call centre .. w/ **Howarth** voicing fierce criticisms, no.s of staff taking calls was more than doubled .. FCO declined to respond to criticisms ystdy but likely to argue no org cld have been fully prepared for aftermath of such an event (Guard) ... *Indy*: Worried families deserve better from FCO .. Central Casualty Bureau has hardly covered itself in glory when its first real emergency struck.

Comment

Alan Duncan: IS money enough? Spoke to Benn ystdy & he made it clr that if orgs come & say "this is what we want to spend money on, can we do it now?" he will say yes .. got to have money there .. need to stick it in kitty for aid agencies right away .. this is v complex relief challenge .. Who shid take Id? It is everybody .. has to be collective will .. if we have world ldr in TB he shld be up there saying "come on ev body in the world" .. don't see that happening .. FCO helpline? Has been swamped & there are lessons to be learned .. not as important as helping ppl out there (R5 0635 i/v) ... Benn: Intl cmnty is helping .. we are all playing our part .. there will be next phase of sppt (Mirr) ... David Bull, Unicef: Sitn is critical & we in UK can help grieving survivors (Tele letter)... Alice Miles: It is hard to find the words .. the PM on his Egyptian sunbed .. has not even bothered to try ..words are not enough anyway .. give money (Ti) ... Philip Stott: We in the West have particular moral responsibility to assist (Ti) ... Ti: Need for coordinated action in Indian Ocean is now critical .. world ldrs have so far only groped towards a coherent plan of action .. not least bose most of them have been on holiday .. that holiday ends tdy ... Guard: Warning system cld have saved 1000s .. lessons must be learned & quickly applied .. UN conf on Disaster reduction cld not be more timely .. world must do what decency requires to be done ... Tele: There was nothing we cld do to prevent the tidal waves but we can prevent as epidemic ... FT: Time is of the essence to prevent catastrophe worsening as death toll rises & disease fears grow ... Mail: Our moral duty is to save lives & help these benighted nations pick up the pieces ... Exp: We must do what we can to alleviate suffering ... Sun: Many helped tourists .. we owe it to them to repay that kindness

OTTOFOREIGN

Iraq

Nearly 30 killed & 18 injured in explosion in Baghdad .. blast happened during police raid (R5 0630) ... Iraq's trade ministry transfers \$100s of mns earmarked for food rations into 3 Lebanese banks .. raises concerns abt lack of transparency .. comes amid fears of food shortages (FT) ... Iraqi insurgents launch series of attacks on security forces near Saddam's home town .. more than 20 killed .. comes after Bin Laden again urges Muslims to wage holy way agst US forces & their allies (Ti, Sun) ... Bin Laden call met by wave of bloodshed (Tele) ... Ti special rpt on Baghdad finds tragic deaths are still all too common .. every Iraq who visits our office has his own tale to tell of the grim realities of the city (Ti) ... Bloody attacks claim 22 in Iraq .. insurgents continue attacks on Iraq's fledgling security services .. comes day after Bin Laden tape(Guard) ... 2 police stations attacked in bid to scare Sunni voters (Indy) ... Bin Laden reveals al Qaeda spends £20 000/dy attacking UK & US forces in Iraq (Mail)

Ukraine

Russia claims Ukrainian poll irregularities glossed over by Western observers .. fresh crisis in relns btwn Russia & West over Ukraine threatens to erupt .. sggst Kremlin may refuse to recognise Yushchenko's victory ... 1000s of foreigners flock to Ukraine to feel pulse on street during "orange revolution" (Tele) ... Yushchenko seeks to consolidate victory over Yanukovich by urging spptrs to renew blockade of main govt building (FT, Indy) ... Yushchenko moves to mend ties w/ humiliated Moscow .. pledges not to turn his back on his country's one-time imperial & Soviet ruler .. Yushchenko tells Russian newspapers plans for Ukraine to join EU & nato wld not come at expense of commercial, cultural & strategic links w/ Russia (Ti)... Yushchenko says 1st task will be to visit Russia & heal split btwn the 2 countries (Sun)... Pressure mounts on Yanukovich to yield (Guard)

Yukos

One of Russian govt's most snr econ advisers launches attack on President Putin after calling the federation's takeover of the core assets of Yukos the "swindle of the yr" (Ti) ... Adviser to Putin attacks Yukos asset sale 'scam' (FT)

Saudi Arabia

HMT's decn to freeze assets of a London-based critic of S Arabia's royal family who has been accused of links w/ al Qaeda taken to ease pressure on Saudi govt a/c Whitehall source .. UN last wk placed Saad al-Fagui on list of ppl allegedly associated w/ al Qaeda (FT: Huband)

HOME AFFAIRS

Policing

Labour justice gap – only 1 in 35 serious crimes lds to an offender being caught & punished .. a mere 81 000 cases last yr ended w/ offender being imprisoned .. for almost 11.4mn crimes – 97%, criminals were either never caught, let off w/ caution or had case thrown out .. Tories call figs 'insult to mns of crime victims' .. **Davis** claims police too bogged down in red tape (Mail) ... *Mail*: Rarely has it been quite so easy to get away w/ it .. justice gap has widened 20% under Govt that saddles police w/ targets, red tape & politically correct priorities

Licensing laws

Police chiefs join chorus of oppn to 24 hr drinking .. Mins clash again w/ Iding police chiefs over plans to introduce 24-hr drinking to UK .. growing signs that planned revolution in licensing laws will have to be revised to meet police & local council objections over cost & resources .. Mins brace themselves for what is likely to be critical select ctte rpt (Guard) ... Violence will rise if pubs are open all day, says Met chief .. Stevens says wld fuel drink-related violence & wld place further strain on police resources .. comments put him on collision course w/ Govt (Tele) ... Our top policeman joins fightback on 24hr boozing (Exp) ... Met chief warns of probs over later pub hrs (FT) ... Met chief attacks plan for 24-hr pubs (Mail, Sun, Mirr) ... Indy: Police fears abt longer hrs are misguided & shld be rebuffed .. tackling natl prob will not be easy, but this is good place to start ... Mirr. Despite Sir John's concerns, UK's outdated licensing laws need changing ... Exp: Govt must put brakes on plans until drink-fuelled yobs are brought under control ... Sun: Dangers are obvious to anyone .. not too late for rethink on this muddled plan.

Prison escapes

No. of prisoners absconding from open prisons in Eng & Wales increased by more than 400 last yr a/c Tory figs but Govt refuses to disclose how many remain on the run on grounds it wld be too costly to give MPs the answer (Ti) ... Record no. of prison escapes .. 100s of criminals on run in UK .. more than 1000 inmates have escaped in last yr & Mins have no idea how many have been captured (Sun) ... Open jail walkouts .. 100s of prisoners escape ev yr .. Tories say system is shambles (Mirr)

Asbos

Jane Griffiths says prostitutes named in Asbos blitz may as well have been put in stocks .. women were among first prostitutes to be served w/ Asbos .. as part of crackdown their photos were released by police & featured on front of local papers .. MP raises case, as concerns grow over way Asbos are being used (Mail)

Crime poll

Mins fail to allay public's fears on crime, immig & asylum a/c internal poll for Cabt .. survey also showed pessimism for NHS (Ti) ... Lab's poll shows we fear asylum will keep getting worse – half of voters fear shambolic asylum & immig system will descend into more chaos (Exp)

Northern Ireland

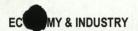
Security sources in N Ireland say money from bank theft may be used to cover price of peace .. IRA may be planning a "retirement fund" for volunteers (Ti) ... Bank notes stolen in £22mn bank heist surface on black market (Mirr)

Fireworks

Attempted crackdown on yobs who cause terror by hurling fireworks is abject failure .. in first yr of getting new powers, more than ½ of police forces fail to hand out single on-the-spot fine .. statistics will be bitter disappointment to HO (Exp)

Asylum

Cmnty grps react w/ concern & anger over electronic monitoring of asylum seekers over holiday season (Herald p1)



Capital Gains Tax

Tories woo voters w/ cuts in capital gains tax .. Tories step up campaign to win over floating voters .. Letwin says capital gains tax harms econ bose discourages ppl & bus. from using capital in an imaginative way (Tele)... Tories pledge to end misery of inheritance tax (Exp) ... Tories consider plan to scrap capital gains tax to simplify tax system .. abolishing tax wld cost £2bn/yr (Ti) ... Tories look to cut capital gains tax .. argue tax has become increasingly complicated under Lab (FT) ... Tories urge reform on capital gains tax (Indy) ... Tories may dump capital gains tax (Mail) ... Tele: Govt has waged relentless campaign to raise taxes & mask hikes behind inventive scams .. Tories are being inventive when it comes not to raising, but cutting taxes .. all in all a good thing .. time for Tories to start making promises.

Overseas co.s

Tax advisers warn multinationals agst locating their headquarters in UK in a move that cld erode it status as Eur's top destination for inward investment .. tax specialists say UK losing ground to other Eur countries which have reduced their tax rates & introduced more tax-friendly regimes .. also uncertainty abt impact of Court of Human Rights ruling on UK tax law & HMT clampdown on tax avoidance (FT p1)

G8

GB hopes to give a strong symbolic start to UK's presidency of G8 by making a 6 dy visit to Tanzania, Mozambique & S Africa to highlight need for richest countries to confront prob of African econ development .. undeniable GB set himself some ambitious goals (FT) ... <u>Mathew Bishop</u>: Most ldrs who think abt poverty dismiss microcredit as too micro to make much diff .. that is big mistake .. shld be asking how we can improve access to finance for poor ppl (FT)

Winter fuel

1000s 'will not get winter fuel cash' – Govt urged to act to prevent more than 30 000 elderly ppl missing out on £6mn of winter fuel payments .. men aged btwn 60 & 64 who are still working & have not previously received help w/ fuel bills will not get cash unless they claim it themselves by 30 March 2005 (Tele) ... 10s of 1000s of ppl cld miss out on Govt help to pay fuel costs (Mail)

Child Trust Funds

1mn children lose out on tax break – quirk in Child trust Fund rules will mean more than 1mn children are deprived of chance to maximise returns from tax shelter .. Inland revenue says it wld be "too complex" to restore missing annual allowances (Tele)

Offshore Trusts

Inland Revenue steps up campaign agst inheritance tax avoidance judging certain widely-used loopholes to be illegal ... DLA say "dramatic new interpretation" of part of 1984 Inheritance Tax Act wild widen scope of legis to catch institutions that may have referred clients to an offshore trust co. .. IR say interpretation is not new (FT p2ld)

Employment

A tight labour market will force employers to rely more heavily on migrant workers next yr a/c CIPD .. will threaten heightened tension over public attitudes towards immig .. demand for workers likely to put upward pressure on wages unless new labour sources such as immigs & ppl claiming incapacity benefit can be drawn on (FT)

FSA

Martin Dickinson: How shid we judge FSA & its policing skills in light of settlement of split capital investment trusts affair? FSA has played hand poorly .. hardly enhances its reputation that after crying "collusion" only scalp it has taken so far in this affair is its own (FT)

Pensions

<u>Danny Truell</u>: UK's funded pensions are still a good option .. Govt must take ld by establishing new public & private sector structures that will allow individuals & State to pre-fund pensions w/ greater certainty that post-cost investment returns will play major role in offsetting demographic challenges (Ti)

Misc

As Ofcom celebrates first birthday, all telecoms execs agree that the media & comms super-regulator has had a busy yr .. Ofcom manages balancing act btwn media & telecoms (Guard) ... Frankfurt fears big job losses if Borse wins London Stock Exchange .. fears that 1400 jobs will be lost cld not have come at worse time for Frankfurt (Ti) ... Householders still face threat of rising mortgage costs next yr .. *Ti* experts & economists predict rate rise in 2005 (Ti)

POLITICS & MISCELLANEOUS

FOI Act

Falconer blocks media scoops – Falconer is to forestall journos from turning FOI Act into goldmine of newspaper exclusives by simultaneously publishing any info disclosed to rptrs on the web .. journos fear Govt will use simultaneous publication to put is own spin on any embarrassing info(Guard) ...Falconer: From 1 jan openness takes a giant step forward .. w/in proper openness, govts need proper room to govern .. some mems of media argue that responses to their inq under FOI shId be kept secret .. I find this response hard to fathom (Guard)

Env Info Regs

Energy, transport & utility co.s set to face unprecedented demands to disclose info abt their activities after Environmental Information Regulations come into force .. will compel co.s that provide public services relating to env to supply info .. draft of regs does not specify which co.s are covered for which services .. confusion reigns (FT)

Blunkett

Blunkett to be Blair's deputy – TB is poised to show he will forgive Blunkett by making him deputy after gen elex .. fmr HO Sec will be awarded high office for agreeing to quit during Nannygate .. Prescott will be given a peerage & moved to prestige job in HoL to make way .. Hoon wld line up to replace Straw .. well-placed Govt insider says PM believes public will accept Blunkett back (Sun p2 ld: Pascoe-Watson) ... Blunkett tipped for return as TB's no. 2 .. Blunkett cld make sensational Govt comeback after May's elex .. wld mean elbow for Prescott .. Straw also tipped to go (Star 2nd Ed) ... Sun: News that Blunkett lined up for Cabt comeback is welcome .. HoL is just place for Prescott's rambling speeches.

TB

Mandarins attack **Blair** for informal 'sofa' govt – TB under fresh attack from Sir Richard Wilson & Sir Michael Quinlan .. also took issue w/ Cabt Mins & MPs for failing to call PM to account .. follow similar charges by Sir Robin Butler .. Wilson says TB refused to respect "proper process" of govt .. Sir Michael says struck by decline in cabt govt (Tele) ... Fmr Cabt Sec adds name to growing list of snr mandarins who have attacked TB's 'sofa' style govt (Mail)

Election

In-fighting cld ruin our elex hopes, says **Byers** – Byers voices publicly fears of many snr Lab figs that TB has unwittingly sparked a "war of succession" by announcing he intends to stand down shortly before the elex after next .. Byers makes plea for unity bwtn spptrs of TB & GB (Indy) ... **Byers**: At time when party shld be at its most united, there is eral danger that potential candidates will set out to stress their diffs in order to establish their own distinct political brand .. once progressive consensus agreed across public service reform & other areas, PLP will rightly expect all those in posns of auth to sppt agreed posn .. failure to do so, will mean heavy political price (Indy)

Stephen Byers

Byers' hopes of a political comeback under threat from a dramatic development in a court case over demise of Railtrack .. fmr shareholders launch £multi-mn compensation claim agst Govt saying Buyers acted unlawfully putting co. into admin .. case threatens huge embarrassment for Lab (Mail) ... Mail: Sadly this case won't be heard till June, which may be why TB set on May elex .. TB said to want Byers back in Cabt .. how sordid .. how typically New Lab.

Diplomatic bags

Centuries-old tradition of sending sensitive ambassadorial material to UK's embassies sealed in dipl bags is to be privatised & moved out of FCO .. FCO expected to put work out to tender soon .. move comes just wks after Royal Mail ditched from handling HoC internal post (Ti)

David Cameron

Rising star files policies for elex campaign .. **David Cameron** hatching master plan which he hopes will propel Tories to power .. **Cameron**: There is a clr vision btwn Lab's endless talk & fact we've got v clr prog of action (FT i/v)

Misc

No 10 confirms that TB is to pay for his family holiday in Egypt (Tele, Star) ... Howard blasts Premiership football stars .. urges them to donate part of their huge salaries to help "grass roots" of sport (Star)... Cherie Blair may not receive any book royalties after her much-heralded publishing debut 'The Golden Fish Bowl' records disappointing sales (Mail) ... Siobhain McDonagh's 2005 calendar will prove hard to beat as an exercise in self-promotion but qus already being asked abt calendar sent free to 1000s of constituents (Mail)

HEALTH & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Benefit fraud

Is Lab lying on lie detector tests? Govt insists lie detectors will not be used to weed out fraudulent benefit claims .. but privately some officials revealed that scheme may still go ahead at later date .. Whitehall source says may be on backburner for now, but is bound to be looked at again in future (Exp: O'Flyn) ... Anger at 'lie tests' for dole .. moves to secretly make benefit claimants take lie detector tests slammed (Sun p2) ... Unions rage at lie test .. PCS spokes says idea is crazy (Mirr)

NHS helpline

NHS Direct had its busiest yr to date on Monday as country struggled to cope w/ extended Christmas break .. provisional figs show record 29 449 calls on Monday .. record volume partly due to Christmas & Boxing day falling on w/end (Guard)

The Pill

Being overweight greatly increases the chances of women on the Pill getting pregnant a/c scientists overweight women are 60 to 70% moer likely to conceive while taking pill than slim women (Ti, Tele, Indy, Mirr)

Cancer

Ecstasy to be given to cancer patients in US in Harvard pilot study to investigate whether it can help terminally ill to cope in their final days (Tele)

Parenting

Guard: Mins have spoken abt diffcts of being a parent .. sppt parents can access has expanded hugely .. much more is promised .. still swathes of country where parents don't have access to schemes .. childcare is at heart of lab elex campaign

TRANSPORT, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

GM

Beckett to scrap an advisory cttee after it repeatedly placed obstacles in way of Govt plans to introduce genetically modified crops .. Beckett expected to announce its demise next mnth before it can cause further diffcts (Guard)

House prices

Halifax study finds commuters hit by falling house prices .. decreases of up to 8% in SE contrast w/ big growth elsewhere .. leafy commuter towns worst hit by property slowdown while towns in UK's industrial heartlands gain (Ti) ... Gerrards Cross topples Henley-on-Thames as most expensive place to buy a house in UK w/ avge price of £627 000 (Guard, Tele) ... Small Scottish commuter town, Bellshill emerges as UK's no. 1 property hotspot .. North-South house price gap closing a/c Halifax survey (Indy)

Trains

Rail passengers face New Year chaos after a newly installed £80mn computer booking system crashes .. many customers cannot book cheap advance tickets & will not be guaranteed a seat.. Rail Passengers Council say sitn is 'a farce' (Mail)

MOTs

Plans to computerise MOT system delayed & may not come into effect until next spring .. awarding of MOTs by garages was meant to be fully computerised by tdy .. latest of probs w/ large Govt IT schemes (Ti)

Misc

Forming mining town of Bellshill enjoys economic revival .. brownfield developments in mid 1990s brought jobs to town .. new homes have been snapped up by workers as nearby bus. parks (Ti) ... We have ways of making you pay up -Gman truckers pave way for controversial tolls on UK motorways (Star p2 ld)

EDUCATION & CULTURE

Overseas students Large-scale abuse of the immig system involving bogus students & colleges disclosed in a study of Govt statistics .. Migrationwatch analysis finds 1000s of ppl who entered UK as students are being granted extensions to stay - far more than official no. of college places .. HO sggst Migrationwatch highlighting "old story" (Tele)

Drug testing

First random drug testing of pupils in a State secondary schl will begin next wk at Abbey Schl in Faversham .. children as young as 11 will be subjected to spot checks for 10 drugs .. tests are result of mounting concern over teenage drug abuse .. parents must give permission but 86% back scheme (Mail)

Behzti play

Violent protests that Id to closure of controversial play Behtzti were result of failed attempt to work w/ Sikh cmnty Idrs a/c actor in play .. consultation btwn Bham Rep & Sikh cmnty reps in run-up to play had caused probs (Guard)

Museums

Removing the turnstiles may have boosted gallery attendance, but it hasn't made balancing budgets any easier (Indy) ... Guard: Govt welcomes news of museum figs .. rising popularity is tribute to lottery money & ending of charges .. prob is attracting even more Brits to make better use of their natl treasures ... Indy: Abolition of admission charges for museums has been well & truly vindicated.

