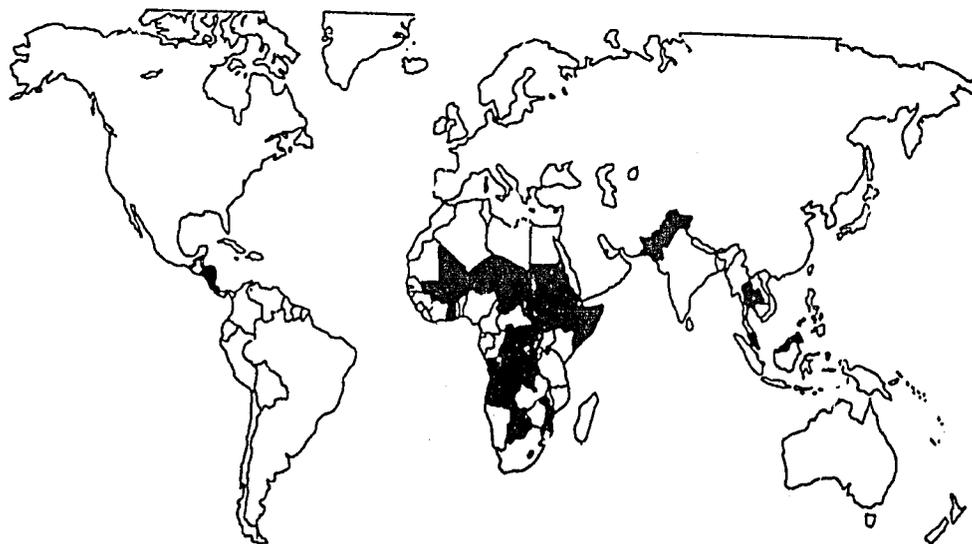


Recent Climatic Impacts, Current Media Reports and Potential Implications for



Refugee/Displaced Person Communities

May 1985

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE
ASSESSMENT AND INFORMATION SERVICES CENTER
MODELS BRANCH, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

RECENT CLIMATIC IMPACTS, CURRENT MEDIA REPORTS AND
POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR REFUGEE/DISPLACED PERSON COMMUNITIES:
PROTOTYPE ASSESSMENT

Assessment Period May 1985

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June 10, 1985

PREFACE

This prototype assessment summarizes recent climatic impacts, current media reports and possible implications for refugee/displaced person communities throughout the developing world. This assessment of climate impact is conducted under the Global Early Warning Program on Drought/Food Shortages. The AID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance sponsored the program, implemented by the Assessment and Information Services Center, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service(AISC/NESDIS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration(NOAA).

Background information on countries covered by AISC assessments which host refugee/displaced person communities receiving international aid is contained in the report "Agroclimate and Background Information on Refugee/Displaced Person Communities" by Rita Terry, NOAA/NESDIS/AISC Models Branch, Columbia, Missouri, November 1984. This assessment, prepared by Rita Terry and Louis Steyaert, is a product of the baseline report.

Unless otherwise indicated, statements from the Climate Impact Assessment, Foreign Countries(NOAA) and Foodcrops and Shortages, Special Report(FAO) are direct quotations. The primary sources for media information are the Daily Reports of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service(FBIS) and regional reports of the Joint Publications Research Service(JPRS). Additional sources in this report are the Wall Street Journal(WSJ) and the International Herald Tribune(IHT).

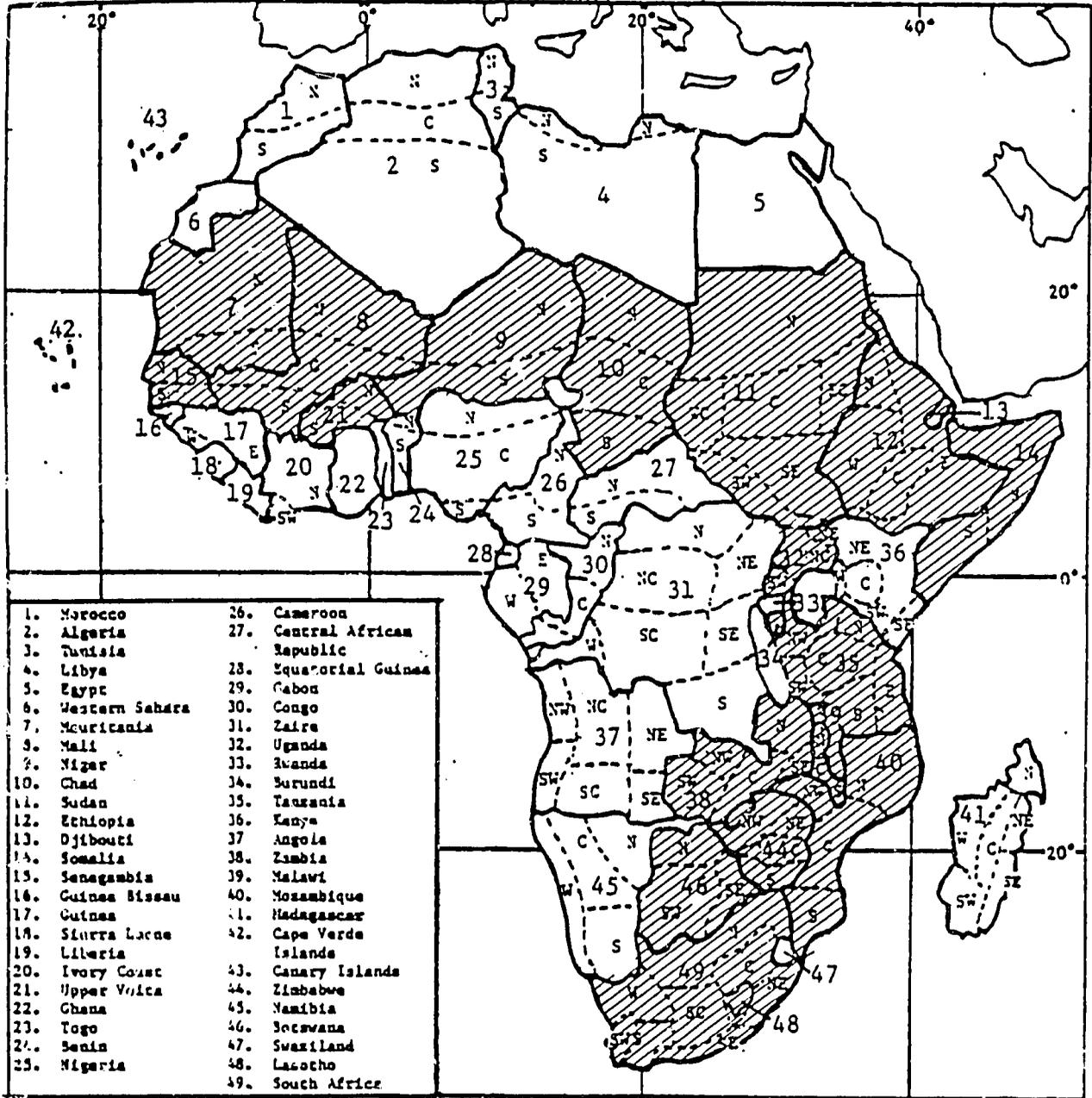
Comments and suggestions from potential users will be gratefully accepted.

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AFRICA

Weather-Induced Food Shortages

February 1985



NOAA

Countries with food shortages related to adverse weather during the previous growing season are shaded. (for 1984 season)

AFRICA
June 10, 1985

OVERVIEW

NOAA

- 4/85 Yield prospects remain favorable across most of eastern Africa. The Intertropical Discontinuity (and accompanying rains) has been slightly south of normal this spring in western Africa. Mean position (and normal) for April 21-30 was 12.3°N (13.0). May 1-7 position was 13.6°N (14.0). In southern Africa, harvesting of summer crops is taking place under seasonably dry conditions. The current harvests should help relieve food shortages resulting from drought in 1984 and 1983.
- 5/30 The LTD location - near 14.6°N - remains 50-100 km south of normal.

FAO

- 4/85 The food supply position continues to deteriorate in several of the 21 countries which FAO considers to have faced food emergencies in 1984/85...In west Africa, logistic constraints are impeding the distribution of food in several countries, where the position is already critical...For the Sahelian countries and Sudan, it is essential to deliver as much aid as possible before the rains in June make distant settlements inaccessible by road...Congestion at the port of Assab and the lack of internal transport facilities are limiting the flow of food aid to the affected areas of Ethiopia, where recent rains have aggravated distribution problems...a matter of considerable urgency concerns the supply of seeds and other inputs which are required for planting in May/June in a number of countries where serious shortages of seeds are already being reported. In Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Sudan the available seed supplies are well below the minimum requirements...Without...(seeds) the current exceptional food deficits will inevitably be extended into 1986, even if weather conditions are favourable....(Food Outlook, May 1985)

MALI

For the third consecutive year, insufficient and ill-distributed rains and low river levels severely affected cereal production and livestock. At the end of the 1984 growing season in Mali, overall food production was expected to be even lower than in 1982, when cereal crops posted a 30% decline from normal because of the drought, considered to be one of the worst in this century. About 1 million people are affected, concentrated in Kayes, Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu. People and cattle have migrated southward.

