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 Your No. }



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 புனரமைப்பு, புனர்வாழ்வு, சமூக
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1. ඇල්ෆ්‍රඩ් හවුස් උද්‍යානය,
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දිනය }
 திகதி }
 Date }

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
 AMONG
 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
 AND
 THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
 RELATING TO THE REPATRIATION
 OF SRI LANKAN REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka hereinafter referred to as GSL) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees hereinafter referred to as UNHCR)

Confirming the already existing excellent relations between GSL and UNHCR,

Resolved to cooperate in order to facilitate the return of Sri Lankan refugees,

Recalling Conclusion No. 18 (XXXI) and No. 40 (XXXVI) adopted by the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme, in particular UNHCR's legitimate concern for the consequences of return, (1992)

Considering the need to define general operational modalities governing UNHCR's involvement in the voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan nationals,

Considering also the need to consent on principles regarding the assistance to as well as security and protection of returnees,

Noting that UNHCR's Mandate in Sri Lanka is limited to returnees but that the principles established for assistance and protection of returnees will apply also to displaced persons wherever they live together with returnees,

Have agreed on the following provisions

1. ~~GSL is responsible for the overall management of the reception centres including provision of food and shelter. The Government recognises that UNHCR, under the mandate given to it by the international community, has a legitimate interest in the consequences of the return from Tamil Nadu.~~

2. UNHCR will provide emergency relief assistance which is limited to emergency needs and UNHCR's inputs are not deemed to be a substitute to the assistance already provided by GSL, but rather aims at complementing this assistance which, because of budgetary constraints or because returnees are going back to uncleared areas, are not covered.
3. UNHCR will, in addition to its Field Offices in Madhu and Pesalai, open two new Field Offices in Vavuniya and Trincomalee. UNHCR will continue, within the agreed procedures, to enjoy free access to reception centres and uncleared areas where it implements a programme or where repatriants return.
4. Subject to availability of funds and security, UNHCR will continue its Open Relief Centres and Sub-Centres in Mannar District until 31 December 1994 at which time the programme will be reassessed.
5. Returnees are free to leave the reception centres if they wish to do so. Returnees should however not be forced to return home if they do not believe this can be done safely.
6. UNHCR will assist returnees to return to uncleared areas if they so wish. Returnees who choose to do so should all be fully informed of the conditions prevailing in these areas.
- 7 A A security or other auxiliary forces will not carry out interventions in reception centres without prior consultation with the civil administration and UNHCR.
- B. Such interventions will be carried out under the command of a national Army Officer of senior rank (not less than Major) and whenever necessary in the presence of UNHCR.
- C. Any person who might be arrested as a result of such interventions will be signed for individually by the Commanding Officer.
- D. GSL acknowledges that UNHCR's legitimate interest in the consequences of return also concerns the need to follow-up and request information on those arrested.

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8. Both parties expresses their satisfaction with the existing excellent relationship and recognises the need to continue the positive dialogue between the UNHCR Representative and GSL.

For the United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees



Hasim Utkan
UNHCR Representative
in Sri Lanka

For the Socialist Republic
of Sri Lanka



P. Dayaratne
Minister of Reconstruction,
Rehabilitation & Social Welfare,
Government of Sri Lanka

Colombo, 1 February