Olympic Bid

Forget London's transport woes & urban regeneration .. there's an idyllic alternative for Olympic bid - Hampton-in-Arden .. new thinking on bid is certainly needed (Tele)

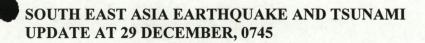
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MEDIA MONITORING UNIT



HEADLINES - Wednesday 29th December 2004

THE TIMES	The Guardian	
The days later, world prepares to offer help	The true horror emerges	
The Daily Telegraph 60,000 dead and hundreds of Britons are still missing – As tsunami	Financial Times UN to launch largest aid appeal	
toll rises, Lord Attenborough mourns three of his family and thousands more wait for news of their loved ones		
THEINDEPENDENT	Daily Mirror	
The lost generation: Up to half the 60,000 victims are children, says UN. Tens of thousands more are orphaned, and face threat of disease	STOLEN BY THE SEA	
The Sun	DAILY EXPRESS	
60,000: Half of victims are kids. Attenborough girl dies.	MY AGONY: Lord Attenborough's grief as daughter and granddaughter die in Thai tidal wave terror	
Daily Mail	Daily Star	
ATTENBOROUGH NIGHTMARE: As death toll hits 60,000 and with countless Britons still missing, a famous family's agony symbolises global tragedy	I SURFED DEATH WAVE: Brit teenager rides quake sea to safety	



Casualty Details

- Media now reporting over 68,000 dead across the affected region, but numbers continue to rise (some reports speculate that deaths could reach a six figure total). Overall, 20 Britons confirmed dead. Awaiting formal notification of about 20 more. Many more still unaccounted for (total may rise to over 100).
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are reports of up to 20,000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 3 Britons confirmed dead so far. Many tourists, including British nationals, are still arriving in Colombo from coastal resorts. Best estimate of Britons affected is 2,000. Tour operators arranging charter flights to bring out over 1100 over next 48 hours.
- In Maldives, there are over 3500 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. 3 Britons confirmed dead. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 35 dead and 59 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown) British tour operators are bringing out around 1100 Britons over the next 48 hours
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 1538 people (around 70% foreign tourists) have been killed and 8950 injured and around 1100 missing overall. 14 British nationals confirmed among the dead (formal notification likely to rise during the day). Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights.
- Also reports of many confirmed killed in <u>Malaysia</u>, but no Britons amongst them so far.
- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in Indonesia and India. But local casualty estimates are very high (43,000 in Indonesia alone).

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we are keeping in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT from London now operational supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another four-person RDT team on its way to Colombo on 28 December.
- A consular officer from Colombo has arrived in the Maldives and is assisting tourists to depart.
- Refuge Centre set up in Colombo. Increasing numbers of British national arriving in Colombo and awaiting charter arrangements out (see above).
- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

Volunteers to form an RDT for Bangkok and Phuket have arrived from Hong Kong (5), Manila (2), Singapore (1) and Kuala Lumpur (6). Members of FCO staff (on holiday) also helping in Embassy. Further staff on the way on 29 December from Delhi and Mumbai. The Ambassador is in Phuket with a large team and drivers. Some have gone on to Krabi further south and to Pangna and Khao Lak. An emergency office has been set up in Phuket.

- Britons are arriving in Bangkok from Phuket and are receiving assistance from the Embassy at Help Desks set up at Bangkok Airport.
- The Embassy is open 24/7.

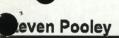
FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: **0207 008 0000**.
- Police opened a second, third and fourth call centre on 28 December (all with same telephone number). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friends to get and provide information.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre identified and increased during the week.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators.

DFID

- DFID have sent various advisors and development co-ordinators to the region.
- An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government (total value approx.£250k).
- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka.
- Agreed funding of £400k to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At request of current EU Presidency, the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- UK share (18%, value approx. £372k)) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal.
- On 29 November Hilary Benn is due to announce a HMG initial allocation of £15 million for immediate humanitarian needs across the region.

Consular Crisis Group/Response Centre



VPM seen 29/12

From:

David Quarrey

Sent:

29 December 2004 17:39

To:

Duty Clerks

Cc:

Nigel Sheinwald; Antony Phillipson; David Hill

Subject:

RE: for PM/Kofi phone call

Importance:

High

STOP PRESS: State Dept have told Washington Embassy that they intend to use the small group to kick start the International process, and will expand it to include other key players. They want the UN to lead on any donor conference. They have been promised full access to Aceh by the Indonesians - it has been a closed conflict zone for some time. The Sri Lankan President has told the US that she wants to use the tsunami crisis to restart the peace process - helped by the fact that it destroyed most of the LTTE-linked pirate fleet which operated on Sri Lanka's east coast. The US are also starting discussions about an early warning system for the Indian Ocean (they already exist in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans).

----Original Message----

From:

David Quarrey

Sent:

29 December 2004 17:11

To:

Duty Clerks

Cc:

Nigel Sheinwald; Antony Phillipson; David Hill

Subject:

for PM/Kofi phone call

Importance: High

PLS PASS TO PM BEFORE THE ANNAN CALL

Prime Minister

A) TSUNAMI

- 1. I have discussed the issue of coordinating the international response to the tsunami crisis with Nigel and David H.
- 2. The G8 is not well-suited to this sort of role it is not immediately operational, and has only a limited life between summits. It can offer political support, but even that is of limited value when not connected to a summit. There is also the danger of overloading our Presidency, for which expectations are already running very high.
- 3. The US have announced a four-member (US, India, Australia, Japan) contact group to lead/coordinate work on the crisis. We don't know much about the proposal yet but it could be a step in the right direction. It would, however, need to include the UN, the EU (which will play a key funding role), the World Bank (for medium-term reconstruction issues) and others, including the countries most affected (it is odd to include India but not Sri Lanka, Thailand etc).
- 4. I have spoken to FCO and DFID this afternoon, encouraging Jack/Hilary to press the European Commission to take on a stronger leadership role.
- 5. I would suggest the following key messages for Kofi:
- we are already closely involved on the ground, both in helping our own nationals and providing emergency relief for the countries affected. We will remain active, including through mobilising the EU and to the extent it can play a useful role the G8;
- we value the UN's leadership role so far in this emergency phase. Now we need to start looking to the medium term. The UN must continue to play a leading role, but the scale of the disaster means that different parts of the international community should divide the responsibilities between them, under a clear coordinating mechanism. Has Kofi thought about

how this might be done? We should share thinking on this over the next few days.

B) IRAQ

- 6. The pressing issue here is of course Sunni participation, and the withdrawal of the Iraqi Islamic Party the only credible Sunni party of any size which had registered for the national elections (with a full slate of 275 candidates).
- 7. The UN's approach to the elections is still confused: heroic work on the ground by Carlos Valenzuela (whom you met) and his team; Brahimi and others talking to Sunnis outside the political process, usually with no coordination with the IIG and therefore unhelpful; and no strategic leadership from New York.
- 8. Kofi needs to understand that this is a crucial period for the elections a process which the UN owns. Our assessment is that the IIP can still be brought back into the elections, but they need attention and reassurance. We're pressing Allawi to reach out to them. The Embassy in Baghdad are in frequent contact with them at senior levels (from which contacts it is clear that delay would not substantially change the situation). But the UN also need to be involved, both through their contacts on the ground and through clear public messages from Kofi and others that the UN is committed to these elections, which will go ahead on time and which must have the widest possible participation.

C) KOFI'S LEADERSHIP

9. You might ask whether Kofi has reflected further on your conversation in Brussels. We are prepared to give him a high-profile platform, but it is only worth doing if he is going to make a substantial speech setting out a clear new vision, and with a new approach to Iraq.

David

PM seen

E 29/11

UK RESPONSE TO SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE

PRESS LINES (at 1800hr) 28 December

British Dead

17 British nationals confirmed dead

Breakdown:-

3 - Maldives

2 - Sri Lanka

12 - Thailand

Confirm details?

For the time being we are unable to confirm any names of victims of the family.

Likely to be hundreds dead?

Don't know - cannot speculate.

Casualty Details

Media now reporting at least 59,000 dead across the affected region.

But confirmed details still hard to come by. Communications still difficult in the worst affected areas.

UK assistance in the Region?

Chronology:-

26 December

Sri Lanka

- High Commission has been operating a 24hr emergency system since 26 December.
- Continually sending buses to pick up British tourists as they become available
- Deployed three emergency teams who are scouring the resorts for any British and others who may be in need of help. They have basic first aid equipment.
- A plane is on its way with 50 tonnes of emergency shelter.
- UK officials here are acting as focal point for all donations from other governments, working closely with the UN to assess and send the resources where they are most needed.
- We also have an emergency team in the Maldives.



 8 person Rapid Deployment Team (RTD) from London deployed to Colombo (arrived 27 Dec). Teams deployed in Colombo and to coastal areas with HC team. Emergency centre set up in Colombo for British nationals arriving from coast resorts.

What is an RDT team?

• Team of London based FCO staff. Trained to handle consular crises (humanitarian or terrorist incidents – previously deployed to Istanbul bombing of British Consulate, Austrian coach crash). Team is headed by an experienced, senior FCO officer. Group of up to 15 officers have combination of skills and expertise - mainly handling consular crises. But Press Officer also attached to coordinate media handling. RDT's also travel with specialist communications equipment.

Other help:

- Military helicopters and planes are evacuating foreign nationals from the worst affected areas (Ampara, Unawatuna, Galle)
- Tour companies have chartered buses to pick up tourists from hotels, putting on chartered flights.
- International Conference Hall in Colombo is providing around 80 Brits with free medical supplies, food, and water. Doctors and Sri Lankan airlines are present.
- Govt of Colombo has set up a hotline for foreign nationals: Sri Lanka 5361938
 2437 336 British High Commission general number.

Q&A

How many British involved altogether?

- We do not have exact figures on the number of British nationals involved but the figure is rising all the time.
- The devastation is spread along hundreds of miles of coastline a lot of it impassable by road, with hundreds of tourist resorts.
- Lack of communications over last 48 hours situation slowly becoming clear as people coming in to the High Commission.

How many British Nationals injured?

- Likely to be in the thousands mostly minor injuries.
- Hospitals throughout the region are seriously under strain.
- Our staff are visiting hospitals wherever they can.
- As people arrive at the High Commission we are undertaking initial medical assessments, providing emergency treatment where we can, and transferring to local hospitals.

How many Brits are trying to get out of the country? How will they get out if the flights are booked up?

People are turning up at the airport. We have staff at the airport helping them to get on the first available flight.



What are people doing if they turn up at the High Commission in Colombo?

Medical assistance (as above)

Helping those who have lost possessions with emergency travel documents

Help with getting emergency funds from the UK

Helping to find accommodation

Transport to the airport.

Is the UK Government putting on extra flights? [Still to be confirmed.]

Is it true a British flight is arriving with tents and sheets?

Yes, UK Govt has sent a plane with 50 tonnes of emergency shelter, which is due to be set up in the worst affected area. We are working closely with the UN. We are working to target resources quickly and effectively.

Are you helping other nationalities?

We are in regular contact with all other missions in Colombo, sharing info, briefing meetings with commonwealth countries, EU and US.

UK officials here are acting as the focal point for all donations from other countries.

Thailand

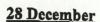
- Embassy operating 24hr emergency operation
- 8 person team mobilised from personnel working in region (British consulates/embassies in Hong Kong, Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai) (arrived 27 Dec). Ambassador led a 10 person team plus drivers to Phuket additional team of 3 staff arrived by air from Bangkok, Further personnel [3 or 4] from Embassy sent on 27 Dec. Emergency office established.
- UK desk set up at the airport to facilitate transfer of passengers back to UK

Maldives

- Consular officer from Colombo arrived 27 December. Assisting tourist boarding charter flights to UK.
- UK tour operators co-ordinating with FCO operating 5 charter flights from 26 Dec (to date). Aim to evacuate 1200 Brits by Friday 31 Dec

27 December

- All Posts issuing emergency passports or "letters of authority" to British nationals without travel documents to enable them to travel to UK.
- FCO co-ordinating with HM Immigration Service to facilitate entry to UK ports.
- Financial assistance also provided to some on an "undertaking to repay" basis.



Sri Lanka

Stephen Evans, High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives, said on the Today programme (07.10 28/12/04)

"We are helping British Nationals affected by the disaster to get to Colombo and then back home. We are also working with the international community on humanitarian assistance."

"The Sri Lankan Immigration Authorities have been very helpful. The British High Commission are issuing British Nationals who have lost their passports with a piece of paper which will allow them to get back to the UK.

"We have deployed 3 teams to the South and South West where the majority of the resorts are based. Working to get people back to Colombo - hope we will get the majority back to Colombo by Wednesday/Thursday."

" Emergency office at the Embassy has been set up. Team is helping British Nationals with arrangements to get back home." END

- Additional RDT team of 4 despatched to Colombo. ETA 29 December.
- UK tour operators, co-ordinating with FCO operating 4 charter flights from 27
 Dec(to date). Aim to evacuate 1100 Brits by Friday 31 Dec.

UK Operation:-

Call Centres

 Almost 350 [*348] police and civilian staff dedicated Central Casualty Bureau (Hendon) call to handle calls from relatives.

Criticism that people cannot get through to the Emergency response number.

- There has been a huge number of calls which has meant that not everyone has been able to be connected as quickly as we would like. There are large numbers of British Nationals in the region at this time, all with concerned family and friends and this has meant many thousand of calls to the emergency number. Ask that everyone remain patient.
- Have been receiving 17,000 calls per hour. More than during 9/11 crisis.
- The Emergency number is receiving many non emergency calls. For travel advice for the region please contact 0870 6060290 or access the FCO website at www.fco.gov.uk/travel.



 We trying to sift calls by asking non-urgent callers - potential travellers seeking travel advice should call another dedicated number.

Why not open more lines/centres?

 We are exploring opening more call centres. Police call centres are professionally trained staff.

Why you get it wrong?

Do not believe we got wrong. Chronology on 26 Dec was:-

- 0415hr London altered to the earthquake.

- 0830hr Emergency Response Team in London operational.
- 1400hr Central Casualty Bureau operational.

UK Response

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: 0207 008 0000.
- Police have opened a secondary call centre and will open a third on 28 December (all same number). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friend to get and provide information. Other callers are being directed elsewhere.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre identified for Monday. Numbers increased for Tuesday and Wednesday Crisis Group will remain open.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in. Advising people not to travel to Maldives.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators.
- Police Family Liaison Officers (FLO) will be assigned to bereaved families.

What the FLO role?

Families are being supported by Police Family Liaison Officer in partnership with the FCO case workers. They assist with repatriation of deceased, material for identifications etc. Two way flow between investigation officers and the family.



UK Government?

- DPM has held morning meetings to be briefed on latest developments in the region (inc British casualties) and UK effort on the ground.
- DPM is in daily contact with the PM to brief him.

Other European deaths (at 28 Dec -1600hr)

- Netherlands 9 dead
- Germany 8
- France 10
- Italy 14

Brits returning to UK?

- By Friday we expect 1100 from Sri Lanka and 1200 from Maldives by charter flights
- Thailand most are leaving on scheduled flights around [???] expected.

What we doing on arrival in UK?