NOAA

- 4/85 Planting in some Sahel countries (Burkina, Mali, Chad) begins by late May. Recent scattered thunderstorms encouraged planting.
- 5/30 Showers have been...limited to southern areas of Mali.

FAO

- 4/85 The food supply situation remains extremely critical, particularly in the regions of Gao, Kayes, Mopti and Timbuktu, following the drought-affected harvest of 1984. Substantial southward migration of affected people and livestock are reported. Lack of vehicles and other logistic constraints hamper efficient monitoring of population movements, but it is confirmed that displaced people in the Gao region critically need emergency aid...The present seed supply situation is precarious and replenishment of seed stocks is critically required for the planting of the 1985 crops, which is scheduled to start with the onset of the rains in June.

Media Reports

- JPRS
2 May In Gao, "from the airport road, one discovers the hundred of pitiful shelters for nomadic families, as far as the eye can see...the nomads of the north hoped for some rain that did not come. They tried to move back toward the river with their herds...too late; the wells were dry, the pastures non-existent, the animals died along the way. About 90 percent of the cattle perished. Livestock raising is the fundamental, and often the only, resource of this population: they live primarily on meat and milk from their herds; the rest (grain, clothing and tools) is obtained by selling a few heads of cattle. If the nomads are the first victims of the drought, the sedentary farmers have not been spared: The rainfall dropped to 90 mm in 1984; crops have been devastated; harvests are non-existent or nearly so; and supplies are running out. The drought has caused the water level of the Niger to drop. Some crops, particularly rice, have been scorched as they are no longer submerged. Gao's sports field has been converted into a 'soup kitchen'. Those who are known here not as refugees but as 'floating populations'...20,000 nomads are stricken by the drought; the monthly needs of the region of Gao total 400,000 metric tons of grain."

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Implications

Lack of seeds and loss of livestock are critical problems. Recovery from cattle mortality of 40 to 50 percent is a slow process. Rain would improve pasture conditions in the Sahelo-Saharan zones, but without seeds rainfall cannot improve crop production.

BURKINA

Northern and eastern Burkina experienced two consecutive years of low or erratic rainfall in 1983 and 1984. Drought in the far north near Dori was one of the worst ever recorded. September rains helped crops in the southwest, the major crop producing area. Cereal production was estimated at 1.1 million tons in 1984, 1 million tons in 1983.

NOAA

- 4/85 Planting in some Sahel countries (Burkina, Mali, Chad) begins by late May. Recent scattered thunderstorms encouraged planting.
- 5/30 Showers have been...widespread in Burkina....

FAO

- 4/85 The food supply situation is presently serious in Yatenga and Sahel regions as a result of the poor 1984 crops...It is crucial that the bulk of the pledged aid be received in the affected areas before the onset of the 1985 rains. In the north, the planting of millet and sorghum is scheduled to start with the onset of rains in late May or early June. Stocks of millet and sorghum seeds are insufficient and external assistance is urgently required for their replenishment. In southwestern areas, where the rains usually start in April, the seed supply is reported to be good.

Media Reports

- JPRS
3 May Nigerians, Malians and Mauritians have literally invaded Northern Burkina because it has more vegetation, being located further south than the other countries. "The people of Burkina had anticipated a grain deficit of 160,000 tons this year. Taking into account the thousands of mouths to feed arriving from neighboring countries, this figure will have to be revised. Probably as high as 330,000 tons." Nigerian shepherds have taken their herds and families to Sano, Yatenga and Soune Burkina looking for pastures.
- JPRS
10 May "The International Court of Justice of The Hague in charge of examining the border dispute between Burkina Faso and Mali has published the composition of the chamber that will take charge of the case...The border dispute, which was inherited from colonization, concerns a 15 km by 160 km strip of land in the Agacher District between Djibo (in Burkina Faso) and the Koro District in Mali. On several occasions, especially in 1974 and 1975, there have been armed clashes between the forces of the two countries which have a common border of 1,150 km."

WSJ
21 May Drought has affected Dori, Burkina for 15 years. The rainfall in 1969 "was measured at almost 26 inches a year; now the average has dropped to close to 12 inches, and in some places last year it was less than 10 inches...The situation here is made more urgent by the recent arrival of 3,500 famine refugees from Mali...They camp in the sand outside Dori...North on a desert road that leads to Gorom-Gorom, one finds ever greater despair. Tree after tree along the road is long dead, lying in the sand...the district of 85,000 people produced only 405 tons of grain last year-about 2% of their needs...Few farmers have any seed. Many of the fields have been ruined by sand and by cattle grazing on the stubble left by the land owners before they packed up and left."

Implications

May rainfall would improve the crop outlook under normal conditions. However, if seeds are not available for planting in Burkina and neighboring Sahel countries, food shortages will continue into the 1986 season. The shortages may be intensified by the continuing arrival from neighboring countries of people seeking food and pasture for their livestock. Resources in the already densely populated central plateau are being taxed further by the influx of people and herds from the north and from Mali.

GHANA

Abundant and well distributed rainfall resulted in bumper crops in 1984.

FAO

4/85 The excellent cereal harvests of 1984 have caused internal procurement, transport and storage problems. Substantial losses resulting from the rotting of maize stocks has been reported. In some northern areas prices continue to rise, reflecting localized shortages and increased purchases by private traders. Some 2 000 tons of maize are being airlifted to drought-struck Burkina Faso in exchange for cattle. The planting of maize for the 1985 season has started in southern areas, where the first important rains were received during March.

Media Reports

JPRS
11 May Ghana's high commissioner in Nigeria disclosed "that about 300,000 Ghanaians living in Nigeria have been affected by the Federal Government's quit order." Many of these people had returned to Nigeria after coming home in 1983 when over 1 million Ghanaians were expelled.

FBIS
13 May "The Ghanaian Government today warned that it could not afford to spend any more time, money or resources on repatriating its citizens expelled from Nigeria as illegal immigrants...Some 300,000 Ghanaians out of an estimated 700,000 foreigners are said to be affected, but nothing like that number have returned home so far."

- FBIS
14 May "The first of an unspecified number of ships chartered by the Nigerian Government to convey stranded aliens home, has berthed at the Tema port with about 1,500 returnees...although those coming would be angry, hungry and wild, we have a duty to ensure that those who are allowed in are all Ghanaians."
- FBIS
15 May Emergency food was being distributed by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to returnees from Nigeria.
- FBIS
16 May "Five thousand Ghanaians from Nigeria arrived at the Tema harbor today on board two Ghanaian vessels. So far, about 14,000 immigrants have returned home by sea."
- FBIS
22 May Government sources indicated "that about 25 Ghanaians died in the shooting incident at the Seme border post."
- FBIS
24 May "The secretary for agriculture...has given the assurance that the return home of 300,000 Ghanaians from Nigeria will not cause any serious food problems...the target of maize production for this year is 660,000 tons, but this figure may not be attained due to the initial low prices paid to farmers last year. He said adequate storage arrangements have been made for maize this year."
- FBIS
28 May "The chief of Jaway...has renewed his appeal to the government to check the current influx of Ghanaians into the Ivory Coast in order to reduce the death rate of Ghanaians there."

Implications

The repatriation of large numbers of Ghanaians seems to be under control. Transport of the bumper maize crop from farms to markets is a primary problem.

NIGER

Cereal production in 1984 was less than half of that in 1983. Crops were planted in May, but lack of rain in June destroyed the crops and necessitated replanting. The pastoral population migrated to the south and to neighboring countries when pastures dried up.

NOAA

5/30 Showers have been spotty in Niger....

FAO

4/85 The food supply situation continues to deteriorate. Nomadic herds in the department of Agadez, Zinder, Diffa, Dosso, Tahoua and Niamey have been badly affected by drought, sometimes decimated, and have migrated southward to escape the threat of famine. An estimated 400 000 persons are displaced...There is a shortage of seeds for planting in June and urgent action is required to avoid a reduction of the crop to be harvested towards the end of the year.

Media Reports

- JPRS
19 Apr "Nigeria and the Republic of Niger have agreed to intensify scientific research into drought and desertification through the Nigeria/Niger Joint Commission...called on peoples in drought affected areas to stop cutting down trees for firewood and find alternative sources of energy such as kerosene, gas and coal. The two countries also agreed that if cattle could stop feeding solely on grass, the problem of desertification would be considerably reduced...."
- JPRS
24 Apr The Tanout District, nearly 1,500 km from Niamey "...received only a very small amount of water (41 mm in 1984, compared to 160 two years ago), so little that it was the first region in the country to be declared a disaster area...the water tables are found at a depth of 100 meters, sometimes 600...nearly 40,000 of (the) citizens have fled south, seeking land spared by the drought...even a few years ago Damergou, that area situated almost in the center of Niger, was the country's 'millet granary'. Today the granary is empty. Not one grain has been harvested in 3 years. As for the nomadic populations (35 percent of the 140,000 inhabitants), they are the worst hit." About 20,000 nomadic people have been settled around 34 sites, totaling some 678 hectares, where out-of-season crops are grown. The current food shortage for the entire country is "over 350,000 tons, forcing the government to draw heavily from its reserve supply. And when it is already known that the next harvests will be 50 percent below last year's, it is easier to measure the magnitude of the tragedy in this vast Sahelian country. Now the gap period (the months between two harvests) looks as though it will be even more difficult. Already, the pastures are almost entirely dry, the herds decimated. For the 1.5 million Nigerien cattle raisers--out of 6 million inhabitants--, there is no longer any alternative, except to join the refugee camps on the outskirts of the towns."
- FBIS
14 May "About 45,000 citizens of Niger expelled from Nigeria were registered as crossing the border..." It is estimated that "there were between 70,000 and 100,000" immigrants living there when the Nigerian Government ordered them out.
- FBIS
15 May "A total of 350,000 tonnes of food are to be distributed in Niger to some 100,000 expected returnees" according to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Implications

Food shortages will continue into 1986 without seeds for the current planting season, even if rainfall is adequate throughout the season.

CHAD

Prolonged dry spells and civil strife during the 1984 growing season severely reduced the cereal production to 36 percent below average production for the last five years. River levels are the lowest ever, causing widespread failure of flood recession crops and disrupting ferry operations and therefore transport of food.

NOAA

- 4/85 Planting in some Sahel countries (Burkina, Mali, Chad) begins by late May. Recent scattered thunderstorms encouraged planting.
- 5/30 Showers have also moved northward into scattered Sahelian parts of Chad.

FAO

- 4/85 The food supply situation in both the Sahelian and Sudanian zones remains extremely critical. An estimated total of 1.5 million people are affected in the Sahelian zone. UNDR0 reports that food assistance is being provided to some 470 000 displaced persons, of whom 360 000 have been resettled. Among these the needs of some 273 000 people mainly concentrated in Batha and Kanem are most critical. In the southern Sudanian zone food stocks are virtually exhausted and an increasing number of people will require emergency aid in the near future. Presently some 90 0000 persons receive assistance in this area...The undelivered pledges of cereals and supplementary feeding must be prepositioned before the onset of the rains in June.

Media Reports

- FBIS 15 May Food aid was being supplied to returnees from Nigeria by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- JPRS 20 May Conflict continues between Chad and Libya over the Aouzou strip between the two countries.

Implications

Forty thousand Chadian refugees fled to the Central African Republic early this year to avoid fighting in southern Chad. The beginning of the planting season will probably not cause any of these people to return home.

SUDAN

The 1984 growing season in northern Sudan was affected by the drought which encompassed the Sahel to the west. The central region was also affected; the growing season rainfall was 40 to 50 percent of normal in the Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile regions. Main season harvests for 1984 were even lower than the drought reduced harvest of 1983. The 1985 wheat crop was not planted; Blue Nile and Atbara river levels were too low in Gezira and New Halfa where 80 percent of aggregate wheat output is produced. Large numbers of Ethiopian refugees added to displaced from Darfur and Kordofan made the food shortages critical.

NOAA

5/30 Near-record amounts (of rain) also fell in northern Eritrea and in east-central Sudan. Elsewhere in Sudan, scattered showers began to wet the ground in Sahelian areas affected by drought last year.

FAO

4/85 The food supply position is extremely serious and is deteriorating rapidly...UNICEF has estimated that the lives of close to 1 million children are at risk. The situation is being further aggravated by the influx of refugees from Ethiopia and Chad. The drought-affected cereal harvest of 1984 is estimated at 1.44 million tons against the previous year's harvest of 2.3 million tons and the average production in the previous five years of 3 million tons...The output of the wheat crop, now being harvested, is estimated at 50 000 tons, compared with 169 000 tons in the previous year, reflecting reduced plantings caused by shortage of irrigation water at the planting time.

Media Reports

JPRS
12 Apr "Over the past four months more than 43,000 refugees from the Sudan's drought-stricken North Kordofan region have fled to camps on the outskirts of Omdurman. The desert plain to the west of the city is now black with thousands of tents and sackcloth shelters. The refugees are mostly nomads of the Kababish, Kawahla, Hassaniyya, and Dar Hamid tribes, though their number includes some settled people from the southern part of the area. They have lost everything in the drought which has been steadily increasing in severity since the 1970s...About 33,000 of the refugees have settled near the artesian wells at Abu Zayd, not far from the city's Libyan Market, where they are receiving help from the Islamic Red Crescent Organisation. Ten thousand recent-comers are encamped at Nwellih, a few kilometres further west...Continual deforestation...due to their reliance on firewood and the destructive activities of their goats have helped to bring the desert south at an alarming rate. More than 15 species of grasses and many types of trees have disappeared from their normal latitudes in the past ten years...All the grazing began to get scarce about two years ago...."

JPRS
22 Apr "The Saudi Red Crescent has opened three stations in drought-stricken areas of the Sudan...A fourth station will begin operation within a week...The necessary steps have been taken to send relief by air to the Niger...Preparations are under way currently to open an aid station in Mali...."

- FBIS
2 May "More than 91,500 tons of grains and foodstuffs are badly needed to aid the drought and desertification-affected people in addition to 36 million dollars to be utilized in some other needs...."
- FBIS
2 May "Italy has agreed to extend about \$20 million in aid to Sudan in a first international response to Sudan's call on friendly countries to help it confront famine and drought in vast areas of its land...."
- FBIS
7 May "The leader of Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement(SPLA-SPLM)...has renewed his appeal to the citizens and SPLA fighters in the liberated areas of War Zone No 1 to double their efforts so as to produce more food for themselves especially when the rainfall this season is very encouraging. It is to be recalled that the SPLA-SPLM leader told SPLA volunteer forces on 13 January 1985 that while in the rural areas they should participate in agricultural activities in order to produce food for themselves and the local population."
- FBIS
13 May "The Refugees Commissariat has denied the reports by British radio last Friday that 6,000 refugees were expelled from Wad al-Hulw camp in eastern Sudan, and that 1,000 refugees were driven back to the borders...He said that an agreement was reached with them that if they return to their villages, then food will be sent to them there...."
- FBIS
13 May "Sudan has reiterated that it is committed to international charters regarding the refugees' affairs and that its doors are open for all those who seek protection and stability. Sudan has also stressed that it will cooperate with the neighboring states in order to create the proper atmosphere for returning the refugees to their homelands...."
- FBIS
14 May "...A \$25 million loan agreement was signed between Sudan and the United States in accordance with which Sudan will receive 121,000 metric tons of wheat and 700 metric tons of flour. The loan will be repaid over 30 years."
- FBIS
14 May "...called for continuing steps to relieve those who are exposed to death due to hunger and the effects of drought and desertification which resulted in a famine with about 150 victims every day...."
- FBIS
14 May "After a recent decrease, the rate of refugee influx has increased by 1,000-1,500 refugees daily in the Wad Shrifai and Wad Keli areas of the Eastern Region...he expects the influx of refugees to Sudan to decrease after the first rainfall in the areas adjacent to Sudan and consequently, the return of a great number of refugees to their countries to pursue agriculture...."
- FBIS
15 May Southern Sudan to be declared a disaster area.
- FBIS
20 May Workshop on drought in the Darfur Region was inaugurated; a strategy was devised for reconstruction and development. "The workshop also decided that a permanent UN office for development will be opened in Al-Fashir, northern Darfur, to follow up and implement the future development strategy projects."

- FBIS 21 May "The United Nations has responded to the government's appeal declaring southern Sudan a disaster area."
- FBIS 22 May "Two million people are affected by drought and desertification in Darfur Region...the region accommodates 200,000 refugees who lack basic requirements similar to those provided for other refugees in the Eastern Region."

Implications

Continuation of the rains will probably cause thousands of refugees from Ethiopia and displaced in southern and eastern Sudan to return home for planting. This could cause further logistic problems in food distribution, especially since those same rains will make roads impassable.

ETHIOPIA

Drought reduced harvests in 1982 and 1983, the secondary Belg crop of May 1984 completely failed, and the 1984 main Meher crop was extremely poor. Main season crops were estimated to be 32 percent below the 1980-82 average. In Wollo, Tigray and Eritrea provinces, the most seriously affected by drought, crop production was estimated to be reduced by 70, 60 and 45 percent, respectively, from normal levels.