- Working with Dept of Health the FCO is facilitating arrival and transfer to hospital of the seriously injured victims.
- Police authorities also meeting flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester.
- Red Cross and Travelcare (*a UK charitable organisation) at Heathrow and Gatwick are providing assistance to victims (clothing, counselling facilities).

Heathrow Reception Centre:

- There has been a professional multi-agency response, co-ordinated by the Metropolitan Police Service and Heathrow Airport Limited, to those persons returning to London Heathrow Airport from areas affected by the tsunami disaster.
- Two reception centres, manned by specialist staff from a number of agencies, have been created. The reception centres are situated in Terminal 3 and Terminal 4 to meet and assess the needs of those persons returning from the affected areas. They can also meet with their relatives and loved ones at the reception centres
- Every effort is being made by agencies to meet all persons returning from the disaster area assess their needs and provide appropriate care.
- The reception centres are staffed by a number of agencies that can provide care, advice, counselling and support.
- The agencies involved include The Red Cross, who are providing medical advice and treatment and clothing, Travelcare, who provide a social and counselling care

.

service within the airport environment, the Metropolitan Police Service, British Airport Authority, London Ambulance Service and London Borough of Hillingdon Local Authority.

- Provisions are also in place to help people return to their homes and if need be a locksmith to help them gain entry into their homes.
- The spiritual well being of those returning from the disaster area is addresses by a multi-faith chaplain service. The service is available within the environs of the airport at a multi-faith chapel.

Repatriation of the dead?

- A team of police forensic identification experts travelling to Colombo and Bangkok to assist in the identification of the British victims.
- Working with International undertakers to repatriate the bodies once positively identified.
- International community also received request from Thai government for assistance from foreign forensic experts.

UK Humanitarian assistance?

Key messages

- DfID have contributed £827,000 in aid to the affected region
- They have also contributed to the humanitarian effort by despatching an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents.
- They will also meet requests from the WHO to supply Emergency Health Kits

Lines to take:

- DFID despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka on 26 December. Two more staff on standby for Maldives.
- Following the request from GoSL for international support, we have despatched an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
- We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- Our two-man assessment team has arrived in Sri Lanka.



 A team of two assessment and emergency response advisers remains on stand by for deployment to the region if required. We are considering project proposals from a number of UK NGOs, and we expect to receive more concept notes and proposals in the coming days.

Following a request from WHO we are considering a request to procure and airlift 10 Emergency Health Kits to Jakarta. We are putting together contingency plans for further airlifts (from both Europe and other regions) of shelter materials and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region.

What is the UK response to these tragedies?

Hilary Benn said on World At One (13.20 on 27 December 2004)

"We are sending a plane to Sri Lanka carrying tents, sheets of plastic covering. Via the EU we have given £400,000 to the Red Cross Appeal. We have also provided funding to the World Health Organisation. We have dispatched 2 people to the UN disaster team. This is part of a huge international response. We will look at all requests we receive. An assessment on the ground is the right thing in the circumstances."

PRESS RELEASES TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2004

STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVES IN ASIA.

Jack Straw said:

"For all the huge advances in the control of our lives through science and technology an earthquake on this scale is truly humbling as well as profoundly tragic for everyone involved.

Messages of condolence from the British Government have been sent to the governments of India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives along with offers of practical assistance. These are being co-ordinated between the FCO, DFID and MOD.

As soon as the news came through in the small hours of this morning our emergency plans for such as situation were activated. In London Consular officials were called back from leave, regional Rapid Deployment Teams in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur put on stand-by. Our Ambassador in Thailand, David Fall and staff are on their way to Phuket. Every effort is being made by British High Commission Staff in Columbo, Sri Lanka (which also covers the Maldives) to provide assistance.

Our staff in London are in close touch with Association of British Travel Agents and the airlines.

.

For the tens of thousands of British tourists in South East Asia and their relatives and friends here this will I know be a very worrying time. We are doing everything we can to assist but the disruption to communication in the worst affected areas is inevitably making it difficult to confirm exactly the situation on the ground."

HILARY BENN SAID:

"It is clear that many people have lost their lives in this terrible tragedy, while hundreds of thousands of others are now having to deal with the aftermath.

We are doing all we can to offer practical help and support. DFID's disaster response team have been working since early this morning. We have sent two people to join the UN Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination teams heading for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and two other assessment teams are on standby. We have already agreed to help fund the World Health Organisation response team (USD100,000) and we are looking to see if we can charter civilian helicopters to help in search and rescue operations in Sri Lanka."

TRANSCRIPT FROM TODAY PROGRAMME: FOREIGN SECRETARY INTERVIEW

TRANSCRIPT

Programme(s)	Straw on Today	AND THE PARTY OF T
Date & time	Monday 27 December 2004 0820	
Subject / interviewee	South East Asia Quake - Jack Straw	
Prepared by:	MMU	
Contact numbers:	020 7276 1080	

Jim Naughtle: Foreign Secretary, good morning.

Jack Straw: Good morning.

JN: What's the latest that you've been hearing about British casualities or about the scenes in general in some of these countries?

JS: Well, the latest, in terms of casualties, as your reporter Bob Sinkinson announced earlier is that we have four confirmed deaths, excuse me, and that number is likely to rise. We have had a number of reported deaths, that is deaths of British nationals reported to our embassles and High Commissions, but they've not yet been confirmed. The numbers will be higher and as well as that there are obviously quite a number injured. In Phuket there are 69 British people who have been counted as injured by David Fall, our Ambassador in Thalland, and his staff have literally been going around the hospitals. The situation is inevitably, although sadly for the relatives and friends concerned, still a very confused one and will remain so until the full scale of the damage becomes clear.

JN: ..because some of the outlying areas of course aren't able to be penetrated and we simply don't know what's going on ..

JS: Yes, in Thailand I was talking to David Fall, our Ambassador, just about half an hour ago um, in Phuket the damage has been very localised he sald, it covers an area of three to four hundred yards along the coast and every where else in Phuket thankfully is okay but it is the outlying areas which have suffered the greatest damage and by definition they are both outlying but also now at the moment very difficult to maintain communications with. But let me say although the number of casualties appears to have been mercifully low if you happen to be a British national, uh as far as British nationals are concerned, uh British national, and you have, or your relatives or friends have been injured, or still worse you've lost somebody, it's obviously terrible and we are doing everything we can to assist. And I was very struck in your

report a moment ago by the story of Jeanette Orr (sp?) who is in Phuket and who literally saw her daughter swept away .. these are not things people go on holiday for ..

JN:.. indeed we will give people the emergency number which they can contact after we've finished talking. And of course the scene in general across Asia in many countries is one of terrible devastation and governments begging for help ... I mean not not just simple cash, although they will need resources to repair things, but for medical supplies and for assistance with the rescue and clean up operation.

JS: Yes, cash Itself is the thing that is easy to provide, um again, I was talking to Hilary Benn our international development secretary earlier this morning, the more difficult thing to provide is things that come in very short supply in circumstances like this like helicopters and we are ready to provide helicopters in a number of these areas. It is simply accessing the helicopters because those that are commercial helicopters which we would normally use are obviously being used in any event by the emergency services. It has to be said that an earthquake and the tidal wave following on a scale of this is unusual but it also illustrates how we are at the mercy of natural forces however much we think that these days, particularly in the west, that we have control over our own lives through the great advances in science and technology. We do have greater control of our lives but compared to the enormity of natural forces of this kind we are literally sort of pawns in a greater universe and what has happened is terrible it is also I think very humbling to see. From the British government point of view, along with the European Union, we are doing everything that we can to help. Teams of people are going out to various countries from the Department for International Development as well as Foreign Office people to gain assessments and we are also relying on the non-governmental organisations in those areas. What Hilary Benn was saying to me earlier this morning is that obviously what is critical is that you wait a short while so that you can direct the assistance that you have in the best possible way, that is, you don't sent blankets when they need blankets.

JN: A very quick question Mr Straw because we are hearing from Ukraine that the election is pretty well decided. The result is apparently clear and it's not one that is going to be challenged and the opposition has won. What is your reaction to that?

JS: My reaction is this that we will respect any result that is based on a fair decision by the Ukrainian people ant that's always been our position. We've not been backing one candidate or another ...

JN: ..unlike the President of Russia ..

JS: Well, leave him aside for a second. We've been backing free and fair elections and it looks as though that there will have been a free and fair election in Ukralne. A quite remarkable turn around of events given where we were just six weeks ago.

JN: Foreign Secretary, thank you very much.

ends.

PRESS OFFICE

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE



From: Steven Pooley

Sent: 29 December 2004 12:27

To: David Quarrey
Cc: Duty Clerks

Subject: FW: TSUNAMIS: THAILAND: SITREP 13

In case you haven't seen. ----Original Message----

From: Andy.Pearce@fco.x.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:Andy.Pearce@fco.x.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 29 December 2004 12:01

To: fcoresponsecentre@fco.gov.uk; SEAsiaTsunami@fco.gov.uk; Redmond.Norton@fco.gov.uk;

Kendra.Larden@fco.gov.uk; Richard.Nicholas@FCO.gov.uk; britembphuket@yahoo.com

Subject: TSUNAMIS: THAILAND: SITREP 13

Dear All,

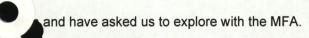
Latest developments as at 1805 local time on 29 December:

1. Official casualties: 1657 dead

8954 injured 4086 missing

The figure given for the missing is likely still to understate the true figure. Many of those listed as missing are likely now to be dead so the final tally for the latter is likely to be substantially higher than 2000.

- 2. The issue of identification and preservation of the bodies of the victims will be a major and politically sensitive one over coming days and weeks. Our teams in the south report large numbers of bodies in an advanced state of decay laid out in temples and along roads in many places with more bodies still being discovered. A 30-man Dutch body identification team has just arrived in Phuket and is arranging a coordination meeting at 1900 local with counterpart teams recently arrived from New Zealand, Sweden, Australia and France. We understand that a team of Metropolitan Police pathologists is planning to come to Thailand soon. They will be badly needed. Grateful for their arrival details as soon as possible please (Foreign Minister Surakiart has asked for more details following the SofS's reference to this team in their telephone conversation this afternoon).
- 3. Our team in Krabi report that there is a shortage of coffins of the sort needed for repatriation of bodies by air to countries of origin. We have spoken to the MFA who were not aware that this was a particular problem but will check and get back to us.
- 4. The MFA have clarified that current policy on repatriation of bodies is that the Thai Government will meet all costs of repatriation to Bangkok, but not from Bangkok back to countries of origin.
- 5. The task of handling the waves of UK citizens arriving back in Bangkok is proceeding relatively smoothly so far in the circumstances. The agreement for us to lend up to £500 per individual for purchase of air tickets to the UK in cases where they genuinely have no means of paying themselves, has been much appreciated. For tonight and tomorrow night there is still reasonable seat availability back to the UK, but looking ahead the airlines tell us that from 1-10 January there are almost no seats available. Subject to numbers of UK citizens arriving back in Bangkok on 30 and 31 December, there may well therefore be a case for a special repatriation flight as discussed with the Response Centre. There may also be a need for a separate (RAF Hercules?) flight for repatriation of bodies. Our tally of dead so far looks to be about 30, with 8 bodies having already been repatriated. But this looks set to rise, assuming remaining bodies can be identified.
- 6. Land Rover have offered to provide an additional four Defenders to the Thai emergency services (in addition to the two they have offered our team in Phuket). We wonder whether there may be merit in linking these with our military team on standby in Butterworth to form a single self-contained unit. Land Rover like this



7. Staffing. The New Delhi team is due to arrive at about 0300 local tomorrow. We expect to ask the majority of this team to travel to Phuket and the surrounding areas to take over from our teams there. But we are drawing up a new consolidated deployment plan for the period through the New Year weekend to 4 January and will revert tomorrow, if necessary, to other posts who have kindly offered further help.

Andy Pearce
Deputy Head of Mission
British Embassy Bangkok
Tel: +662 305 8225
FTN 8419 2225



SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI UPDATE AT 29 DECEMBER, 0745

Casualty Details

- Media now reporting over 68,000 dead across the affected region, but numbers continue to rise (some reports speculate that deaths could reach a six figure total). Overall, 20 Britons confirmed dead. Awaiting formal notification of about 20 more. Many more still unaccounted for (total may rise to over 100).
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are reports of up to 20,000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 3 Britons confirmed dead so far. Many tourists, including British nationals, are still arriving in Colombo from coastal resorts. Best estimate of Britons affected is 2,000. Tour operators arranging charter flights to bring out over 1100 over next 48 hours.
- In Maldives, there are over 3500 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. 3 Britons confirmed dead. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 35 dead and 59 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown) British tour operators are bringing out around 1100 Britons over the next 48 hours
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 1538 people (around 70% foreign tourists) have been killed and 8950 injured and around 1100 missing overall. 14 British nationals confirmed among the dead (formal notification likely to rise during the day). Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights.
- Also reports of many confirmed killed in <u>Malaysia</u>, but no Britons amongst them so far.
- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in Indonesia and India. But local casualty estimates are very high (43,000 in Indonesia alone).

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we are keeping in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT from London now operational supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another four-person RDT team on its way to Colombo on 28 December.
- A consular officer from Colombo has arrived in the Maldives and is assisting tourists to depart.
- Refuge Centre set up in Colombo. Increasing numbers of British national arriving in Colombo and awaiting charter arrangements out (see above).
- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

Volunteers to form an RDT for Bangkok and Phuket have arrived from Hong Kong (5), Manila (2), Singapore (1) and Kuala Lumpur (6). Members of FCO staff (on holiday) also helping in Embassy. Further staff on the way on 29 December from Delhi and Mumbai. The Ambassador is in Phuket with a large team and drivers. Some have gone on to Krabi further south and to Pangna and Khao Lak. An emergency office has been set up in Phuket.



- Britons are arriving in Bangkok from Phuket and are receiving assistance from the Embassy at Help Desks set up at Bangkok Airport.
- The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: **0207 008 0000**.
- Police opened a second, third and fourth call centre on 28 December (all with same telephone number). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friends to get and provide information.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre identified and increased during the week.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators.

DFID

- DFID have sent various advisors and development co-ordinators to the region.
- An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government (total value approx.£250k).
- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka.
- Agreed funding of £400k to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At request of current EU Presidency, the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- UK share (18%, value approx. £372k)) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal.
- On 29 November Hilary Benn is due to announce a HMG initial allocation of £15 million for immediate humanitarian needs across the region.

Consular Crisis Group/Response Centre

fax to PM

-- -NO.052

UK RESPONSE TO SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE

What UK is doing

26 December

Sri Lanka

High Commission operating 24/7 emergency operation.

 8 person RDT team from London to Colombo (arrived 27 Dec). Deployed in Colombo and to coastal area with HC team. Emergency centre set up in Colombo for British arriving from coast resorts.

Thailand

Embassy operating 24/7 emergency operation

• 8 person team mobilised from within region (Hong Kong, Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai) (arrived 27 Dec). Ambassador led a 10 person team plus drivers to Phuket – additional team of 3 arrived by air from Bangkok. Further reinforced with 4 personnel from Embassy on 27 Dec. Emergency office set up.

UK desks set up at Bangkok airport to facilitate transfer of passengers back to UK

Maldives

- Consular officer from Colombo arrived 27 December. Assisting tourists board charter flights to UK.
- UK tour operators co-ordinating with FCO operating 5 charter flights from 26 Dec(to date). Aim to evacuate 1200 Britons by Friday 31 Dec

27 December

All Posts issuing emergency passports or letters of authority to British nationals without travel documents.

FCO co-ordinating with HM Immigration Service to facilitate entry to UK ports.

Financial assistance also provided to some on an "undertaking to repay" basis.

28 December

Sri Lanka

Additional RDT team of 4 despatched to Colombo. ETA 29 December.

• UK tour operators, co-ordinating with FCO – operating 4 charter flights from 27 Dec (to date). Aim to evacuate 1100 Britons by Friday 31 Dec.



What is an RDT team?

 Rapid Deployment Team. Trained team of London based FCO staff. Trained to handle consular crises (eg. humanitarian or terrorist incidents). Team is headed by an experienced, senior FCO officer. Group of up to 15 officers have combination of skills and expertise - mainly handling consular crises. But Press Officer also attached to co-ordinate media handling. RDT's also travel with specialist communications equipment.

-- NO.052___

UK RESPONSE

FCO

- FCO Consular Crisis Group open in addition to 24/7 FCO Response Centre.
- The Consular Emergency Response Team (12 call handlers) set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: 0207 008 0000.
- Police opened a second call centre on 27 December and a third and fourth on 28 December (total 300 call handlers on shift). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friend to get and provide information. Other callers are being directed elsewhere. At peak on 27/28 December Hendon call centre receiving over 10,000 calls per hour.
- Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of calls.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre identified immediately and increased hroughout the week.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in.
- We remain in regular touch with tour operators.

British Dead (at 28 Dec 1600hr)

17 British nationals confirmed dead

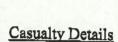
- 3 Maldives
- 2 Sri Lanka
- 12 Thailand (see below).
- Not in a position to confirm names.

Police Family Liaison Officers (FLO) will be assigned to bereaved families.

Other European deaths (at 28 Dec -1600hr)

- Netherlands 9 dead
- Germany 8
- France 10
- Italy 14





- Media now reporting at least 50,000 dead across the affected region.
- But confirmed details still hard to come by.

What HMG doing on arrival in UK?

- Working with Dept of Health, the FCO is facilitating arrival and transfer to hospital of the seriously injured victims.
- Police authorities also meeting flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester.

-NO.052 -__P.3.

• Red Cross and Travelcare (a UK charitable organisation) at Heathrow and Gatwick are providing assistance to victims (clothing, counselling facilities).

Repatriation of the dead?

- A team of police forensic identification experts travelling to Colombo and Bangkok to assist in the identification of the British victims.
- Working with International undertakers to repatriate the bodies once positively identified

UK Humanitarian assistance?

- DFID despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka on 26 December. Two more staff on standby for Maldives.
- Following the request from GoSL for international support, despatched an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
- Provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- Provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- Agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

For 10 PM

NO.052 ... P.24_



N.B. We have changed the format in order to cut down on the volume of paper presented each time. The report covers key Issues, developments, DFID responses to date, planned responses and UN and Red Cross actions. Changes from SITREP No 5 in *Bold Italics*. Country and International response data (previous part 2) is available on request from CHAD OT.

KEY ISSUES

- The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster but has not called for international assistance. Increased access to affected regions approved, assessments underway.
- The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance "for environmental disaster".
- The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance. The government has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to support evacuation of people.
- Consolidated regional appeal launched by Red Cross for £23 million (under analysis)
- UK Disasters Emergency Committee public appeal launched (0870 606 0900)
- Scale of disaster in Indonesia (Sumatra) being acknowledged by authorities, some areas only now being reached. DFID team leaving today.

DEVELOPMENTS

Indonesia

- Some areas of Surabaya only now being reached by authorities, scale of disaster emerging
- > UNDAC team in Aceh province undertaking assessments
- > Aceh entry restrictions relaxed for existing organisations. Airport status unclear.
- > ICRC now present in Aceh reviewing with PMI undertaking assessment

Second Situation Update received from Head DFID Jakarta, Seeking CHAD support and concerns over local capacities

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- Some UN expat staff have been allowed into Aceh as have MSF. ICRC expect clearance 28 December (pm)
- Deputy Prime Minister of Indonesia reported to fear some 25,000 dead in Sumatra.
- > BBC World Service reports that Indonesian separatists, based in Sweden have declared a unilateral ceasefire.

Burma

- > Federation to chair coordination meeting 28 December. UNICEF field officers to reach affected areas 29 December.
- ➢ Burmese Red Cross have Non food items (NFIs) for 1800 families on standby, WFP have food stocks available and UNICEF, basic drugs and medical supplies.
- WFP & ICRC have allocated funds (\$0.5m and €3m), WHO & UNDP will allocate funds if an emergency declared.
- Post reports lack of confirmation by Government of casualty figures, but paints a picture of evidence of little damage to coastal areas, with assessments still to be conducted of remote areas.

Maldives

- ➤ UNDP reports that 37 islands are completely without water supply with no water stocks available. UNDP state there is an URGENT need for 4,000 units of full 20-litre water containers as well as support to transport them to the 37 affected islands.
- > A UNDAC team has been deployed.

Sri Lanka

- > Authorities struggling to coordinate emergency response
- > A UNDAC team has been deployed, supported by a UNJLC 2 person team
- > 22,000 confirmed dead. 1 million homeless

Thailand

- A UNDAC team has been deployed, with a UNJLC team on standby.
- India

Concern about level of Indian government support to Andaman and Nicobar Islands with reported rises in casualties (protect)

> Additional tremors being felt

DFID RESPONSES TO DATE:

- > Approval for a team of 3 CHAD humanitarian advisers to deploy to indonesia 29 December to support the DFID Office.
- > DFID has despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka.
- ➤ Following the request from GoSL for international support, we have despatched an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- The UK share (18%) of ECHO's funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
- We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- ➤ We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- > We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK in providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team in Sri Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.

DFID PLANNING

- > Following a request from WHO we continue to consider options to procure and airlift 10 Emergency Health Kits to Jakarta.
- We are putting together contingency plans for further airlifts (from both Europe and other regions) of shelter materials and, potentially, more Emergency Health Kits to the region.
- We are currently negotiating with Scottlsh Water and First Choice Holidays and others to arrange for spare cargo space on charter aircraft to be used to deliver bottled water to meet an urgent request from the Government of the Maldives.
- Following a request from the UN, we, together with partners in the international Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) (Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, UK and The Netherlands) are planning for the provision of field office equipment and support staff to be deployed

__ NO.052___ P.27

to Aceh. The UK's contribution is likely to be arrangement and funding of an airlift. The costs of this airlift will be shared between the UK and The Netherlands, whilst equipment and staff will come from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

We have now received a considerable number of project proposals from UK NGOs and Red Cross Movement, and we expect to be making funding decisions within the next few days.

UN

- UN preparing to launch regional Flash Appeal exact date not known as yet but it is likely to be around the weekend.
- WHO preparing to supply 15 emergency health kits and 13 trauma kits to the affected region and is sending 4 emergency health kits to Sri Lanka 28 December. WHO prioritises rapid health assessment by supporting local and national counterparts.
- 28 December The UN has sent an assessment team to Aceh. Head of OCHA and Head of WFP to visit the region 29 December
- UNHCR to provide 18,000 plastic sheets, 17,000 plastic mats, rope, and NFIs for 2,000 families (incl. cooking sets, plastic jerry cans, mosquito nets and clothing)
- The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) committed up to \$1 million and staff for rapid health assessments, hygiene needs and health supplies, including water purification tablets.

Red Cross Movement

- Consolidated regional emergency appeal launched for CHF 50 million
- FACT Team assembling in Jakarta in readiness for deployment to Aceh. A separate FACT Team already on the ground in Sri Lanka, plus an further FACT Team deploying to Maldives. The British Red Cross are pushing for deployment of a further FACT team to the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- British Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (logistics) arrived in Sri Lanka Further ERUs from other national societies (3 health, 2 watsan and 1 telecoms) are en route (ETA 30 December). Danish Red Cross logistics ERU deploying to Indonesia, possibly followed by watsan and health ERUs.
- ICRC to provide shelter items for 200,000 people in Indonesia.

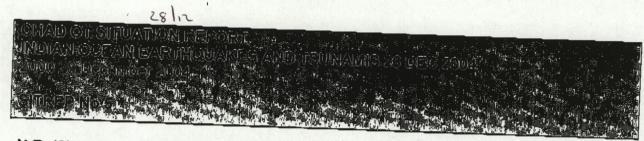


CASUALTIES

Information remains very fluid - communication links are generally down. Figures are constantly being updated. At 1830 GMT 28 December, the total death toll was being reported in the media as over 68,000, rough detail as follows:

Location	Dead Reported	Other	Confirmation
Sri Lanka	22,000 likely 25,000+	800,000 displaced (unconfirmed)	Confirmation
Indonesia	30,000 (unconfirmed)	3000 missing 150,000 displaced 3000 from Banda Aceh alone	No confirmation, but reports indicate that this could be realistic estimate,
India	Tamil Nadu - 2367 Andhra Pradesh - 69 Andaman & Nicobar Islands 7000 Kerala - 131 Estimated Total 11,499	810 mlssing 30,000 unconfirmed missing	Official government figures Media sources
Thailand	1516	8432 injured	
Bangladesh	2	Killed by the tsunami	
Maldives	52	73 missing, 160 injured, 100,000 severely affected	Government sources
Malaysia	59	29 missing, 183 injured	
Somalia	122		
Burma	57		Unicef
Kenya	1		
Tanzania	10	ACCURATION ACCURATION AND ACCURATION AND ACCURATION ACC	
Seychelles	1	44 injured	

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N.B. We have changed the format in order to cut down on the volume of paper presented each time. The more dynamic parts of the sitrep, and the ongoing DFID responses and forward plans are now all presented at the beginning, and after today we will only reissue Part 1 each time. Changes from SITREP No 4 in Bold Italics.

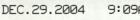
PART 1

KEY ISSUES

- The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster but has not called for international assistance.
- The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance "for environmental disaster".
- The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance. The government has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to support evacuation of people.

DEVELOPMENTS

- Indonesia
 - > UNDAC team (including some NGOs invitees) to deploy 29 December.
 - > Aceh entry restrictions relaxed
 - > ICRC ready to send medical kits, but as yet there is nobody in place to distribute.
 - > Some UN expat staff have been allowed in to Aceh as have MSF. ICRC expect clearance 28 December (pm)
 - Deputy Prime Minister of Indonesia reported to fear some 25,000 dead in Sumatra,
 - ➢ Situation Update received from Head DFID Jakarta. Raw UN estimate of needs totals \$24 to 25 m over next 3 months. Some indications that access to foreigners being opened up – UN and MSF already, ICRC expected soon.
 - BBC World Service reports that Indonesian separatists, based in Sweden have declared a unilateral ceasefire.





- > IFRC to chair coordination meeting 28 December. UNICEF field officers to reach affected areas 29 December.
- > Burmese Red Cross have NFIs for 1800 families on standby, WFP have food stocks available and UNICEF, basic drugs and medical supplies.
- > WFP & ICRC have allocated funds (\$0.5m and €3m), WHO & UNDP will allocate funds if an emergency declared.
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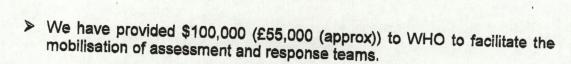
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- > A team of 3 humanitarian advisers to deploy to Indonesia 29 December to support the DFID Office.
- > DFID has despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka.
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- UNHCR to provide 18,000 plastic sheets, 17,000 plastic mats, rope, and NFIs for 2,000 familles (incl. cooking sets, plastic jerry cans, mosquito nets and clothing)
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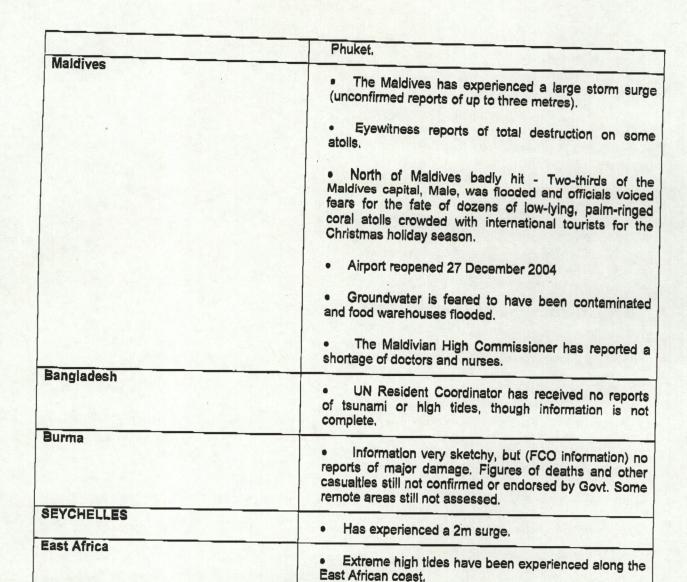
Location	Dead Reported	Other	Confirmation
Sri Lanka	18000	800,000 displaced (unconfirmed)	Confirmation
Indonesia	Vice President fears 25,000	300 missing 50,000 displaced 3000 from Banda Aceh alone	No confirmation, but reports indicate that this could be realistic estimate.
	 Tamil Nadu - 2367 Andhra Pradesh - 69 Andaman & Nicobar Islands 3000 Kerala - 131 Total 5567 	810 missing 30,000 unconfirmed missing	Official government figures Media sources
Thailand	1439	8432 injured	
Bangladesh	2	Killed by the tsunami	
Maldives	52	73 missing, 160 injured, 100,000 severely affected	Government sources
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Burma	57		Unicef
Kenya	1		Onicer
Tanzania	10		
Seychelles	1	44 injured	

PART 2

___NO.052__ P.9

COUNTRY STATUS REPORTS

Indonesia	
	 The earthquake affected the province of Aceh and neighbouring provinces, generating a (reported) five metre high Tsunami. The Gol has declared a national disaster — with local non-governmental contacts in Aceh reporting serious damage. The BBC has reported that most of the damage sustained in Banda Aceh is as a result of tsunami, rather than earthquake. We are in the process of trying to establish whether this is, in fact, the case.
India (From DFID India)	No call for international assistance. Indian
	authorities are reported to have responded well to the initial rescue and relief phase. Response led by the security services, now with increasing assistance from Indian NGOs. The Indian Government has sent assistance to Sri Lanka, including naval search and rescue capacity and humanitarian goods.
	• EU Heads of Mission in Delhi met this morning. Discussion focused predominantly on the safety of EU nationals. We briefed that the Indian government had not asked for external assistance, but that we would consider any such request if it came. We also briefed that HMG's initial regional response was focused on relief to those countries worst hit and/or with inadequate domestic capacity to respond.
Sri Lanka	a The pothern and costern costs of Ocident
	 The northern and eastern coasts of Sri Lanka have experienced very extensive flooding, with water penetrating far inland (up to 2km). Extensive coastal inundation with entire villages submerged, although waters are now beginning to recede. One NGO with a presence on the coast has reported "absolute devastation".
	Colombo airport remains open.
	 There are some reports of looting in the wake of the flooding.
	 GoSL has appealed for emergency international assistance, and declared a national emergency; one million people, or 5 percent of the population, may be displaced, with as many as 20,000 injured.
Thailand	Government asked UN to coordinate response and has created an ad hoc task force and appointed a humanitarian relief coordinator to coordinate foreign assistance.
	To the north of Thailand, officials reported that one wave 5 to 10 metres high hit hotel-lined beaches on



INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE:

Mauritius

Diego Garcia

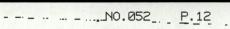
Entity	Action
EU	EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) activated (9 MSs providing material support). Information Sheets now being received.
ЕСНО	Dispatched Assessment mission to Sri Lanka. ECHO assessment mission on standby for Indonesia. ECHO assessment on standby for Tamil Nadu, India. Committed €3 million to the IFRC Appeal – to decide on further €10 million by 30 December
The United States said it would offer:	"All appropriate assistance" to Aslan countries, with some aid already on its way to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. US has committed an initial \$100,000 to Sri

Appears to have escaped unscathed.

No reports of damage.



	Sent 4.6 tonnes NFIs & 6.9 tonnes medical aid to Srl Lanka
Portugal	Granted an Initial \$1.4 million In emergency aid to the region.
Breece	Granted \$150,000 each to Sri Lanka and India. Dispatched a C130 with food, NFIs, medical supplies and medical personnel to Sri Lanka and the Maldives
zech Republic	Offered approx \$440,000 to the affected area and will send 8 tonnes bottled water per day until at least 1 January 2005
	Offered a preliminary amount of approx \$1.8m, A Danish emergency expert has been dispatched with an UNDAC team to the affected area.
Denmark	Donated food, cash, tents and sleeping mats worth \$2,700,000 to India, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Maldives .
China	Sent surgical teams, 20 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the Maldives and dispatched three naval ships to the Maldives and four to Sri Lanka to help in the rescue and relief operations.
ndian Government	Indonesia on 27 December. Has offered emergency assistance equivalent value \$26,000,000 (approx \$250,000) to Indonesia, \$414,700,000 (approx \$140,000) to Sri Lanka, \$49,700,000 (approx \$95,000) to Maldives (tents, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, electric generators, water purifiers and portable water tanks, blankets, plastic jerry cans.
Government of Japan	materials, (including 800 kilos of medicines). Emergency assistance survey team sent to
France	100 French rescue workers (including French Rec Cross) sent by Airbus A310 to Sri Lanka on 27 December with 6.4 tonnes of equipment and other
	medical supplies, drinking water, emergency supplies blankets and emergency stores. Announced AU\$10,000,000 (US\$ 7,600,000 (AU\$5,000,000 to Australian Red Cross, AU\$3,000,000 to Indonesial government and AU\$2,000,000 to Australian altorganisations).
Australia:	Sent 2 x C130 planes (water purification equipment
World Economic Forum Airport Emergency Team:	Is expecting to leave DXB 0310 28/12 for Mel (assuming reopens as scheduled on 27/12) to hel with the airport operations there as infrastructure in
Sweden:	Sent 1 IL76 to Colombo with 320 tents & 390 blankets
Russian EMERCOM:	Maldives and other countries. Has mobilised a SAR team, with helicopter and a airlift of tents and blankets.
Kuwait has announced that it will:	Donate two million dollars as aid to the victims Asian Quake that hit Indonesia Sri Lanka the
Kuwait has a same to	Lanka and \$100,000 to the Maldives. US is awaiting revised Red Cross appeal, and will then consider further support. The US is deploying an emergence response (DART) team.



NGOs

NGO Responses are focussing on temporary shelter, food, and water and sanitation: Responses noted to date include:

Oxfam	Initiated an intervention in Sri Lanka (anticipated £350,000);
Christian Aid	Sending immediate relief of up to £250,000 to Sri Lanka and India for relief efforts.
MSF	A cargo plane carrying 32 tons of medical and sanitation materials for the MSF intervention will set off for Southeast Asia as soon as possible.
SCF	Seeking to charter a plane carrying relief supplies.
Islamic Relief	Launched an appeal to raise €1,000,000 for the affected population. An initial €200,000 has been allocated for relief intervention in the region and to help rehabilitate victims of the disaster. A further €20,000 of emergency aid will be sent to affected people in Sri Lanka.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

Sri Lanka	The Government of Sri Lanka has mobilised 700 doctors, many of whom have been alrlifted to affected areas. There are 500 nurses on standby.
	 Military and airforce mobilised, but only have six helicopters for SAR, India has offered six more, and two naval vessels.
	 The Tamil Tigers (LTTE) have appealed for international assistance.
India	 Authorities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were carrying out relief and rescue operation on a war footing, the minister said. A large number of government humanitarian response arms continue monitoring and are on standby pending more information.
	 More than 2000km of south-eastern coastline has been swamped by tsunami waves.
	 A large number of Search and Rescue organisations are also on standby pending more information.
Indonesia	 Has declared national emergency, allowing vice-President to mobilise all resources to focus of rescue and relief; to direct the armed forces and police to mobilise civic actions in affected areas; to direct all ministries including national logistical board to mobilise all efforts for relief, Medan City (Capital of North Sumatra) has



been designated as the Operation Centre.
 It is reported that thousands of military, police and rescue workers were dispatched to Aceh, as authorities "feared the death toll was likely to rise".