NOAA

- 4/85 Above-normal rainfall in many areas benefitted grazing lands, water supplies, and early season (belg) crops. Nevertheless, overall growing conditions for current food crops rate only average, as dry weather early March reduced production potential. Actual production totals for the early crop will be small due to limiting non-meteorological factors...Regional satellite rainfall estimates suggest monthly rainfall ranged from 80 to 130 percent of normal in most provinces. Satellite vegetation data recorded in early April indicated greater vegetative vigor (more biomass) than in the preceding two years only in the southwestern third of the country. The 1985 vegetation indices for the Tigray and Gondar refugee camp areas were near or below the comparable period in 1983 and 1984. The data, however, do not reflect the impact of April rainfall, which was greater this year than in 1984 and 1983.
- 5/30 May rainfall to date has been above normal in Ethiopia and Kenya, benefiting pastures, water supplies, and cereal crops. Amounts in both countries range from 100 to 200 percent of normal. In some areas, record rainfall totals caused local flooding or other damage...Assab, Ethiopia, on the Red Sea, recorded 36 mm of rain on May 6. This port city normally receives negligible rain during May; standing food supplies were damaged by the unexpected water. Near-record amounts also fell in northern Eritrea and in east-central Sudan.

FAO

4/85 The critical food supply situation continues, particularly in the northern regions where an estimated 5 million people (representing over 60 percent of the affected population of the country) are in need of assistance...The belg season rains started at the end of March, four weeks late. This benefited pastures, water supply and the planting of the secondary season barley, wheat and pulses crop. The performance of these rains during April will be extremely important for the development of the belg crop. A good Belg season harvest would provide some relief to the most seriously drought-affected areas, where in certain cases it provides up to 50 percent of annual production. However, even if the rains are favourable shortages of seeds and other inputs are likely to result in a below normal output. The Belg rains are also of importance for land preparation for the main season crops of maize and sorghum in other parts of the country due for planting in May-June.

Media Reports

- FBIS
2 May "Two thousand nine hundred and ninety five compatriots who were dislodged from their homes and property by drought and were being helped in shelter camps have arrived at Metema resettlement center this week. Similarly many peasants who are in (Nibo) and Ibnat shelter camps have registered willingly to go to settlement centers and are waiting to be transported."
- FBIS
2 May "The largest relief camp in Ethiopia has been burnt to the ground by troops...ordered people who have been living there to go back to their home areas. A lot of children have been dwelling in the camp in the Province of Gondar."
- FBIS
3 May "A senior Ethiopian official said today a report that 50,000 people had been forcibly moved from a famine relief camp was a baseless fabrication by a reporter...told the press that 30,000 people had voluntarily left this camp at Ibnat in Gonder Province."
- FBIS
3 May "Zimbabwe has donated 25,000 tons of maize to the Government of Ethiopia...In another development, Zimbabwe is to contribute \$1 million to a special emergency assistance fund for drought and famine relief in Africa."
- IHT
4-5 May "Relief workers at Ibnat, which until last weekend was Ethiopia's largest famine relief camp, have described how Ethiopian soldiers forced more than 50,000 people to evacuate the center and then set fire to the camp as the people were leaving...Sudden floods in the Ogaden desert of southeast Ethiopia have made thousands of people homeless and threaten to ruin settlement projects...Gode and Kalafo were flooded when the Wabe Shebelle river burst its banks...helicopters were used to rescue 1,900 people from a camp at Koraha, about 700 kilometers (425 miles) southeast of Addis Ababa."

FBIS
16 May "...Comrade Chairman Mengistur initially visited the SOS children's village...He examined the state of children being raised by the organization in the children's village in Mekele Town...takes care of children 1 year of age and below from the towns of Mekele, Addis Ababa, Awasa and Harer. These children have been orphaned due to the wars waged by plotters and antipeople's forces as well as by drought-related disasters...the comrade revolutionary leader next visited the newly established (Midaban) shelter station, situated in Mekele Town, which has been built for our compatriots who have been severely hit by the effects of drought...."

FBIS
23 May "United Nations officials expressed their concern over the departure of more than 35,000 Ethiopian refugees from eastern Sudan refugee camps for Tegre Region in Ethiopia. The U.N. officials said the food situation did not get ameliorated and expressed fears that victims' number might increase...The statement said some of those leaving had not accurately estimated the situation in their region as those areas were still suffering from drought."

Implications

The return of Ethiopian refugees to their homes for the planting season will probably cause more acute food shortage problems. Food distribution is already slow because of inadequate facilities for storage and transport. Rain has destroyed grain waiting on the docks for distribution. More people, over a wider geographic area, will complicate delivery. Seed shortages may also result in lower production, even with adequate weather.

SOMALIA

Cereal production in 1984 was higher than in 1983 and above the average for the period 1979-1983. Main season production in southern areas was good, but army worms and irregular and deficient rainfall cut production in the northern areas.

NOAA

4/85 Cereal production prospects remain favorable throughout most of Kenya, Somalia, and Tanzania.

FAO

4/85 The food supply situation has improved in recent weeks, reflecting the availability on the market of the secondary season (Der) crop which was harvested in February...Recent rains over the southern regions are favouring the April planting of the main season (Gu) cereal crop.

Implications

Although prospects for 1985 cereal production are good, food supplies are still strained by a shortfall of 30 to 40 percent in the secondary crop harvested in March. Refugees from Ethiopia were continuing to arrive in April but may begin returning home for the main crop planting season.

TANZANIA

Drought reduced production in 1984 in the central and northern regions. Stocks were depleted in 1983 when production was also below normal.

NOAA

4/85 Cereal production prospects remain favorable throughout most of... Tanzania. Below average April rainfall reduced yield potential in northeast Tanzania...Crop prospects are rated no better than average....

FAO

4/85 The short rains harvest is underway in the northern regions and an average crop is expected. This will improve the food supply situation in these regions which suffered from crop failures due to drought in 1984. However, in several districts food shortages still persist... Recent rains have further benefited the 1985 main season crop due for harvest in May-June. Average or above average conditions for the main maize crop are reported in all regions. In the surplus areas of the southern highlands crop prospects are excellent.

Media Reports

JPRS
24 Apr "...The possibility of becoming naturalized is open to all Rwandan refugees in Tanzania, whether they are in refugee camps or not. The majority of these Rwandan citizens took refuge in Tanzania in the 1960's and 1970's, fleeing from the civil war then affecting Rwanda. They also took refuge in Burundi, which was then under Belgian administration. Refugees in Tanzania are estimated at about 200,000 persons. They come from Rwanda and Burundi in particular, although refugees from Zaire, South Africa, Namibia, and Malawi are also present in Tanzania in substantial numbers. According to official statistics published in 1984, a large number of refugees from Rwanda and Burundi obtained Tanzanian citizenship during the past decade."

JPRS
10 May Fishing is becoming an important source of protein in Tanzania and a source of income, especially for women. Shells are also a potential source of income.

Implications

Most food production deficits occur in the northern regions of the country, but problems with transportation of cereals from the south require imports of food and aid to refugees. However, the 1985 harvest is expected to be good throughout the country.

MOZAMBIQUE

Dry weather followed flooding caused by Cyclone Domoina in February 1984; February rainfall in the southern climatic region was one-third of normal. Dry weather in January and February of 1984 also harmed crops in parts of the central and northwestern regions. Marketed food production was less than 50 percent of the planned target because of the erratic weather, seed shortages and security problems. The May 1985 harvest may also be impacted by erratic weather conditions and the security situation.

FAO

4/85 The food supply situation remains serious in the southern and central provinces where the nutritional status of the population is reported to have deteriorated. These regions were hit by heavy rains and floods in February causing extensive damage to the infrastructure. In southern Maputo Province the situation was further aggravated by a cyclonic storm at the end of March. An estimated 2.5 million people are affected by food shortages, mostly in rural areas; of these 1.7 million are considered to be most seriously affected...Despite near normal weather conditions, except in the southern regions which were hit by drought as well as floods, the 1985 crop about to be harvested is expected to be below normal. This reflects internal disorders and shortages of seeds and other inputs.

Media Reports

JPRS
26 Apr "...nearly 1,400 tons of sugar intended for export were completely lost after having been caught in the rain that has fallen from August of last year to the present...veritable streams of sugar in a liquid state were gushing from the 34 (railroad) cars lined up along the tracks...the amount of sugar lost would have been enough to supply the residents of the city of Maputo for a month and a half..."

JPRS
30 Apr "...The marketed products during 1984 correspond to 67 percent of the goal planned in the province (of Inhambane). Prominent among the products purchased from the peasants in the agricultural marketing campaign process were corn, cotton, seasoning oil, copra, cashew nuts, cassava and green vegetables...throughout last year 11 seed multiplication centers were created, the most significant being those in Mubalo, in Homoine district; Mapinhane, in Mabote district; Vilanculos, in Massinga district; Nhaccongo, in Inherrime district; and Malaia, in Morrumbene district. At these centers the multiplication of seed for corn, peanuts, cassava, nhemba beans and squash is carried out, in addition to the production of green vegetables and fruit.