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

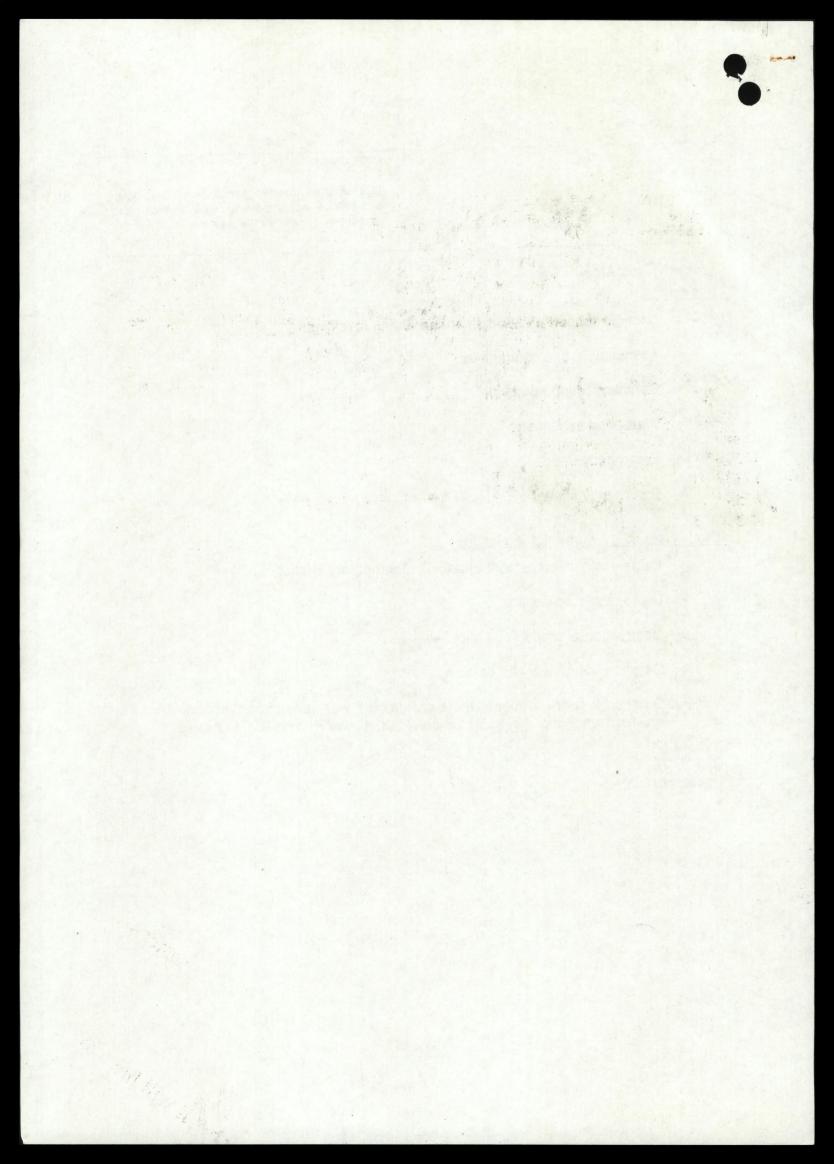
<u>Immediate</u>

- Medical support and equipment, including medicines
- Assessment and coordination
- Communication needs
- Water and sanitation
- Emergency Food
- Emergency shelter

Likely Secondary Humanitarian Issues

- Large scale displacement of people to temporary shelters
- Disease and epidemics
- Destruction of crops/ food supplies
- Deterioration of law and order
- Deterioration of situations where civil unrest/ war have already destabilised the environment – e.g. Aceh, Sri Lanka. Possibility of Human Rights Abuses?

CHAD OT December 2004



a Hopkins

Sunt:

Helena Hopkins

28 December 2004 18:45

To: 'Redmond.Norton@fco.x.gsi.gov.uk'

Cc: Duty Clerks

Subject: FW: Tsunamis - message from PM to Heads of State/Govt of affected countries

Please will you arrange for the following (amended) unsigned PM message to go to the five Heads of Government as recommended.

Thanks
Helena

The disaster caused by the recent tsunamis is truly awful. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all of your citizens who have been affected by this tragedy. Not only is the loss of life terrible, but it is clear that in the countries affected, hundreds of thousands of people will have to cope with the aftermath.

I know you are already doing everything possible to deal with the consequences. I am very grateful for the assistance given to British visitors to [country]. We have already offered help directly through our Department for International Development, and indirectly through the EU and the World Health Organisation. We stand ready to offer whatever further practical assistance we may be able to provide.

```
> The messages should go to:
> India - HE Manmohan Singh (Prime Minister);
 Sri Lanka - HE Mrs Chandrika Bandanaraike Kumaratunga (President)
> Maldives_ HE maumoon Abdul Gayoom (president)
> Indonesia - HE President Susilo Bamband Yudhoyono;
> Thailand HE Dr Thaksin Shinawatra (PM)
>
Red Norton
Duty Manager
FCO Response Centre
020 7008 3350
Fax. 020 7008 3823
mob. 07887 550 341
> Michael
> Michael Reilly
> Head, ASEAN-Oceania Group
> FCO
> (020) 7008 2438
```

a Hopkins



David Quarrey 28 December 2004 16:57 Helena Hopkins

FW: Tsunamis - message from PM to Heads of State/Govt of affected countries

Set to fee 25/2lar helena - thanks, i have amended. could you pls ask lizzie/monica to check whether the In contest PM is happy for these to go as unsigned messages

DRAFT message below.

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Red Norton
Duty Manager
FCO Response Centre
020 7008 3350
Fax. 020 7008 3823
mob. 07887 550 341
> Michael
> Michael Reilly
> Head, ASEAN-Oceania Group
> (020) 7008 2438
```

ena Hopkins

From: Sent:

David Quarrey

28 December 2004 16:57

To:

Helena Hopkins

Subject:

FW: Tsunamis - message from PM to Heads of State/Govt of affected countries

bur routed.

helena - thanks, i have amended. could you pls ask lizzie/monica to check whether the PM is happy for these to go as unsigned messages Told Op.

DRAFT message below.

W: 33: P 58/15

The disaster caused by the recent tsunamis is truly awful. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all of your citizens who have been affected by this tragedy. Not only is the loss of life terrible, but it is clear that in the countries affected, hundreds of thousands of people will have to cope with the aftermath.

I know you are already doing everything possible to deal with the consequences. I am very grateful for the assistance given to British visitors to [country]. We have already offered help directly through our Department for International Development, and indirectly through the EU and the World Health Organisation. We stand ready to offer whatever further practical assistance we may be able to provide.

> The messages should go to:

> India - HE Manmohan Singh (Prime Minister); > Sri Lanka - HE Mrs Chandrika Bandanaraike Kumaratunga (President) > Maldives_ HE maumoon Abdul Gayoom (president)
> Indonesia - HE President Susilo Bamband Yudhoyono;

> Thailand HE Dr Thaksin Shinawatra (PM)

> Red Norton Duty Manager FCO Response Centre 020 7008 3350

Fax. 020 7008 3823 mob. 07887 550 341

> Michael

> Michael Reilly

> Head, ASEAN-Oceania Group

> FCO

> (020) 7008 2438



SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI UPDATE AT 28 DECEMBER, 0745

Casualty Details

 Media now reporting an estimated total of 28,400 dead across the affected region, but numbers continue to rise (some reports speculate that deaths will reach a six figure total). Overall, 12 Britons confirmed dead.

In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are unconfirmed reports of up to 5000 killed, and tens of thousands injured. 3 Britons confirmed among the dead so far. Many tourists, including British nationals, have arrived in Colombo from coastal resorts. Best estimate of Britons affected is 2,000. Tour operators arranging charter flights to bring out over 1100 over next 48 hours.

In Maldives, there are over 3000 Britons on holiday – some reported injured by their tour companies. 1 Briton confirmed dead. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 35 dead and 59 missing overall (nationalities as yet mostly unknown, but at least one British national confirmed among the dead). Coastguard and Pakistan Navy are evacuating tourists from outlying resorts to Male. British tour operators are bringing out around 1000 Britons over the next 48 hours

- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 934 people have been killed and 7572 injured and around 1100 missing overall, but our Embassy thinks true figures are higher. 8 British nationals confirmed among the dead Phuket airport now open. Tour operators arranging flights out from Bangkok on scheduled flights.

- Also reports of over 40 confirmed killed in Malaysia but no Britons amongst them so far.

No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in Indonesia and India.
 But local casualties very high.

FCO and Posts' Response

Overall, we are keeping in close touch with tour operators on arrangements to evacuate British tourists from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- Eight-person RDT from London now operational supporting HC team in the coastal areas, and others supporting crisis room in the High Commission. Another RDT team is preparing to depart for Colombo on 28 December to relieve staff at the HC for the longer term
- A consular officer from Colombo has arrived in the Maldives and is assessing the situation.
- Refuge Centre set up in Colombo. Increasing numbers of British national arriving in Colombo and awaiting charter arrangements out (see above).
- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

Volunteers to form an RDT for Bangkok and Phuket have arrived from Hong Kong (4), Shanghai (1), Manila (2) and Kuala Lumpur (2), (additional reinforcement from Kuala Lumpur in hand). One member of Consular Directorate FCO also helping in Embassy. Embassy have requested further RDT support. Some Britons are arriving in Bangkok from Phuket and are receiving assistance

from the Embassy at Help Desk set up at Bangkok Domestic Airport.

- The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: 0207 008 0000.

- Police have opened a secondary call centre and will open a third on 28 December (all same number). We have issued press notices and website information that this number is only for family and friend to get and provide information. Other callers are being directed elsewhere.

Travel advice call centre (0870 606 0290) handling an equally large number of

calls.

- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre identified for Monday. Numbers increased for Tuesday and Wednesday Crisis Group will remain open.

Travel advice being amended as information comes in. Advising people not to

travel to Maldives.

- We remain in regular touch with tour operators.

DFID

- DFID have sent development co-ordinators to Colombo and Maldives. An aircraft has left for Colombo with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government.

US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka

- Response in other countries is being considered as details become clearer.

Consular Crisis Group 20.00 27/12/04

Realind Redfern

From: Sent:

To:



Rosalind Redfern 27 December 2004 12:22 Daniel Thornton; Ian Gleeson Nigel Sheinwald; David Quarrey

Cc: Subject:

FW: Deputy Prime minister's meeting 27 December



Brief for SOS 26 Dec.doc

record from meeting today

----Original Message----

From: David.Fitton@fco.x.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:David.Fitton@fco.x.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 27 December 2004 12:15

To: SEAsiaTsunami@fco.gov.uk; Paul.Sizeland@fco.gov.uk

Cc: richard.stagg@gtnet.gov.uk

Subject: Deputy Prime minister's meeting 27 December

No. 10 (Davidle Tunto, Ros Rober.)

I attended this meeting called at short notice to update him on casualty figures and action in hand. Apart from him, and his two staff, it was attended by David Horobin from DFID and (by speakerphone) Ian Gleeson from his Press Office. There will be another meeting at 0900 on Tuesday.

I went through the details on the attached (slightly updated). He said he had discussed with the Foreign Secretary the question of call handling. I briefed him. I said Hendon were now taking the calls and had increased the capacity to 40 call handlers. They were looking at what more they could do. He appreciated that in a scenario such as this people would often have to wait in a call queue. He personally thought the call response had been excellent given the numbers, but he asked that Hendon be encouraged to see if there was scope to do more, and asked for a report on this at tomorrow's meeting.

DFID briefed on their humanitarian response: assessors to Sri Lanka and Maldives and a charter flight tonight with supplies to Colombo.

Press office said the general view was that the response - consular and humanitarian - had been immediate, coordinated and hitting the worst affected areas quickly . The DPM agreed: there had been a "very good and quick" response from posts, the RDTs and DFID. He welcomed that our Ambassador in Bangkok and HC in Sri Lanka had been proactive in their assistance to Brits and had spoken to the press. There have been good coordination between departments.

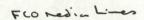
However, after the initial period (another 24 hours), the press would look for stories to criticize. These could be (however unreasonable):

- why were we not getting to the bottom of casualty figures
- call handling
- are we getting our humanitarian response to those that need it
- poor infrastructure in countries concerned

We should keep an eye on these angles. In the meantime we should all continue to emphasise the sheer scale of the tragedy and all that we are doing.

The DPM asked us to pass on thanks to all those involved.

<<Brief for SOS 26 Dec.doc>>



EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

Lines to Take

- We are not in a position to confirm details of the number of injured or killed in the earthquake/tidal wave that hit south east Asia in the early hours of 26 December 2004.
- Concerned friends and relatives in the UK should call 020 7008 0000 which is being manned on a 24 hour basis. (through the CCB in Hendon, manned by Met police civilian/police staff with FCO Consular liaison.)
- Foreign Office staff are on hand throughout the region to offer assistance to any one who needs our support.

It has been reported that at least one British National has died.

- Reported that 2 British nationals have been killed in the Maldives, one in Sri Lanka, one in Thailand (see below). Unconfirmed reports that several British nationals also killed in Thailand.
- Can confirm one British National (if known **Hanah Pyatt**) has been confirmed dead in Krabi Thailand by her husband (Rory Pyatt). The couple were backpacking. **Not for use:** The A/n's brother Jamie Pyatt (of the Sun Newspaper) travelling to Thailand today. Family intend to repatriate the deceased to the UK using Rowland Brothers.

Casualty Details

- Media now reporting an estimated total of 14,000 dead across the affected region.
- But confirmed details still hard to come by. Communications still difficult in the worst affected areas.
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are unconfirmed reports of up to 3200 killed, and tens of thousands injured. One Briton has been confirmed among the dead, but no other confirmed reports of dead or injured. Many tourists, including British nationals, have arrived in Colombo from coastal resorts.
- In <u>Maldives</u>, there are over 3000 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 35 dead and 59 missing (nationalities as yet mostly unknown, but at least one British national confirmed among the dead). Airport has re-opened. Coastguard and Pakistan Navy are evacuating tourists from outlying resorts to Male.
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 438 people have been killed and 3156 injured and around 100 missing overall, but our Embassy thinks true figures could be higher. Reports of at least 7 British nationals among the dead (but only one confirmed). Phuket airport now open.
- Also reports of over 40 confirmed killed Malaysia but no tourists amongst them so far.

- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in Indonesia and India. But local casualties reportedly very high.

What is the UK response to these tragedies?

- Our ambassador in Bangkok, David Fall, has set up an emergency office in Phuket with a team of 7 staff from Bangkok. They are offering appropriate consular assistance to those affected. A further two officers are on their to supplement this effort. The Ambassador has now arrived and is liasing with the local authorities and visiting those British Nationals affected by the crisis. Thailand MFA has set up a hotline for foreign nationals 66026435262 and 02643 5000/5002/5003.
- Embassy is open on 24hr basis. A help desk has also been set up at Bangkok airport to help with British tourists arriving from Phuket
- In Sri Lanka, our High Commission in Colombo is sending an emergency team of 4 to Galle and also to Male in the Maldives to provide assistance to those who need it. BHC has also set up an Emergency Centre in Colombo (Bandaranaike Memorial Conference Centre) for British tourists who have started to arrive from the coastal resorts, many brought by tour companies Government of Sri Lanka also sent 20 buses to affected areas to bring stranded tourists back to the capital.
- We are also aware of a group of British Nationals who are stranded on high ground near Arugam Bay on the East Coast. We are in touch with them and we have been in contact with the military in an effort to have them evacuated on morning of 27 Dec.
- Staff from Colombo has arrived in Male, Maldives and has established a consular/disaster assessment presence.
- The Foreign Office's Consular Crisis team is assessing the extent of the damage in the region. A Rapid Deployment Team of 8 people leaving left for Colombo on 26 December to supplement staff in Sri Lanka. A number of other staff from our other Posts in the region are on stand-by for further deployment (Hong Kong, Shanghai, Manila, and Kuala Lumpur).

Criticism that people cannot get through to the Emergency response number.

- There has been a huge number of calls which has meant that not everyone has been able to be connected as quickly as we would like. There are large numbers of British Nationals in the region at this time, all with concerned family and friends and this has meant many thousand of calls to the emergency number. Ask that everyone remain patient.
- The phones are being manned by the Central Casualty Bureau at Hendon by met police and civilian staff with FCO liaison.

Which areas have been hit by this tidal wave?

- The north-west coast of peninsular Malaysia (including the islands of Langkawi and Penang) has been affected by the tsunami on 26/12. But there are no reported foreign fatalities or serious injuries to British nationals. Our High Commission remains in touch with tourist resorts and local authorities.
- British High Commission in New Delhi confirmed no Britons have been reported hurt in south-east India.
- We have still to ascertain the level of damage and casualties in Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Understand the area hit in Indonesia was not frequented by tourists and have had no reports of British casualties so far.
- Seychelles has been hit with damage to fishing villages, 9 people missing and some injured but no British nationals reported in that figure.

What is HMG response to requests for Humanitarian assistance?

- DFID's disaster response team have been working since early 26/12/04. We have sent two people to join the UN Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination teams heading for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and two other assessment teams are on standby. We have already agreed to help fund the World Health Organisation response team (USD100,000) and we are looking to see if we can charter civilian helicopters to help in search and rescue operations in Sri Lanka.
- Foreign Secretary issued a statement offering condolences and offering practical assistance.

Background (not for use)

Contact numbers:

HMA Bangkok (Stephen Fall) – 006618043989 Press Officer (Ian)Bangkok - 006618137864, both in Phuket HC Colombo – 00 94112 437336 Colin Hicks in Male –(00940 777 808711), 00871762202035 sat, 00960340086

PRESS RELEASES TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2004

STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVES IN ASIA.

Jack Straw said:

"For all the huge advances in the control of our lives through science and technology an earthquake on this scale is truly humbling as well as profoundly tragic for everyone involved.

Messages of condolence from the British Government have been sent to the governments of India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives along with offers of practical assistance. These are being co-ordinated between the FCO, DFID and MOD.

As soon as the news came through in the small hours of this morning our emergency plans for such as situation were activated. In London Consular officials were called back from leave, regional Rapid Deployment Teams in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur put on stand-by. Our Ambassador in Thailand, David Fall and staff are on their way to Phuket. Every effort is being made by British High Commission Staff in Columbo, Sri Lanka (which also covers the Maldives) to provide assistance.

Our staff in London are in close touch with Association of British Travel Agents and the airlines.

For the tens of thousands of British tourists in South East Asia and their relatives and friends here this will I know be a very worrying time. We are doing everything we can to assist but the disruption to communication in the worst affected areas is inevitably making it difficult to confirm exactly the situation on the ground."

HILARY BENN SAID:

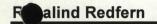
"It is clear that many people have lost their lives in this terrible tragedy, while hundreds of thousands of others are now having to deal with the aftermath.

We are doing all we can to offer practical help and support. DFID's disaster response team have been working since early this morning. We have sent two people to join the UN Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination teams heading for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and two other assessment teams are on standby. We have already agreed to help fund the World Health Organisation response team (USD100,000) and we are looking to see if we can charter civilian helicopters to help in search and rescue operations in Sri Lanka."

MEDIA UNDERTAKEN

HMA Bangkok – Sky, ITV, BBC HC Colombo – Sky, R4, News24, R5 Live, CNN FS – statement, Today programme (27/12) Douglas Alexander – R5 Live, Good Morning Scotland (27/12)

Press Office 26.12.04



From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:

David.Fitton@fco.x.gsi.gov.uk 27 December 2004 12:42 SEAsiaTsunami@fco.gov.uk Paul.Sizeland@fco.gov.uk

Further Contact with Tour operators 27 December

I missed the daily conference call with the tour operators but spoke to the organiser, Andy Cooper of FTO just now.

For Sri Lanka, Maldives and Thailand the operators were running a rolling cancellation policy until 31 December (7 Jan and possibly later for Sri Lanka), so no further passengers would be travelling until then.

MALDIVES

The four planned charters had gone empty to the Maldives. One was due to return to LGW at 2200. It had been half full of those due to travel on and the rest were other Brits at the airport who wanted to leave. Others scheduled to leave had not been able to get to the airport yet.

Many other not yet due to return to the UK seemed happy to stay on until their scheduled return - subject to health and safety conditions. FTO operators were keeping a close eye on this latter point and on FCO travel advice, but they were quite comfortable with the TA as it stood. I gave him Colin Hicks' contact numbers.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka was in a bad state. most passengers wanted to get out. FTO were looking at doing an organised evacuation using scheduled or charter flights or a combination. The operators were very pleased with the tremendous help they were getting from the High Commission.

THAILAND

It was more difficult to get a clear picture in Thailand. Passengers seemed in two minds about leaving. FTO were thinking of getting everyone who wanted to out using scheduled flights via Bangkok. I gave him the numbers in Phuket and Bangkok and told him of intended assistance at Bangkok airport. He was grateful for all the staff on duty in Phuket and was very appreciative on the last point - the Thais could be very difficult about people with no papers.

David Fitton Head Crisis Group Consular Directorate 0207 008 0111

Salind Redfern

From: Sent: Despo.Michael@fco.x.gsi.gov.uk

27 December 2004 18:12

To:

SEAsiaTsunami@fco.gov.uk; fcoresponsecentre@fco.gov.uk; d-warren@dfid.gov.uk;

ian.gleeson oct-66@tiscali.co.uk; James.Nadin@met.pnn.police.uk

Subject: Latest Lines and Today transcript of FS interview



Earthquake Latest Lines 26.12....

For the attention of the press teams

Please find attached the latest press script.

If you have more up-to-date information please pass to me so I can update our central press script.

The key press issue for us at the moment is trying to alleviate some of the calls to the Emergency Number. Many people are calling that number to find out about flights/travel advice. It would be helpful if you can get the message out to Brits who are safe and well in your areas to call a relative/friend back in the UK. This will help.

FCO Ministers are not planning any further media activity this evening.

Gordon Brown and Hilary Benn will be on the Today programme (Tuesday morning). The High Commissioner, Stephen Evans, will do a clip for the Today programme.

If you have any questions please call me on 020 7008 3100.

<<Earthquake Latest Lines 26.12.04.doc>>

Despo

Despo Michael Duty Press Officer FCO Tel. 020 7008 3100 EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

As at 17.00 on Monday 27 December

Lines to Take

- We are doing everything we can to assist the British tourists in South East Asia and their relatives and friends here. As the Foreign Secretary said this will be a very worrying time.
- Concerned friends and relatives in the UK should call 020 7008 0000 which is being manned on a 24 hour basis. (through the CCB in Hendon, manned by Met police civilian/police staff with FCO Consular liaison.)
- Foreign Office staff are on hand throughout the region to offer assistance to any one who needs our support.

12 British nationals confirmed dead

- Reported that 1 British national have been killed in the Maldives, 3 in Sri Lanka, 8 in Thailand (see below).
- Can confirm one British National (if known **Hanah Pyatt**) has been confirmed dead in Krabi Thailand by her husband (Rory Pyatt). The couple were backpacking. **Not for use:** The A/n's brother Jamie Pyatt (of the Sun Newspaper) travelling to Thailand today. Family intend to repatriate the deceased to the UK using Rowland Brothers.

Casualty Details

- Media now reporting at least 23,500 dead across the affected region.
- But confirmed details still hard to come by. Communications still difficult in the worst affected areas.
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are unconfirmed reports of up to 3200 killed, and tens of thousands injured. One Briton has been confirmed among the dead, but no other confirmed reports of dead or injured. Many tourists, including British nationals, have arrived in Colombo from coastal resorts.
- In <u>Maldives</u>, there are over 3000 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 35 dead and 59 missing (nationalities as yet mostly unknown, but at least one British national confirmed among the dead). Airport has re-opened. Coastguard and Pakistan Navy are evacuating tourists from outlying resorts to Male.
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 866 people have been killed and 7306 injured and around 1157 missing overall, but our Embassy thinks true figures could be higher. Reports of 8 British nationals among the dead. Phuket airport now open.
- Also reports of over 40 confirmed killed Malaysia but no tourists amongst them so far.

- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in Indonesia and India. But local casualties reportedly very high.

What is the UK response to these tragedies?

Hilary Benn said on World At One (13.20 on 27 December 2004)

"We are sending a plane to Sri Lanka carrying tents, sheets of plastic covering. Via the EU we have given £400,000 to the Red Cross Appeal. We have also provided funding to the World Health Organisation. We have dispatched 2 people to the UN disaster team. This is part of a huge international response. We will look at all requests we receive. An assessment on the ground is the right thing in the circumstances."

FCO response

- Our ambassador in Bangkok, David Fall, has set up an emergency office in Phuket with a team of 7 staff from Bangkok. They are offering appropriate consular assistance to those affected. A further two officers have been deployed to supplement this effort. The Ambassador has now arrived and is liasing with the local authorities and visiting those British Nationals affected by the crisis. Thailand MFA has set up a hotline for foreign nationals 66026435262 and 02643 5000/5002/5003.
- Embassy is open on 24hr basis. A help desk has also been set up at Bangkok airport to to assist with emergency passports, loans etc.
- help with British tourists arriving from Phuket. We are strengthening our team at the Domestic and International Airports in Bangkok in anticipation of several evacuation flights from Phuket later this afternoon and evening. These include a flight being organised by the Ministry of Interior for victims of the disaster, for which seats will be free.
- In Sri Lanka, our High Commission in Colombo is sending an emergency team of 4 to Galle and also to Male in the Maldives to provide assistance to those who need it. BHC has also set up an Emergency Centre in Colombo (Bandaranaike Memorial Conference Centre) for British tourists who have started to arrive from the coastal resorts, many brought by tour companies Government of Sri Lanka also sent 20 buses to affected areas to bring stranded tourists back to the capital.
- We are also aware of a group of British Nationals who are stranded on high ground near Arugam Bay on the East Coast. We are in touch with them and we have been in contact with the military in an effort to have them evacuated on morning of 27 Dec.
- Staff from Colombo has arrived in Male, Maldives and has established a consular/disaster assessment presence.

- The Foreign Office's Consular Crisis team is assessing the extent of the damage in the region. A Rapid Deployment Team of 8 people from London have arrived in Colombo on 27 December to supplement staff in Sri Lanka. A number of other staff from our other Posts in the region are on stand-by for further deployment (Hong Kong, Shanghai, Manila, and Kuala Lumpur).