JPRS
2 May "...Regarding Mozambique, the (UNICEF) report says that '4 years of adverse climatic conditions and constant internal conflicts have placed 4.7 million Mozambicans in a dangerous situation.' The report states that in areas affected by drought and internal conflicts, 'one child out of every five is suffering the effects of moderate or light malnutrition' and that '10 percent of them have no parents. In Manica Province more than 300,000 persons are now being affected by a lack of food and in Tete Province this figure rises to 483,000..."

Implications

The potential for food shortages in the south of the country is expected to continue into 1986, partly a result of low rainfall in November and December when crops were being planted. This, flooding in February, and seed shortages will probably reduce the main season harvest in May.

ZAIRE

Although cereal production was adversely affected by uneven rainfall in 1984, it was adequate to meet national needs. Heavy rains in November benefitted water supplies and grasslands affected by drought earlier in the year. The abundant water supply promised a bumper crop for the 1985 season.

NOAA

4/85 Below average April rainfall reduced yield potential in...north-central Zaire. Crop prospects are rated no better than average in these regions.

FAO

4/85 The food supply situation needs to be monitored closely over the coming months in the regions of Ituri and Kivu, which were affected by drought during the 1984 growing season. People have resorted to eating their seed stocks and immature cassava and potatoes, while food shortages have been reported, particularly from the areas of Mahagi and Degu. However, the rains have not resumed after delay of three to four weeks; provided that these rains continue, a normal harvest of beans and maize can be expected in June-July.

Media Reports

JPRS
2 May "...W.Smuser, assistant high commissioner of the HCR, reported that the refugee situation in Zaire was not alarming...indicated that the situation is of particular concern in the Shaba region, where nearly 50,000 refugees have recently arrived in the Dilolo zone from Angola...As for the rest of the country, many of the refugees who settled in Upper Zaire are returning home; in Lower Zaire, they are resettling in rural areas. Repatriation and rural resettlement, the two current focal points of the HCR program in Zaire, are in fact taking place..."

FBIS
28 May "UNICEF has earmarked 1,950,500 zaires in aid for Angolan refugees in the Shaba region. The aid is intended primarily to finance an emergency aid program for about 640 Angolan children under 15 years who have taken refuge in the Shaba region. Fleeing guerrilla attacks, these children, accompanied of course by their parents, recently crossed the Zairian border into the Shaba region...."

ANGOLA

Drought in the north and continuing civil strife in the south adversely affected the 1984 crop. Cassava, rice, maize and pulse production in the north was 50 percent lower than the 1983 crop and total cereal production 11 percent below the average annual output for the 1979/83 period.

NOAA

4/85 Harvesting of summer season crops is taking place under seasonably dry conditions (in Southern Africa). The current harvests should help relieve food shortages resulting from drought in 1984 and 1983.

FAO

4/85 The food supply situation remains critical in both urban and rural areas. An estimated 500 000 people (including 400 000 displaced persons) are seriously affected by food shortages; 303 000 in the Central Plateau, 54 000 in the northern areas and 143 000 in the southern provinces...External assistance will continue to be required in 1985/86, reflecting the unfavourable outlook for the 1985 main season crop about to be harvested. Despite normal rains over most of the country, the output of this crop has been adversely affected by reduced plantings due to shortages of seeds and continued civil strife.

Media Reports

JPRS
2 May "The present shortage of food in Angola, which will become "severe" by the end of the year, is affecting more than 2 million Angolans in the provinces of Huila, Cunene and Cuando-Cubango, according to a report by the Portuguese Committee for UNICEF...The report speaks of the present situation in 11 African countries, with special reference to Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde...."

JPRS
13 May "...the strong showing of the oil industry stands in sharp contrast to the dismal performance by the rest of the economy...Food production, hard hit by the disruption of transport and commercial networks by the Portuguese exodus in 1975 and by South African and Unita attacks since, has also declined, with food now 'a large percentage' of Luanda's total import bill...Before 1983...Unita would enter a village and try to organise the people. Now they burn houses and crops, plant mines on the footpaths leading to the fields and shoot teachers and health workers in an effort to paralyse food production and overburden government relief services. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, over 200,000 people have been displaced in southern and central Angola by Unita attacks, halting production on the fertile central plateau and placing the refugees in grim danger of starvation...."

Implications

Although rainfall in October and November was favorable for planting and growth of crops, continuing civil conflict and current food deficits will probably continue to adversely affect food supplies.

BOTSWANA

Drought in 1984 reduced crop production by at least 50 percent for the third consecutive year, resulting in food shortages into 1985.

FAO

4/85 The outlook for the 1985 coarse grain crop about to be harvested in unfavourable. In most of the country crops have been severely reduced by drought for the fourth consecutive year. The growing and grazing conditions are near normal only in the northeastern areas bordering Zimbabwe. The number of affected people has provisionally been estimated by the Government at 370 000, slightly above the levels of mid-1984. The government currently estimates the 1985 cereal production at 15 000 tons, double last year's output but only 55 percent of the average output for 1979-83.

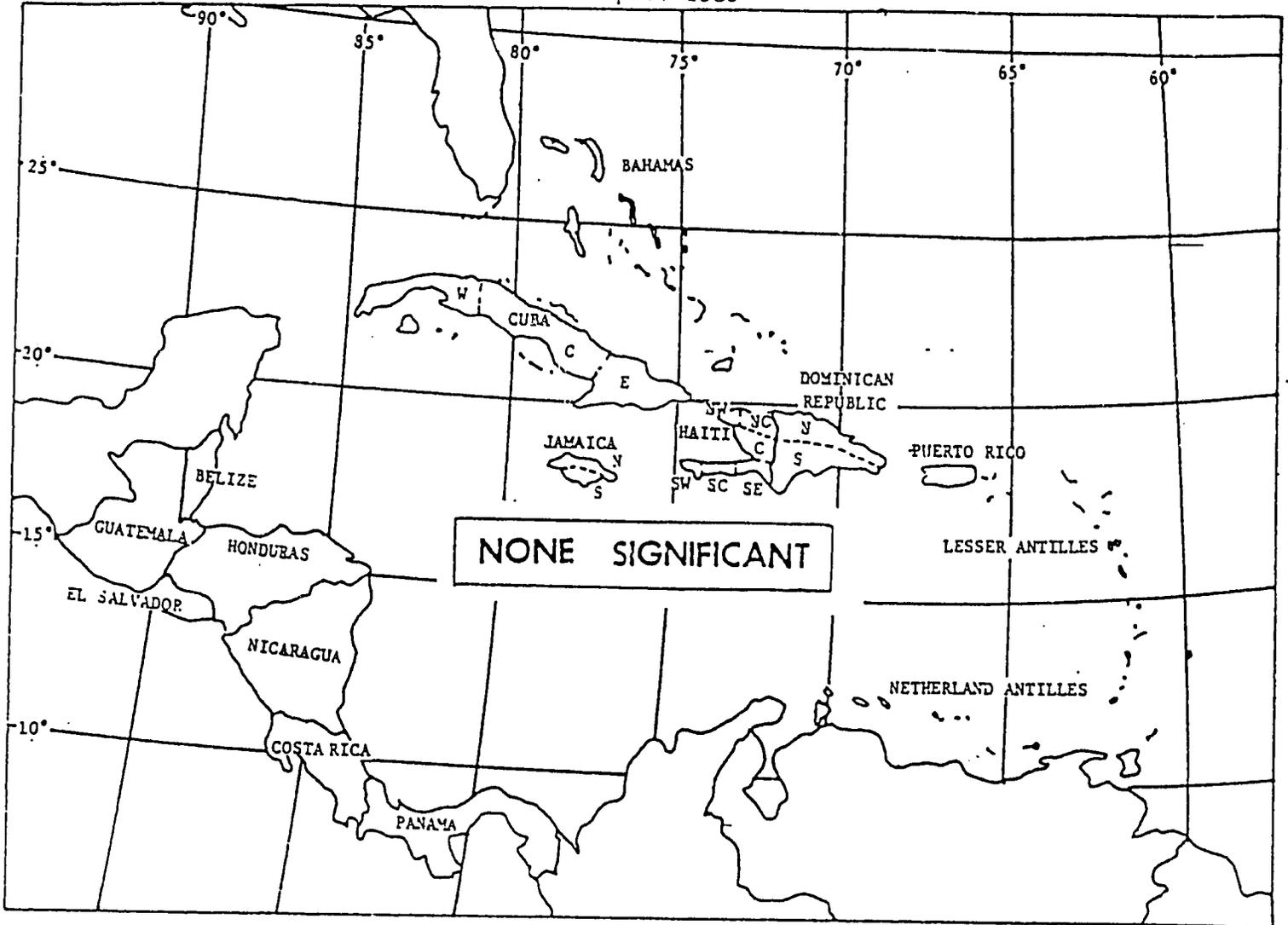
Media Reports

JPRS
16 Apr "The Italian government has given six vehicles to the Botswana Government to increase the means of transport for political refugees at the Dukwe refugee camp....."

CARIBBEAN BASIN

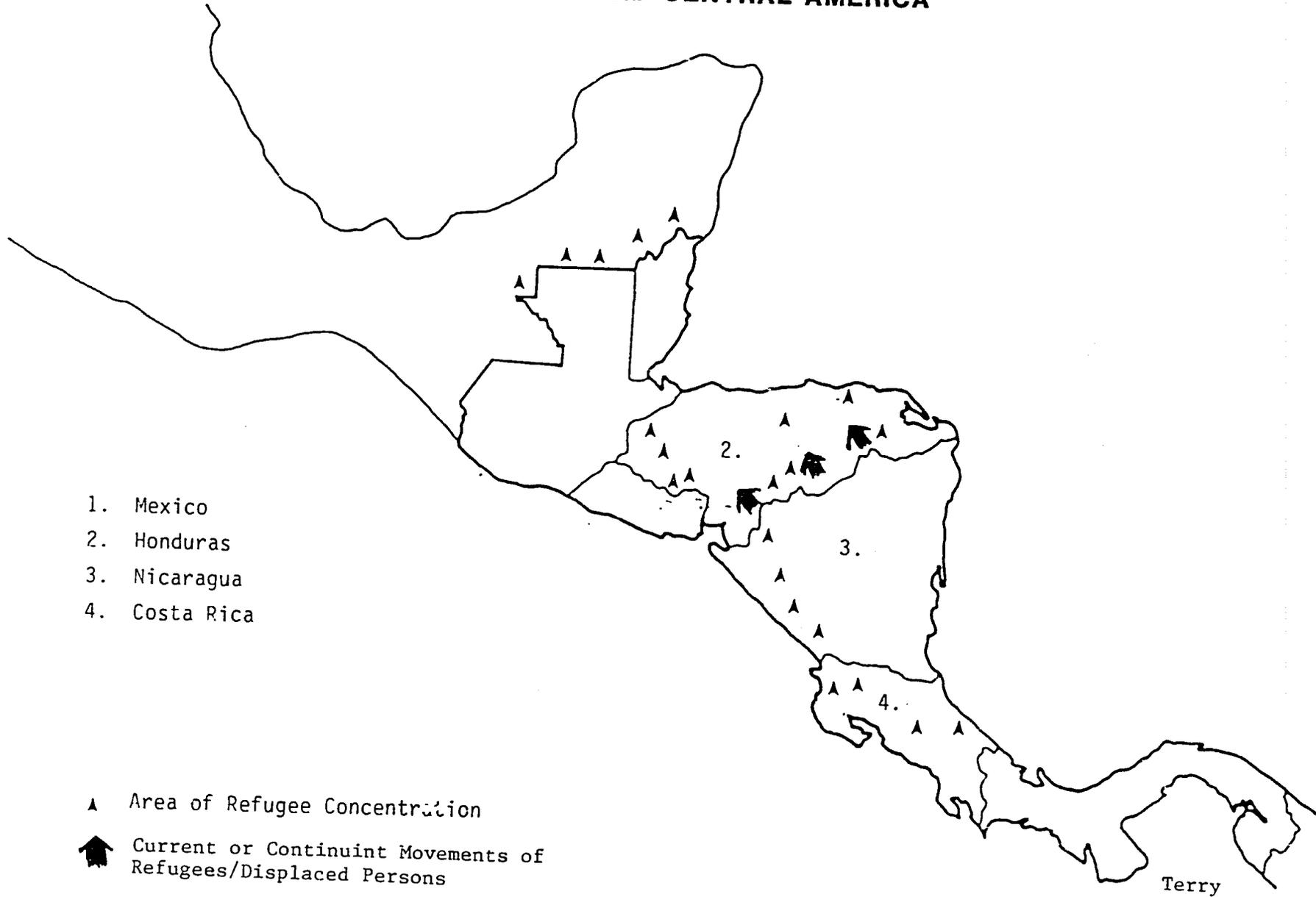
Weather-Induced Problems

April 1985



NOAA

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA



CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA
June 10, 1985

OVERVIEW

NOAA

4/85 Regional estimated rainfall for assessed countries in the Caribbean is normal or near normal. Spring planted crops such as corn, millet, beans and rice are at the early vegetative growth stage. Prospects for crop conditions for every region are near normal.

Spring planted crops such as corn, sorghum, beans, and rice have been slightly affected by below normal rainfall in some regions of Central America, including Southern Panama and Central Costa Rica. This means either poor crop stands or delayed planting. It is too early to anticipate any major weather impact on final yield. May and June rainfall are critical months.

FAO

4/85 Good cereal crops are being harvested in Central and South America. However, the food supply situation continues to be tight in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Serious food shortages could develop in northwest Haiti in the coming months, as a result of complete failure of maize and bean crops caused by prolonged drought.

Media Reports

JPRS
23 Apr "...Declaration of the First Central American Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons...At the El Tabor retreat house in Valle de los Angeles, Honduras, we, the delegates from Mexico, Santo Domingo, Central America and Panama, were convened by the Episcopal Secretariat of Central America (SEDAC) to hold the First Central American Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons...The first step, after noting the rising tide of human migration, has been to define what we understand by the terms 'refugee' and 'displaced person,' to prevent ambiguity. For us, 'refugee' means not only a person officially recognized as such, but anyone who has fled his country seeking protection in another because his life, security or liberty has been threatened by the widespread violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights and other circumstances that have seriously disturbed the peace. 'Displaced' refers to the person who remains in his own country but is forced to leave his habitual residence for the same reasons indicated in the case of refugees. The number of displaced persons in the Central American region is incredibly high: it exceeds 1 million, and is much higher than the figure released by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), which indicated that there were 326,000 in 1983, although only 91,000 have been officially recognized...."

HONDURAS

Second season crop production is estimated to be 10 percent higher than in 1984, offsetting the 7 percent lower main season harvest of 1984.

FAO

4/85 During March, the rains were normal in central regions, but only scattered showers were received in coastal areas. The harvest of the secondary season grains and other food crops is underway and a normal outturn is anticipated.

Media Reports

FBIS
20 May "The Honduran newspaper LA PRENSA reported today that Sandinist military forces occupy national territory, and the Honduran Army is unable to dislodge them. According to the information, 700 Sandinists occupy the Jalapa area, while 600 of them occupy the Santa Clara area. The two areas are located in El Paraiso Department in the country's east, bordering the Nicaraguan Departments of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega...."

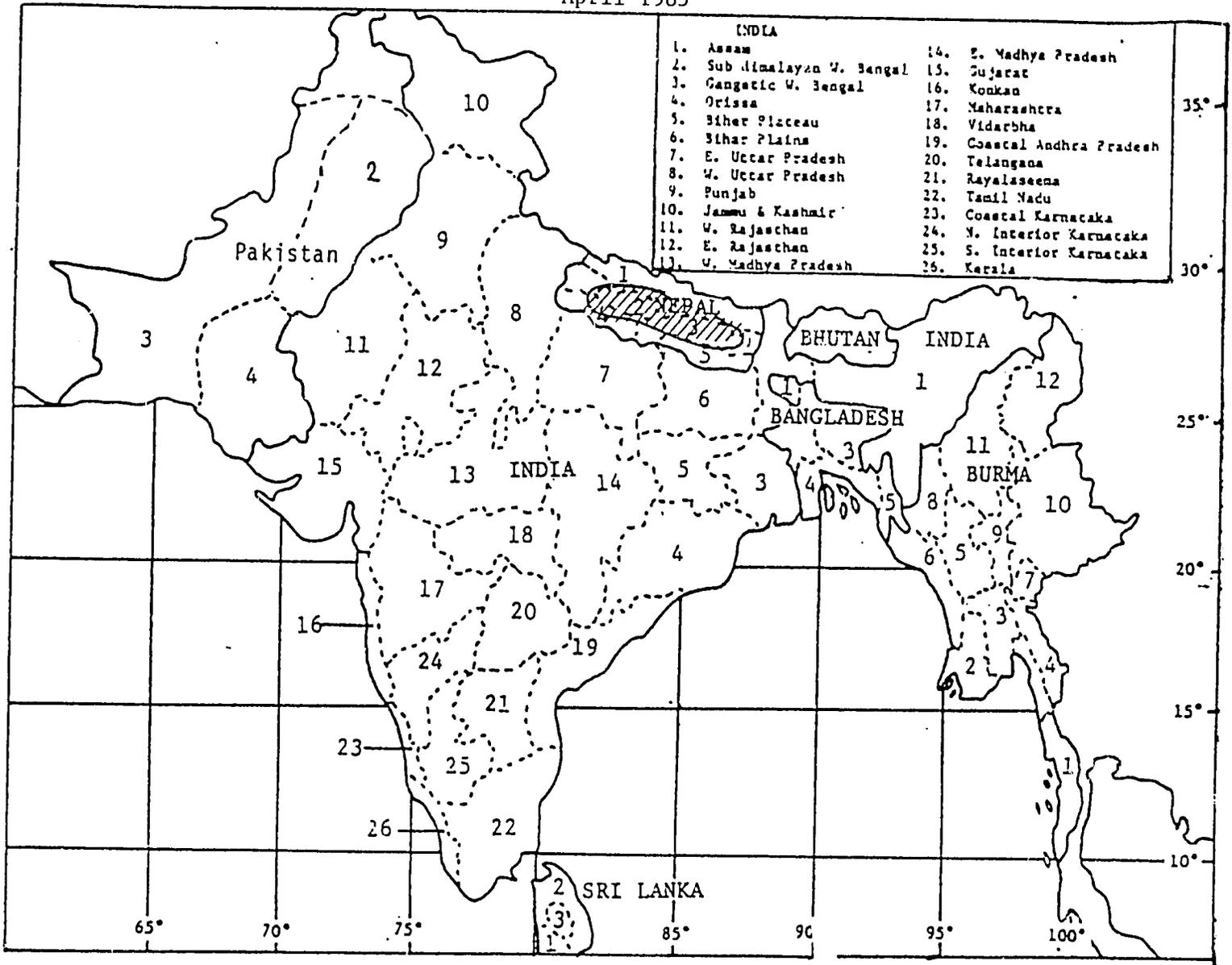
FBIS
20 May "Several thousands of Hondurans have been fleeing from the eastern border with Nicaragua -- divided by the Topeka River -- where the Sandinist People's Army (EPA) has continued shelling Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, redoubts. An official source has estimated that more than 10,000 inhabitants have been relocated to other places far from the border, while the Honduran Army's 6th Infantry Battalion has been mobilized to the sector...According to civilian authorities from the sector, more than eight communities have been abandoned as the result of the latest clashes, including Arenales, Espanol Grandè, La Esperanza, Tronco de Ocote, Arenales Abajo, El Guano, Tapalchi, and Amparo...."