Criticism that people cannot get through to the Emergency response number.

- There has been a huge number of calls which has meant that not everyone has been able to be connected as quickly as we would like. There are large numbers of British Nationals in the region at this time, all with concerned family and friends and this has meant many thousand of calls to the emergency number. Ask that everyone remain patient.
- The phones are being manned by the Central Casualty Bureau at Hendon by met police and civilian staff with FCO liaison.
- The Emergency number is receiving many non emergency calls. For travel advice for the region please contact 0870 6060290 or access the FCO wesite at www.fco.gov.uk/travel

Why can't you provide more people?

The scale of the tragedy has meant many thousands of calls to the emergency number. We would ask concerned family and friends to remain patient and keep trying. We are also asking Britons in the region and who are in a position to do so to call a friend or relative back in the UK to let them know they are safe and well. We are also asking callers to the emergency number who want to know about travel advice to access the FCO website.

Which areas have been hit by this tidal wave?

- The north-west coast of peninsular Malaysia (including the islands of Langkawi and Penang) has been affected by the tsunami on 26/12. But there are no reported foreign fatalities or serious injuries to British nationals. Our High Commission remains in touch with tourist resorts and local authorities.
- British High Commission in New Delhi confirmed no Britons have been reported hurt in south-east India.
- We have still to ascertain the level of damage and casualties in Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Understand the area hit in Indonesia was not frequented by tourists and have had no reports of British casualties so far.
- Seychelles has been hit with damage to fishing villages, 9 people missing and some injured but no British nationals reported in that figure.

What is HMG response to requests for Humanitarian assistance?

- DFID's disaster response team have been working since early 26/12/04. We have sent two people to join the UN Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination teams heading for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and two other assessment teams are on standby. We have already agreed to help fund the World Health Organisation response team (USD100,000) and we are looking to see if we can charter civilian helicopters to help in search and rescue operations in Sri Lanka.
- Foreign Secretary issued a statement offering condolences and offering practical assistance.

Background (not for use)

Contact numbers:

HMA Bangkok (Stephen Fall) – 006618043989 Press Officer (Ian)Bangkok - 006618137864, both in Phuket HC Colombo – 00 94112 437336 Colin Hicks in Male –(00940 777 808711), 00871762202035 sat, 00960340086, 00960340502 (fax) Nicola Stanton, RDT Press Officer -07899 938 660

PRESS RELEASES TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2004

STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVES IN ASIA.

Jack Straw said:

"For all the huge advances in the control of our lives through science and technology an earthquake on this scale is truly humbling as well as profoundly tragic for everyone involved.

Messages of condolence from the British Government have been sent to the governments of India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives along with offers of practical assistance. These are being co-ordinated between the FCO, DFID and MOD.

As soon as the news came through in the small hours of this morning our emergency plans for such as situation were activated. In London Consular officials were called back from leave, regional Rapid Deployment Teams in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur put on stand-by. Our Ambassador in Thailand, David Fall and staff are on their way to Phuket. Every effort is being made by British High Commission Staff in Columbo, Sri Lanka (which also covers the Maldives) to provide assistance.

Our staff in London are in close touch with Association of British Travel Agents and the airlines.

For the tens of thousands of British tourists in South East Asia and their relatives and friends here this will I know be a very worrying time. We are doing everything we can to assist but the disruption to communication in the worst affected areas is inevitably making it difficult to confirm exactly the situation on the ground."

HILARY BENN SAID:

"It is clear that many people have lost their lives in this terrible tragedy, while hundreds of thousands of others are now having to deal with the aftermath.

We are doing all we can to offer practical help and support. DFID's disaster response team have been working since early this morning. We have sent two people to join the UN Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination teams heading for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and two other assessment teams are on standby. We have already agreed to help fund the World Health Organisation response team (USD100,000) and we are looking to see if we can charter civilian helicopters to help in search and rescue operations in Sri Lanka."

TRANSCRIPT FROM TODAY PROGRAMME: FOREIGN SECRETARY INTERVIEW

TRANSCRIPT

Programme(s)	Straw on Today	
Date & time	Monday 27 December 2004 0820	
Subject / interviewee	South East Asia Quake – Jack Straw	
Prepared by:	MMU	
Contact numbers:	020 7276 1080	

Jim Naughtie: Foreign Secretary, good morning.

Jack Straw: Good morning.

JN: What's the latest that you've been hearing about British casualties or about the scenes in general in some of these countries?

JS: Well, the latest, in terms of casualties, as your reporter Bob Sinkinson announced earlier is that we have four confirmed deaths, excuse me, and that number is likely to rise. We have had a number of reported deaths, that is deaths of British nationals reported to our embassies and High Commissions, but they've not yet been confirmed. The numbers will be higher and as well as that there are obviously quite a number injured. In Phuket there are 69 British people who have been counted as injured by David Fall, our Ambassador in Thailand, and his staff have literally been going around the hospitals. The situation is inevitably, although sadly for the relatives and friends concerned, still a very confused one and will remain so until the full scale of the damage becomes clear..

JN: .. because some of the outlying areas of course aren't able to be penetrated and we simply don't know what's going on ..

JS: Yes, in Thailand I was talking to David Fall, our Ambassador, just about half an hour ago um, in Phuket the damage has been very localised he said, it covers an area of three to four hundred yards along the coast and every where else in Phuket thankfully is okay but it is the outlying areas which have suffered the greatest damage and by definition they are both outlying but also now at the moment very difficult to maintain communications with. But let me say although the number of casualties appears to have been mercifully low if you happen to be a British national, uh as far as British nationals are concerned, uh British national, and you have, or your relatives or friends have been injured, or still worse you've lost somebody, it's obviously terrible and we are doing everything we can to assist. And I was very struck in your report a moment ago by the story of Jeanette Orr (sp?) who is in Phuket and who literally saw her daughter swept away .. these are not things people go on holiday for ..

JN:.. indeed we will give people the emergency number which they can contact after we've finished talking. And of course the scene in general across Asia in many countries is one of terrible devastation and governments begging for help .. I mean not not just simple cash, although they will need resources to repair things, but for medical supplies and for assistance with the rescue and clean up operation.

JS: Yes, cash itself is the thing that is easy to provide, um again, I was talking to Hilary Benn our international development secretary earlier this morning, the more difficult thing to provide is things that come in very short supply in circumstances like this like helicopters and we are ready to provide helicopters in a number of these areas. It is simply accessing the helicopters because those that are commercial helicopters which we would normally use are obviously being used in any event by the emergency services. It has to be said that an earthquake and the tidal wave following on a scale of this is unusual but it also illustrates how we are at the mercy of natural forces however much we think that these days, particularly in the west, that we have control over our own lives through the great advances in science and technology. We do have greater control of our lives but compared to the enormity of natural forces of this kind we are literally sort of pawns in a greater universe and what has happened is terrible it is also I think very humbling to see. From the British government point of view, along with the European Union, we are doing everything that we can to help. Teams of people are going out to various countries from the Department for International Development as well as Foreign Office people to gain assessments and we are also relying on the non-governmental organisations in those areas. What Hilary Benn was saying to me earlier this morning is that obviously what is critical is that you wait a short while so that you can direct the assistance that you have in the best possible way, that is, you don't sent blankets when they need shelters or shelters when they need blankets.

JN: A very quick question Mr Straw because we are hearing from Ukraine that the election is pretty well decided. The result is apparently clear and it's not one that is going to be challenged and the opposition has won. What is your reaction to that?

JS: My reaction is this that we will respect any result that is based on a fair decision by the Ukrainian people ant that's always been our position. We've not been backing one candidate or another ...

JN: ..unlike the President of Russia ..

JS: Well, leave him aside for a second. We've been backing free and fair elections and it looks as though that there will have been a free and fair election in Ukraine. A quite remarkable turn around of events given where we were just six weeks ago.

JN: Foreign Secretary, thank you very much.

-ends-

MEDIA UNDERTAKEN

HMA Bangkok – Sky, ITV, BBC HC Colombo – Sky, R4, News24, R5 Live, CNN FS – statement, Today programme (27/12) Douglas Alexander – R5 Live, Good Morning Scotland, BBC Solent (27/12)

Hilary Benn - World At One, ITN, Radio 5 Lunchtime (27/12) Gareth Thomas - Sky, BSB, BBC Radio Scotland

Press Office 27.12.04



1/12 day 4:5 01 20



N.B. Changes from SITREP No 2 in Bold Italics.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster but has not called for international assistance.
- The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance "for environmental disaster".
- The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has requested international assistance. The government has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to support evacuation of people.
- The DFID assessment team members attended a meeting between the UN and donors to plan a series of joint assessment missions. The Team Leader and one team member will take part in these assessments. It has been decided to offer our third team member, with his contacts and local knowledge, to support the GoSL in setting up its coordination operations, based in Colombo.
- The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) will send an assessment team to Aceh Province on 28 December.
 - DFID responses to date:
 - DFID has despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka. Two more staff on standby for Maldives.
 - > Following the request from GoSL for international support, we are planning to despatch an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
 - The UK share (18%) of ECHOs funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
 - > We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
 - ➤ We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.

- We have agreed funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children UK In providing an emergency response in Sri Lanka.
- At the request of the current EU Presidency (The Netherlands), the DFID assessment team In Srl Lanka is representing and providing feedback to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) and the Presidency for all aspects concerning Member States' Civil Protection interests.
- > Our two-man assessment team has arrived in Sri Lanka. A second team of two remains on standby to go elsewhere in the region if required.
- We are considering project proposals from a number of UK NGOs, and we expect to receive more concept notes and proposals in the coming days.

OVERVIEW

- A series of earthquakes hit southern Asia on Sunday at around 0800 hrs local time, setting off a tsunami that has reached Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, and Thailand.
- The first earthquake struck at 0759 local (0059 GMT) off the coast of the northern Indonesian island of Sumatra and swung north with multiple tremors into the Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean over the next few hours. It has now been reported as a Magnitude 9 quake by the United States Geological Survey. Aftershocks continue.

CASUALTIES

Information remains very sketchy - communication links are generally down. Figures are constantly being updated, but at 2000 GMT 27 December, the total death toll was reported in the media as 23,900, rough detail as follows:

Location	Dead Reported	Other	Confirmation
Sri Lanka	6517+	800,000 displaced (unconfirmed)	Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence
Indonesia	Up to 4900	3000 from Banda Aceh alone	
India	Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh (approx 2780 dead)	Unconfirmed estimates of 10,000 displaced	DFID India
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (approx 3000 dead) Total 6289+	30,000 missing (unconfirmed)	
Thailand	839 Also 100+ on Phi Phi Island	7261 injured	
Bangladesh	2	Killed by the tsunami	
Maldives	43		Government Officials
Malaysia	48	Many more reported missing	
Somalia	16		
Burma	30		
Kenya	1		

COUNTRY STATUS REPORTS

Indonesia	 The earthquake affected the province of Aceh and neighbouring provinces, generating a (reported) five metre high Tsunami. The Gol
	has declared a national disaster – with local non-governmental contacts in Aceh reporting serious damage. The BBC has reported that
	most of the damage sustained in Banda Aceh is as a result of tsunami, rather than earthquake. We are in the process of trying to establish whether this is, in fact, the case.

ndia (From DFID India)	• No call for international assistance. Indian authorities are reported to have responded well to the initial rescue and relief phase. Response led by the security services, now with increasing assistance from Indian NGOs. The Indian Government has sent assistance to Sri Lanka, including naval search and rescue capacity and humanitarian goods.
	 EU Heads of Mission in Delhi met this morning. Discussion focused predominantly on the safety of EU nationals. We briefed that the Indian government had not asked for external assistance, but that we would consider any such request if it came. We also briefed that HMG's Initial regional response was focused on relief to those countries worst hit and/or with inadequate domestic capacity to respond.
Sri Lanka	• The northern and eastern coasts of Sri Lanka have experienced very extensive flooding, with water penetrating far inland (up to 2km). Extensive coastal inundation with entire villages submerged, although waters are now beginning to recede. One NGO with a presence on the coast has reported "absolute devastation".
	Colombo airport remains open.
	 There are some reports of looting in the wake of the flooding.
	 GoSL has appealed for emergency international assistance, and declared a national emergency; one million people, or 5 percent of the population, may be displaced, with as many as 20,000 injured.
Thailand	 To the north of Thailand, officials reported that one wave 5 to 10 metres high hit hotel-lined beaches on Phuket.
Maldives	The Maldives has experienced a large storm surge (unconfirmed reports of up to

	three metres).
	Eyewitness reports of total destruction on some atolls.
	 North of Maldives badly hit - Two-thirds of the Maldives capital, Male, was flooded and officials voiced fears for the fate of dozens of low-lying, palm-ringed coral atolls crowded with international tourists for the Christmas holiday season.
	Airport reopened 27 December 2004
	Groundwater is feared to have been contaminated and food warehouses flooded.
	 The Maldivian High Commissioner has reported a shortage of doctors and nurses.
Bangladesh	 UN Resident Coordinator has received no reports of tsunami or high tides, though information is not complete.
Burma	 Information very sketchy, but (FCO information) no reports of damage, injuries or death.
Seychelles	Has experienced a 2m surge.
East Africa	Extreme high tides have been experienced along the East African coast.
Mauritlus	Appears to have escaped unscathed.
Diego Garcia	No reports of damage.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE:

Entity	Action	
EU	EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EUMIC) activated (9 MSs providing material support). Information Sheets	

	now being received.
ECHO	Dispatched Assessment mission to Sri Lanka. ECHO assessment mission on standby for Indonesia. ECHO assessment on standby for Tamil Nadu, India.
The United States said it would offer:	"All appropriate assistance" to Asian countries, with some aid already on its way to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. US has committed an initial \$100,000 to Sri Lanka and \$100,000 to the Maldives. US is awaiting a revised Red Cross appeal, and will then consider further support. The US is deploying an emergency response (DART) team.
Kuwait has announced that it will:	Donate two million dollars as aid to the victims of Asian Quake that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and other countries.
Russian EMERCOM:	Has mobilised a SAR team, with helicopter and an airlift of tents and blankets.
Sweden:	Will fly (an unspecified number) of tents to Sri Lanka on 27 December.
World Economic Forum Airport Emergence Team:	Is expecting to leave DXB 0310 28/12 for Malé (assuming reopens as scheduled on 27/12) to help with the airport operations there as infrastructure is known to be poor.
Australia:	Sent 2 x C130 planes (water purification equipment, medical supplies, drinking water, emergency supplies, blankets and emergency stores.
	Announced AU\$ 10,000,000 (US\$ 7,600,000 (AU\$5,000,000 to Australian Red Cross, AU\$3,000,000 to Indonesian government and AU\$2,000,000 to Australian aid organisations).
France	100 French rescue workers (Including French Red Cross) sent by Airbus A310 to Sri Lanka on 27 December with 6.4 tonnes of equipment and other materials, (including 800 kilos of medicines).
Government of Japan	Emergency assistance survey team sent to Indonesia on 27 December
Indian Government	Surgical teams, 20 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the Maldives. Dispatched three naval ships to the Maldives and four to Srl Lanka to help in
	the rescue and relief operations.

China	\$2,700,000 for assistance in India, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Maldives – including food, cash, tents and sleeping mats

UN

- Two Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Teams have been dispatched, with two Britons (one deployed to Maldives, one to Sri Lanka)
- OCHA has mobilised two further UNDAC Teams. They will be dispatched in the next 24-48 hours to Thalland and Indonesia.
- WHO has established an operations room in Geneva and is ready to deploy staff in support of UN operations.
- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in Geneva it
 was making an emergency cash grant of \$50,000 to Sri Lanka in addition to
 sending an evaluation team to the island on 27 December.
- UNDP Administrator and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator are requesting all UN Country Teams in the affected region to convene crisis meetings immediately to discuss response to date, to review cooperation with the Governments and to consider assistance from OCHA and other sources. Furthermore, they have decided to reinforce all UN Country Teams in the affected countries with additional personnel.

Red Cross Movement

- The Federation has launched a preliminary international appeal for \$US6,7m. Major contributions have so far been received from the Dutch (Euro 2m) and ECHO (Euro 3m). IFRC released \$US870,000 from its own funds; Belgium has allocated Euro 500,000 and the Canadian Red Cross has contributed \$CAN200,000. In effect the appeal has been fully subscribed. The UK share of the ECHO Funding is 18% (approx £372,000). The Irish will contribute Euro 1m through the Irish Red Cross.
- The Federation said it would send medical supplies for 100,000 people in Sri Lanka on Monday from Copenhagen, including special medication to treat diarrhoeal disease.
- The British Red Cross has launched a separate public appeal.
- The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) will send an assessment team to Aceh Province on 28 December.

NGOs

NGO Responses are focussing on temporary shelter, food, and water and sanitation: Responses noted to date include:

Oxfam	Initiated an intervention in Sri Lanka (anticipated £350,000);	
Christian Aid	Sending immediate relief of up to £250,000 to Srl Lanka and India for relief efforts.	
MSF	A cargo plane carrying 32 tons of medical and sanitation materials for the MSF intervention will set off for Southeast Asia as soon as possible.	
SCF	Seeking to charter a plane carrying relief supplies.	
Islamic Rellef	Launched an appeal to raise €1,000,000 for the affected population. An initial €200,000 has been allocated for relief intervention in the region and to help rehabilitate victims of the disaster. A further €20,000 of emergency aid will be sent to affected people in Sri Lanka.	

NATIONAL RESPONSE

AT HOUSE INCOLORED	
Sri Lanka	 Military and airforce mobilised, but only have six helicopters for SAR. India has offered six more, and two naval vessels. The Tamil Tigers (LTTE) have appealed for international assistance.
India	 Authorities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were carrying out relief and rescue operation on a war footing, the minister said. A large number of government humanitarian response arms continue monitoring and are on standby pending more information.
	 More than 2000km of south-eastern coastline has been swamped by tsunami waves.

	 A large number of Search and Rescue organisations are also on standby pending more information.
Indonesia	 Has declared national emergency, allowing vice-President to mobilise all resources to focus of rescue and relief; to direct the armed forces and police to mobilise civic actions in affected areas; to direct all ministries including national logistical board to mobilise all efforts for relief. Medan City (Capital of North Sumatra) has been designated as the Operation Centre.
	 It is reported that thousands of military, police and rescue workers were dispatched to Aceh, as authorities "feared the death toll was likely to rise".

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Immediate

- Medical support and equipment, including medicines
- Assessment and coordination
- Communication needs
- Water and sanitation
- Emergency Food
- Emergency shelter

Likely Secondary Humanitarian Issues

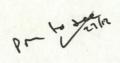
- Large scale displacement of people to temporary shelters
- Disease and epidemics
- Destruction of crops/ food supplies
- Deterioration of law and order
- Deterioration of situations where civil unrest/ war have already destabilised the environment – eg Aceh, Sri Lanka. Possibility of Human Rights Abuses?

P.15

DFID RESPONSE TO DATE

- We have provided funding of £400,000 to support Save the Children (UK) in its emergency response operation in Srl Lanka.
- Following the request from GoSL for international support, we have despatched an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- We are considering project proposals from a number of UK NGOs, and we expect to receive more concept notes and proposals in the coming days.
- Our two-man assessment team has arrived in Sri Lanka. A second team of two remains on standby to go elsewhere in the region if required.
- We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- We have provided \$100,000 to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams. Value £55,000 (approx).
- Having made contact with the MOD, we have established that they have no assets in the region.
- We are awaiting a revised Red Cross appeal, and will then consider further support.
- We continue to maintain close contact with the FCO, which has deployed an eight-person team to Sri Lanka. Other countries are being covered regionally.
- We continue to gather information on the emergency needs across the region with a view to developing the DFID emergency response appropriately.

CHAD OT December 2004



DFID

CHAD OT SITUATION REPORT INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS 26 DEC 2004 2330GMT

SITREP No 2

N.B. Changes from SITREP No 1 in Bold Italics.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of Indonesia has declared a national disaster.
- The Government of the Maldives has declared a national disaster.