FBIS
23 May "...During the past few days, Honduran Army troops have cordoned off the Salvadoran refugee camps in Colomoncagua...In addition, the Army troops have created all kinds of obstacles to prevent food and medicine shipments sent by humanitarian organizations from reaching the refugee population, particularly the children...."

SOUTH ASIA

Weather-Induced Problems

April 1985



NOAA

SOUTH ASIA
June 10, 1985

OVERVIEW

FAO

- 4/85 1985 wheat crops have been affected by adverse weather in several Asian countries. In some rainfed areas of India and Bangladesh production is expected to be reduced by deficient winter rains; however, crop losses are likely to be partly offset by better yields in irrigated areas. In Pakistan, a below normal crop is anticipated, reflecting deficient winter rains and high temperatures.

PAKISTAN

NOAA

- 5/30 The tropical cyclone which came ashore in southeastern Bangladesh early on May 25 was apparently the deadliest since the great 1970 storm, which caused the loss of 250,000 to 500,000 lives...Another cyclone approached the coast of northwest India and southeast Pakistan from the Arabian Sea on May 30. This storm was not as powerful as the Bay of Bengal storm, but definitely carried the potential for damaging floods.

FAO

- 4/85 The harvesting of wheat is underway in the southern areas and should start shortly in the major wheat producing areas of Punjab province. Despite the achievement of the planting target and the increased sales of fertilizer and seed compared to the previous year, the outlook is for a below normal crop. Deficient winter rains and above normal temperatures in March adversely affected crops, particularly in the rainfed areas. In the irrigated areas, deficient rains have reduced the availability of water in the canal network and severely curtailed the supply of electricity for the operation of water pumps, thereby causing serious shortage of water for crops. Rains during first week of April in some areas, though beneficial to late plantings, are likely to have caused deterioration in the quality of grain.

Media Reports

- JPRS
7 May "While the whole world is aware of the over three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, very little is known about an equal number of another set of refugees - the livestock which migrated along with the owners. The addition of about three million heads of cattle, comprising sheep, cows, horses and camels is a burden on local resources, not an addition to them as one might be inclined to think...Their uncontrolled grazing has continued since the day they arrived with the result that livestock

in NWFP and Baluchistan has to share the existing pastures with their refugee brethren. The same applies to water resources...Pastures have been reduced to wasteland. And water resources, already quite scarce in Balushistan, are being rapidly consumed and, according to assessment, further dwindling...Earlier refugees were from areas adjacent to Pakistani borders and could bring the animals along. Those migrating from areas deeper in western Afghanistan could not manage the animals on the lengthy, uncertain journey. Consequently, while the refugee population continued increasing that of animals remained generally static...Most members of the Afghan livestock reached Pakistan in 1980 and 81...during the period of the initial, heavy inflow, a regular administrative structure and organisation for refugees did not exist. By the time it was created and took command of the situation tremendous damage had been inflicted on pasture and water resources."

JPRS
7 May "Hanif Ramay, chief of the defunct Pakistan Musawat Party, has said that immediate return of more than three million Afghan refugees to their country is vital to the solidarity of Pakistan...."

FBIS
13 May "Seven thousand persons of Ahmadzai Kochi Tribe returned to their homes, in the north of Orgun region of Paktika Province, south of Afghanistan...."

INDIA

NOAA

5/30 The tropical cyclone which came ashore in southeastern Bangladesh early on May 25 was apparently the deadliest since the great 1970 storm which caused the loss of 250,000 to 500,000 lives...Flood damage affected the Tripura and Manipur areas of India...Another cyclone approached the cost of northwest India...This storm was not as powerful as the Bay of Bengal storm, but definitely carried the potential for damaging floods."

FAO

4/85 Deficient winter rainfall followed by above normal temperatures in March, adversely affected crops in the rainfed areas...The Government is taking necessary relief measures, including the supply of drinking water, food and fodder for cattle in the affected areas. In the irrigated areas, crop conditions are reported to be good...."

Media Reports

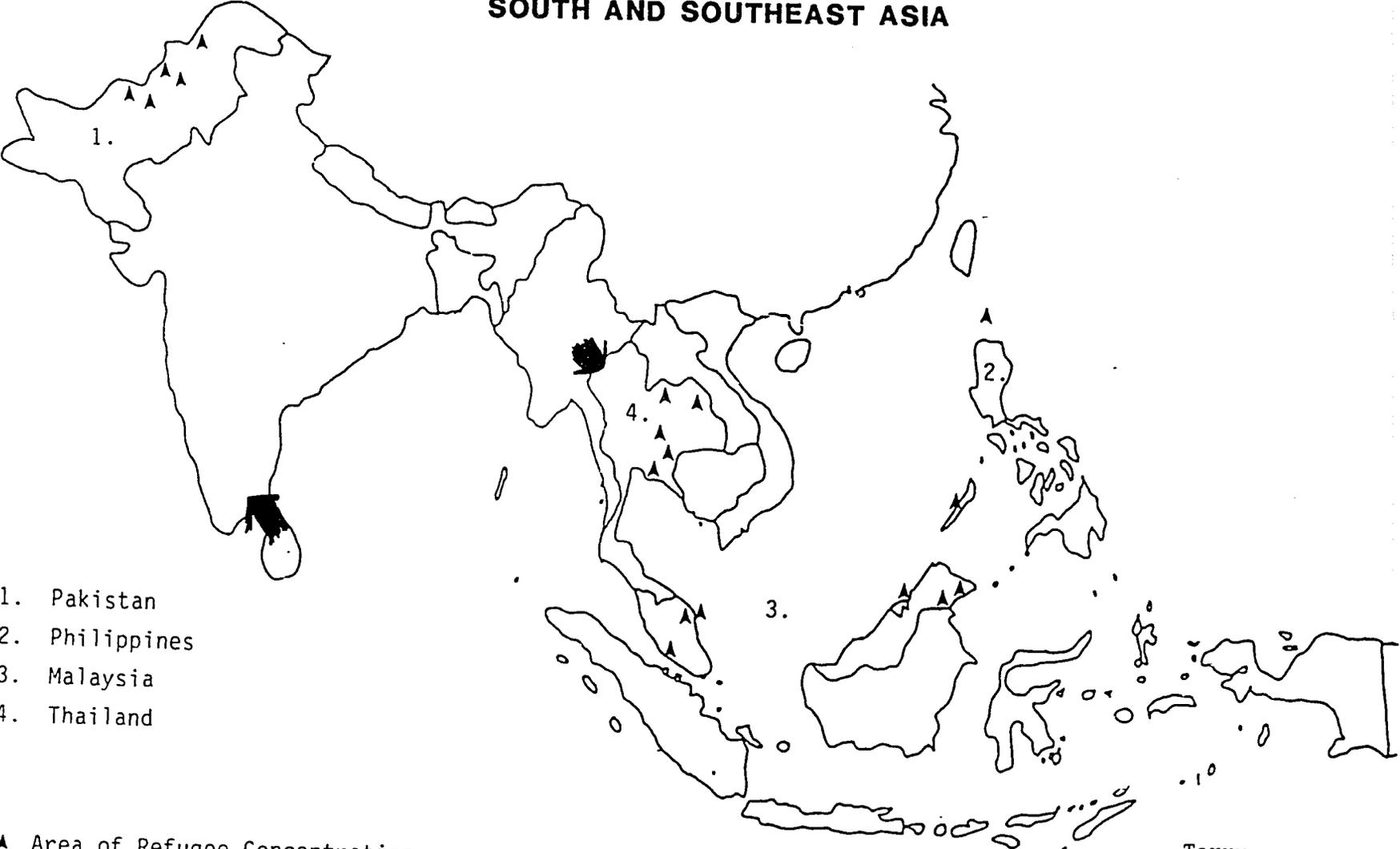
FBIS
29 Apr "The minister of state for external affairs...told the Lok Sabha today the situation in Sri Lanka continues to be tense. Violence, which had somewhat slackened, is again endemic. There have been disturbing reports of large-scale violence in the Eastern Province involving

Muslims and Tamils...a special advisory group has since been set up. It will expeditiously examine and advise on the serious question of the large-scale influx of refugees into India...In the latest flare up at the coastal town of Karveddy more than 100 houses belonging to a particular community have been set on fire. About 35,000 people are reported to have fled their homes. Most of them are now living in camps."