- DFID responses to date:
 - > DFID has despatched an assessment team to Sri Lanka. Two more staff on standby for Maldives.
 - > Following the request from GoSL for international support, we are planning to despatch an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
 - > The UK share (18%) of ECHOs funding of the Federation's Emergency Appeal amounts to (£372,000 (approx)).
 - We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
 - ➤ We have provided \$100,000 (£55,000 (approx)) to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.

OVERVIEW

- A series of earthquakes hit southern Asia on Sunday at around 0800 hrs local time, setting off a tsunami that has reached Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, and Thailand.
- The earthquake (variously reported up to 8.9) struck at 0759 local (0059 GMT) off the coast of the northern Indonesian island of Sumatra and swung north with multiple tremors into the Andaman islands in the Indian Ocean over the next few hours. Aftershocks continue.
- The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a national disaster and has appealed for international assistance, and has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents, helicopters to support evacuation of people.

CASUALTIES

Information remains very sketchy - communication links are generally down. Figures are constantly being updated, but at 2300Z, the total death toll was reported as 11460, broken down as follows:

Indonesia

 Reports of up to 4400 dead, of which up to 3000 reported from Banda Aceh;

Thailand

Up to 400 dead (up to 150 in Phuket), with up to 200 injured

Sri Lanka:

Up to 4,300 dead reported by press (3225 confirmed dead by GoSL)

India

- GOI has confirmed over 1705 deaths in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
- Up to 1000 are feared dead in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, according to Gol

Bangladesh

· Two peple reported killed by the tsunami.

Burma

No information available

Maldives

• 32 reported dead

Malaysia

42 reported dead, many more reported missing

Somalia

16 reported dead

OTHER ASSESSMENTS

Indonesia

- The earthquake affected the province of Aceh and neighbouring provinces, generating a (reported) five metre high Tsunami. The Gol has declared a national disaster with local non-governmental contacts in Aceh reporting serious damage.
- The Indonesian Red Cross will launch an assessment tomorrow (Monday).

Maldives:

- The Maldives has experienced a large storm surge (unconfirmed reports of up to three metres).
- Eyewitness reports of total destruction on some atolls.
- Airport likely to be reopened by tomorrow (Monday 27 December) morning.
- North of Maldives badly hit Two-thirds of the Maldives capital, Male, was flooded and officials voiced fears for the fate of dozens of low-lying, palm-ringed coral atolls crowded with international tourists for the Christmas holiday season.

Thailand:

 To the north of Thailand, officials reported that one wave 5 to 10 metres high hit hotel-lined beaches on Phuket.

Sri Lanka

- The northern and eastern coasts of Sri Lanka have experienced very extensive flooding, with water penetrating far inland (up to 2km). Extensive coastal inundation with entire villages submerged, although waters are now beginning to recede. One NGO with a presence on the coast has reported "absolute devastation".
- · Colombo airport remains open.
- There are some reports of looting in the wake of the flooding.
- GoSL has appealed for emergency international assistance, and declared a national emergency; one million people, or 5 percent of the population, may be displaced, with as many as 20,000 injured.

Bangladesh

 UN Res Coordinator has received no reports of tsunami or high tides, though information is not complete.

Burma

No information available.

Seychelles

· Has experienced a 2m surge.

East Africa

Extreme high tides have been experienced along the East African coast.

Mauritius

Appears to have escaped unscathed.

Diego Garcia

No reports of damage.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE:

- The United States said it would offer "all appropriate assistance" to Asian countries, with some aid already on its way to Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- Kuwait has announced that it will donate two million dollars as aid to the victims of Asian Quake that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and other countries.
- Russian EMERCOM has mobilised a SAR team, with helicopter and an airlift of tents and blankets.
- Sweden will fly (an unspecified number) of tents to Sri Lanka on 27 December.
- A World Economic Forum Airport Emergency Team is expecting to leave DXB 0310 28/12 for Malé (assuming reopens as scheduled on 27/12) to help with the airport operations there as infrastructure is known to be poor.

UN

- Two Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Teams are being dispatched, with two Britons (one to be deployed to Maldives, one to Sri Lanka)
- WHO has established an operations room in Geneva and is ready to deploy staff in support of UN operations.
- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in Geneva it
 was making an emergency cash grant of \$50,000 to Sri Lanka in addition to
 sending an evaluation team to the island on 27 December.
- UNDP Administrator and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator are requesting all UN Country Teams in the affected region to convene crisis meetings immediately to discuss response to date, to review cooperation with the Governments and to consider assistance from OCHA and other sources. Furthermore, they have decided to reinforce all UN Country Teams in the affected countries with additional personnel.

Red Cross Movement

• The Federation has launched a preliminary international appeal for \$US6.7m. Major contributions have so far been received from the Dutch (Euro 2m) and ECHO (Euro 3m). IFRC released \$US870,000 from its own funds; Belgium has allocated Euro 500,000 and the Canadian Red Cross

has contributed \$CAN200,000. In effect the appeal has been fully subscribed. The UK share of the ECHO Funding is 18% (approx £372,000).

- The Federation said it would send medical supplies for 100,000 people in Sri Lanka on Monday from Copenhagen, including special medication to treat diarrhoeal disease.
- The British Red Cross has launched a separate public appeal.

NGOs

NGO Responses are focussing on temporary shelter, food, and water and sanitation: Responses noted to date include:

- Oxfam has initiated an intervention in Sri Lanka (anticipated size £350,000);
- Christian Aid is sending immediate relief of up to £250,000 to Sri Lanka and India for relief efforts.
- A cargo plane carrying 32 tons of medical and sanitation materials for the MSF intervention will set of for Southeast Asia as soon as possible.
- SCF is seeking to charter a plane carrying relief supplies.
- Islamic Relief has launched an appeal to raise €1,000,000 for the affected population. An initial €200,000 has been allocated for relief intervention in the region and to help rehabilitate victims of the disaster. A further €20,000 of emergency aid will be sent to affected people in Sri Lanka.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

Sri Lanka

- Military and airforce mobilised, but only have six helicopters for SAR. India has
 offered six more, and two naval vessels.
- The Tamil Tigers (LTTE) have appealed for international assistance.

India

- Authorities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were carrying out relief and rescue operation on a war footing, the minister said.
 A large number of government humanitarian response arms continue monitoring and are on standby pending more information.
- More than 2000km of south-eastern coastline has been swamped by tsunami waves.
- A large number of Search and Rescue organisations are also on standby pending more information.

Indonesia

 Has declared national emergency, allowing vice-President to mobilise all resources to focus of rescue and relief; to direct the armed forces and police to mobilise civic actions in affected areas; to direct all ministries including national logistical board to mobilise all efforts for relief. Medan City (Capital of North Sumatra) has been designated as the Operation Centre.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Immediate

- · Medical support and equipment, including medicines
- Search and Rescue
- Fresh Water
- Food

Likely Secondary Humanitarian Issues

- Large scale displacement of people to temporary shelters
- Disease and epidemics
- Destruction of crops/ food supplies
- · Deterioration of law and order
- Deterioration of situations where civil unrest/ war have already destabilised the environment – eg Aceh, Sri Lanka. Possibility of Human Rights Abuses?

DFID RESPONSE TO DATE

- We have dispatched a two-man assessment team to Sri Lanka. A second team of two is on standby to go to the Maldives.
- Following the request from GoSL for international support, we are planning to despatch an aircraft with plastic sheeting and tents on 27 December. Total value of contribution £250,000.00 (approx).
- We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- We have provided \$100,000 to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams. Value £55,000 (approx).

- We are awaiting proposals from a number of UK NGOs, which we will consider as they arrive.
- We have been in touch with the MOD. They have no ships or helicopters in the region. We have so far been unsuccessful in identifying any civilian helicopters locally that might be chartered to meet the needs of the Sri Lankan Government. We intend not to follow this line any longer.
- We continue to gather information on the emergency needs across the region with a view to mounting an appropriate DFID response.

CHAD OT December 2004 Ico sinter

SOUTH EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI, 26 DECEMBER

Soen 55 pM 27/12

Casualty Details

- Media now reporting an estimated total of 14,000 dead across the affected region.
- But confirmed details still hard to come by. Communications still difficult in the worst affected areas.
- In <u>Sri Lanka</u>, there are unconfirmed reports of up to 3200 killed, and tens of thousands injured. One Briton has been confirmed among the dead, but no other confirmed reports of dead or injured. Many tourists, including British nationals, have arrived in Colombo from coastal resorts.
- In Maldives, there are over 3000 Britons on holiday some reported injured by their tour companies. The Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 35 dead and 59 missing (nationalities as yet mostly unknown, but at least one British national confirmed among the dead). Airport has re-opened. Coastguard and Pakistan Navy are evacuating tourists from outlying resorts to Male.
- In <u>Thailand</u>, official figures say 438 people have been killed and 3156 injured and around 100 missing overall, but our Embassy thinks true figures could be higher. Reports of at least 7 British nationals among the dead (but only one confirmed). Phuket airport now open.
- Also reports of over 40 confirmed killed Malaysia but no tourists amongst them so
- No British nationals reported dead or seriously injured in Indonesia and India. But local casualties reportedly very high.

FCO and Posts' Response

Sri Lanka and Maldives

- We have sent out an eight-person RDT from London, departing Sunday evening, due to arrive 1600 Monday. They will provide support in Colombo, on the coast, and in Maldives as required.
- A consular officer from Colombo has recently arrived in the Maldives and is assessing the situation.
- The High Commissioner is sending a four man team to Galle on the south-east coast (plans to deploy earlier were stopped when roads/airport were closed).
- Refuge Centre set up in Colombo. About 100 British nationals accommodated there.
- The High Commission is open 24/7.

Thailand

- Volunteers to form an RDT for Bangkok are travelling on Monday from Hong Kong (2), Shanghai (1), Manila (2) and Kuala Lumpur (2) to back-fill.
- The Ambassador has arrived in Phuket with a seven-strong team and drivers. Some have gone on to Krabi further south. Two officers will travel on to Pangna and Khao Lak tomorrow. Three other members of staff have flown down on Thai government aircraft. An emergency office has been set up in Phuket. They expect to be fully briefed by the emergency services there tonight.
- Some Britons are beginning to arrive in Bangkok from Phuket and are receiving assistance from the Embassy at Help Desk set up at Bangkok Domestic Airport.
- The Embassy is open 24/7.

FCO

- Response Centre handled initial calls, with consular and press officers on duty there since early morning on 26 December. RDT and ERT members were alerted at 0530hrs.
- The Consular Emergency Response Team set up on Sunday morning to deal with calls from relatives and others. Due to the large number of callers we transferred this to the Met Police call-centre as per standing arrangements from early afternoon on 26 December. Number remains the same: 0207 008 0000.
- Additional casework and liaison officers for the Response Centre and Met Police centre have been identified for Monday and Tuesday. Crisis Group will remain open.
- Travel advice being amended as information comes in. Advising people not to travel to Maldives. We are in regular touch with tour operators.

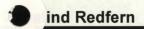
DFID

- DFID are sending two development co-ordinators to Colombo. A third is already on his way as part of a UN team.
- An aircraft is being chartered with shelter supplies (sheeting and tents) requested by the Sri Lankan government.
- US\$100,000 donated to WHO appeal for Sri Lanka
- Response in other countries is being considered as details become clearer.

MOD

 MOD have assets in Oman but nothing in Diego Garcia. A MILO will be deployed to the Maldives on Monday.

Consular Crisis Group 20.00 26/12/04



Sent. To: Cc: Neale.Jagoe@fco.x.gsi.gov.uk 26 December 2004 23:41 Megumi.Spivey2@fco.gov.uk SEAsiaTsunami@fco.gov.uk

Subject:

Maldives - Report from Maldives' High Commission in London

Importance:

High

Dear Colleagues,

Maldives' High Commission in London have confirmed 35 dead and 59 missing (nationalities as yet unknown). But communication remains difficult. Airport has re-opened - 3 flights have already landed. Maldives' Coastguard and Pakistan Navy are evacuating tourists from outlying resorts to Male.

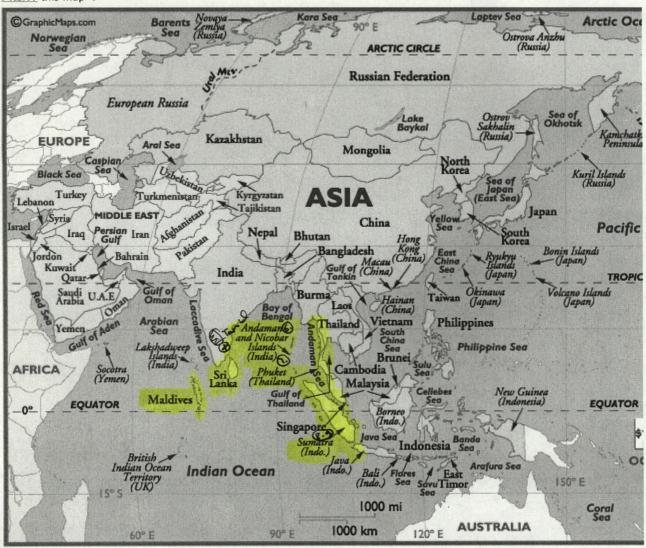
They have also faxed us through a list of resorts in the Maldives with contact numbers. Grateful for your best fax number by return to forward.

Neale Jagoe Duty Manager, Response Centre

TCO helpline.

WorldAtlas.Com

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Please Note:

Burma Since 1989 the military authorities in Burma have promoted the name Myanmar as a conventional name for their state. This decision was not (and is not) approved by any sitting legislature in Burma, and is not accepted by the U.S. and a few other governments. However, the name Myanmar is widely accepted by the majority of countries, and by the United Nations.

European Russia The Russian landmass west of the Ural Mountain is commonly referred to as *European Russia* in most modern atlases, and by the vast majority of geography experts.

It is not a separate country, but rather called that because of its political, cultural and geographical blendings with Europe.

For reference purposes it is shown above to the west of the dashed-line, however, the entire country (as a whole) is still considered part of the continent of Asia.

▶ Middle East: Countries considered part of the Middle East are shown in a lighter shade of green, and their names are indicated in red. They are all still part of the continent of Asia.

Turkey is officially, politically and geographically considered part of both the Asian and European continents. The northwestern portion of Turkey (colored beige) is a recognized part of Europe, while the green shaded portion of the country (the largest part) is part of Asia and the Middle East.

Taiwan is still considered by China to be its 23rd province, and not an independent country. Very few other country governments accept China's claims of sovereignty.

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OVERVIEW

- A series of earthquakes hit southern Asia on Sunday at around 0800 hrs local time, setting off a tsunami that has reached Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, and Thailand.
- The earthquake (magnitude 8.5 as measured by the U.S. Geological Survey) struck at 0759 local (0059 GMT) off the coast of the northern Indonesian island of Sumatra and swung north with multiple tremors into the Andaman islands in the Indian Ocean over the next few hours.
- Information remains very sketchy, communication links generally down. Figures
 are constantly being updated, but at 1300Z, the death toll was reported as
 follows.
- The Government of Sri Lanka has appealed for international assistance, and has asked for: portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents, helicopters to support evacuation of people.

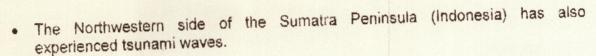
Casualties

- Indonesia: Confirmed reports of 220 dead
- Thailand: More than 100 tourists on diving holidays were missing on islands off southern Thailand
- Sri Lanka: As many as 1,500 feared dead in Sri Lanka. Gov suspects as many as 5000 may have died.
- India: Over 1000 people have died in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, according to Gol
- Bangladesh: felt tremors but no reports of any casualties.
- . Burma: No information available yet.

Other Assessments

Indonesia

 Damage due to quake reported – not yet clear how much - following tsunami strike.



Thailand:

To the north in Thailand, officials reported one wave 5 to 10 metres (16 to 32 feet) high hit hotel-lined beaches on Phuket.

Maldives:

- The Maldives has experienced a large storm surge (unconfirmed reports of up to three metres).
- North of Maldives badly hit Two-thirds of the Maldives capital, Male, was flooded and officials voiced fears for the fate of dozens of low-lying, palm-ringed coral atolls crowded with international tourists for the Christmas holiday season.
- Eyewitness reports of total destruction on some atolls.
- Airport likely to be reopened 'within a couple of hours'.

Sri Lanka

- The northern and eastern coasts of Sri Lanka have experienced very extensive flooding, with water penetrating far inland. Extensive coastal inundation with entire villages submerged, although waters now beginning to recede.
- Colombo airport remains open. One NGO with a presence on the coast has reported "absolute devastation".
- GoSL has appealed for emergency international assistance, and declared a national emergency; one million people, or 5 percent of the population, may be displaced, with as many as 20,000 injured.
- Note: GoSL co-ordination seems poor. Many local government officials still on holiday. Efforts are being made to include LTTE in national response.
- UN disaster response meeting going into session at 1200Z.

India

- Tamil Nadu was the "worst affected", with over 800 people reported killed.
- In Andhra Pradesh, over 200 people were feared killed
- In Andaman, as many as 14 people were killed, the minister said, adding that the damage due to the tidal wave in Car Nicobar and Greater Andamans was "higher", but details were yet to come in due to snapping of communication links.
- The coastal areas of West Bengal have also suffered damage, damage currently unknown.



Felt tremors but no reports of any casualties.

Burma

No information available yet.

Seychelles

No news, but possible tsunami damage at some stage.

East Africa

 Nothing yet experienced. The British Geological Survey says that "some disturbance" is likely along the coast, but not clear how much.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE:

UN

- Two Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Teams are being dispatched, with two Britons (one to be deployed to Maldives, one to Sri Lanka)
- WHO has established an ops room in Geneva and is ready to deploy in support of UN operations.
- OCHA Sri Lanka has mobilised \$50,000 for Initial response.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

Sri Lanka

 Military and airforce mobilised, but only have six helicopters for SAR. India has offered six more.

India

- Authorities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were carrying out relief and A large number of government humanitarian response arms continue monitoring and are on standby pending more information.
- A large number of Search and Rescue organisations are also on standby pending more information.

Other Countries

Information still awaited.



HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Immediate

- Medical support and equipment, including medicines
- Search and Rescue
- Fresh Water
- · Food

Likely Secondary Humanitarian Issues

- Large scale displacement of people to temporary shelters
- Disease and epidemics
- Destruction of crops/ food supplies
- Deterioration of law and order
- Deterioration of situations where civil unrest/ war have already destabilised the environment - eg Aceh, Sri Lanka. Possibility of Human Rights Abuses?

DFID RESPONSE TO DATE

- · We have provided team members for two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams.
- We have placed two assessment teams (four staff members) on standby.
- We have provided ₹100,000 to WHO to facilitate the mobilisation of assessment and response teams.
- We are awaiting proposals from a number of UK NGOs, which we will consider as
- We anticipate a Federation Appeal, which we will consider as soon as it is issued.
- We have been in touch with the MOD. They have no ships or helicopters in the region. As a result, we are currently looking for opportunities to charter civilian helicopters locally in an effort to meet the needs of the Sri Lankan Government.
- · We continue to gather information on the emergency needs with a view to mounting an appropriate DFID response.

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alind Redfern

From Sent:
To:
Cc:

Rosalind Redfern 26 December 2004 10:19 Daniel Thornton; Ian Gleeson Rosalind Redfern

Situation so far & recap

Major quake off Sumatra Indonesia 8.9 on Richter scale triggered major Tsunami's in Thailand (>10 M high), Sri Lanka (>6M high) indian coastal regions, Maldives and Indonesia (>10M high) (around 05:00 Uk and 10:00 local).

After shocks between 6-7 on scale reported in Andamari and Nicobar Islands off Thailand

Wave devastation has effected all coast provinces including Phuket. Concerns for UK citizens in whole region incl the Maldives (nb Hilary Armstrong and Jim Fitzpatrick both in Maldives I have spoken to and are both fine) which has suffered severe flooding to two thirds of main island incl the capital.

Thai PM has announced state of emergency and ordered evac of coastal area because of fears of follow up Tsunami from after shocks.

I have spoken to FCO response centre and they will keep me in the loop re casualties as they come in currently (**not for release**) we have 2 Brit deaths one in Maldives and one in Sri Lanka. FCO confirmed that DFID have been in the loop from the beginning and are arranging relief flights. re MOD they will check if any ships are in the area.

The PM and DPM are both aware of all the above. I will update both as and when I receive more.

Treats it with the stand in the area.

Provisional Pigmes.

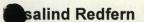
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-0100 Towish d'mes rim y. (2 bead to happed) Manin - 0 % dead. Danes - 0 24 Tolers 2400 - DFID co-ord relief response will unterns Maldiner - 10 dead 30 injured (state & anonymy) - FCO response centres set up throughout "in. - HMA Daid FOR Thall go - to over now Rec. - HC Evens Srilade abou houdling to near . now top Brit death, Ico tem -> Phulot. Haral Pyats - Thailand Tem phis to have FCO resource course doing a six report for FCS+ thus cooper to ight. 1



Sent: To:

Cc:

Daniel Thornton

26 December 2004 14:47

o: Rosalind Redfern

Nigel Sheinwald; Ian Gleeson

Subject: RE: dfid response

spoke to Mo - her concern is that we say something quickly. Gareth Thomas about to issue a statement - nfa.

----Original Message---From: Rosalind Redfern

Sent: 26 December 2004 14:41

To: Daniel Thornton

Cc: Nigel Sheinwald; Ian Gleeson

Subject: RE: dfid response

I think she would appreciate that, esp coming from you as a sign her concerns have had a correct response, as further confirmation that FCO & DFID are doing what they can and have the intent to advise the media accordingly. Ian has spoken to me separately to say the FCS has released a statement saying FCO DFID and MOD are considering their co ordinated response and assistance needed with other agencies. FCO will prob put someone out on today programme tomorrow.

----Original Message----

From: Daniel Thornton

Sent: 26 December 2004 14:30

To: Rosalind Redfern; Ian Gleeson; Nigel Sheinwald

Subject: dfid response

I spoke to Hamid Kennedy, who is leading on the SE Asia response in Dfid.

Gareth Thomas is the duty minister & will make a press statement at c.300pm & will be available for media interviews.

Dfid has set up a crisis centre in Victoria st. So far only Sri Lanka has requested assistance. Initial thinking is that the UK will provide funds for the UN agencies and ngos, esp. the Red Cross, which will organise an appeal. Dfid staff will participate in the UN teams that will go out to the region. Dfid already has a person in Sri Lanka & several more are on standby.

Overall, they are still assessing needs in the region. No intention to get Hilary Benn involved, but watching the situation.

I'm happy to speak to Mo Mowlem about this if it would be helpful.