FBIS
29 Apr

"In Sri Lanka, three Tamils were killed in continuing group clashes in the eastern part of the country yesterday. This has been officially stated in Colombo. Reports say that a large number of Tamils are still leaving the area."

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA



- 1. Pakistan
- 2. Philippines
- 3. Malaysia
- 4. Thailand

▲ Area of Refugee Concentration

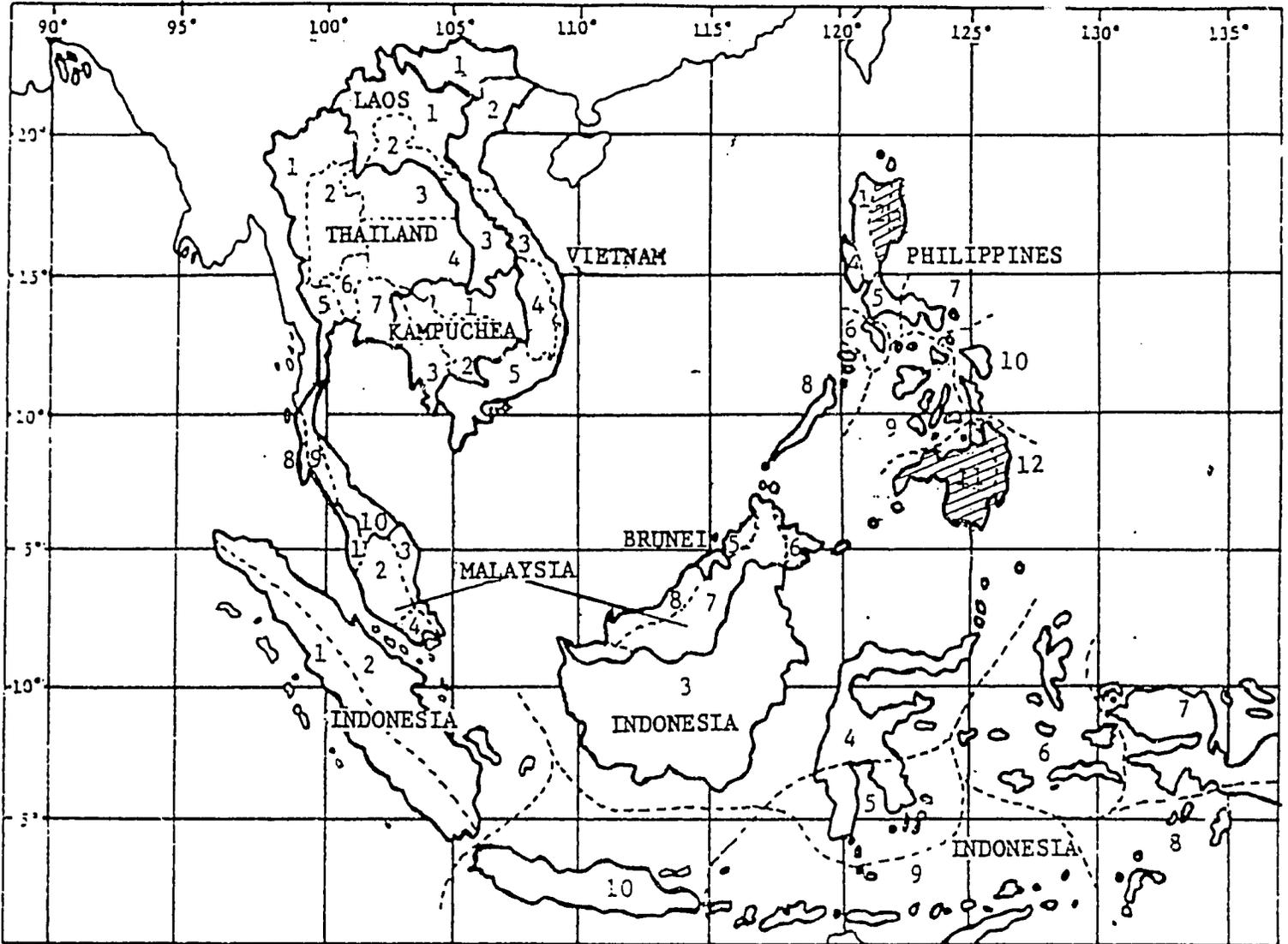
➡ Current or Continuing Movements of Refugees/Displaced Persons

Terry

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Weather-Induced Problems

April 1985



NOAA

SOUTHEAST ASIA
June 10, 1985

MALAYSIA

NOAA

4/85 The off-season paddy (February transplanted) crop conditions in Peninsular Malaysia remain generally favorable despite sub-optimal rainfall conditions during April.

FAO

4/85 The harvesting of 1985 main crop in Peninsular Malaysia is completed and a below normal crop is expected, reflecting deficient rainfall during September and December.

Media Reports

FBIS "Foreign Affairs minister...has said that a social solution is the best way to overcome the refugee issue in Sabah...He said that the steps include the legalization of their entry into the country, and control and certification that the arrivals enter the state in an orderly manner in accordance with immigration procedures."
24 Apr

FBIS "Malaysia does not want to be saddled with the problem of having Vietnamese illegal immigrants, who now number about 8,000, in the country."
24 Apr

THAILAND

FAO

4/85 The production of rice in 1984/85 is estimated at 19.2 million tons, 2 percent lower than the previous year. The production of maize and barley is estimated at 5.02 million tons, 0.8 million tons more than the previous year's outturn, reflecting increased plantings and an expansion of the area under hybrid seeds.

Media Reports

JPRS "Australia's foreign minister, Mr Hayden...said that 190,000 people had been relocated because of the recent Vietnamese offensive against Kampuchean resistance groups...."
8 Apr

JPRS "The Islamic development bank (IDB) has agreed to contribute four million baht in Humanitarian aid to...about 2,000 Kampuchean Muslims along the Thai-Kampuchean border...."
27 Apr

JPRS "About 1,000 Laotian refugees illegally living in a former refugee camp here were rounded up early this morning and sent to a refugee holding centre in Nakhon Phanom...Most of the refugees, who number 998 and 80 percent of whom are men, are former Laotian soldiers...."
27 Apr

- FBIS
3 May "Australia will continue to resettle refugees still in Thailand...Thailand has 'the largest refugee caseload in the region' with a total of some 120,000 registered displaced persons...."
- FBIS
20 May "Thailand will very soon send back to Cambodia the civilians who fled into Thai territory from fighting in recent months between Vietnamese troops and Khmer guerrillas...refused to give further details of how Thailand would repatriate the civilian refugees, whose numbers he put at between 230,000 and 240,000, citing the military situation on the Thai-Cambodian border, now held largely by Vietnamese troops... Indochinese fugitives here are classed as 'displaced persons' and have no refugee status...According to one international aid official the selection process for resettlement is slowly petering out and those refugees left over are 'going from an uncertain situation to a positively bad one'...Thailand has served most of the refugees as a transit point for 10 years. But in 1980, Bangkok barred the door against any further legal arrivals and blocked the right to resettlement for those who entered illegally since."
- FBIS
22 May "The situation on the Thai-Kampuchean border here is still tense, with about 3,000 Vietnamese troops massing along the border...."
- FBIS
24 May "...the Thai authorities are preparing a new drive of 'repatriation of Kampuchean refugees'...."
- FBIS
28 May "Thai authorities are trying to repatriate 4,500 Karen refugees who fled across the border into Thailand recently from the fighting between the Karen National Union (KNU) and Burmese Government forces to avoid any political problem between the Thai and Burmese Governments...more than 4,000 Karen refugees in Tha Song Yang and Mae Sot Districts had been repatriated but there are still 4,500 Karen refugees left in Tha Song Yang District."