

**Постоянное  
Представительство  
Российской Федерации  
при Организации  
Объединённых Наций**



**Permanent Mission  
of the Russian  
Federation  
to the United Nations**

**Phone:** (212) 861-4900  
**Fax:** (212) 628-0252

136E 67th Street  
New York, NY 10021

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**January 13, 2005**

### **On Russia's Humanitarian Assistance to the Tsunami-Stricken Nations**

Given the magnitude and devastating consequences of the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, President Vladimir Putin took Russia's response to those tragic events under his personal control.

On January 6, 2005, he announced that the emergency assistance to the affected countries, that Russia had started providing on the very next day of the catastrophe, would be complemented by the commitment of additional resources to help the tsunami-stricken nations and the people in need of support. He underlined that the assistance would be provided including through international organizations by allocating additional funds. He also said that Russia had decided to make available 20 thousand tons of food grain for the relief effort, and that more aircrafts would be dispatched to the affected countries to deliver water treatment units, hospitals, and other humanitarian supplies.

In his statement to the UN Conference for Humanitarian Assistance to the Tsunami Victims in Geneva on January 11, 2005, Mr. Valery Loshchinin, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, said that Russia welcomed the extraordinary contribution of the international community to eliminating the consequences of the disaster in the Indian Ocean, while assigning the key role in the coordination of these efforts to the UN.

He also announced that the Government of the Russian Federation had taken a decision to allocate more than 30 million dollars, of which 12 million dollars to the World Food Program, 3 million dollars to the UN Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs, 3.5 million dollars to UNICEF, and 3.5 million dollars to the World Health Organization, to eliminate the consequences of the tsunami. In addition, the Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) and the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation, have supplied dozens of tons of humanitarian assistance, medicines and food to the affected areas where our rescuers and doctors have been working from the first days.

The challenge now is to ensure an efficient coordination of this work, to avoid any doubling and to make the aid targeted and effective. Proper control should be established over the development and implementation of programs and projects. The UN alone can and should accomplish this task.

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As of January 12, 2005, the Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) and the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation have carried out 15 flights with humanitarian supplies on board to the affected region:

Sri Lanka - A search and rescue team equipped with a helicopter, special vehicles and search dogs was rushed to on December 27, 2004. Water treatment units, tents, blankets, decontamination means, sanitation teams and food supplies were delivered to Colombo on December 27 and 29, 2004, and January 11, 2005.

Thailand - 3 tons of clear drinking water and sanitation teams were brought on December 30, 2004.

Indonesia and Thailand - Water treatment units, mobile power generator systems, food supplies, tents, essential products were delivered from January 7 to 9, 2005.

Indonesia - Given the needs of the affected population, the Russian Federation has started air lifting medical personnel and equipment for the deployment on Sumatra Island of a field hospital. The first six flights to Sumatra have already been carried out, with another aircraft with additional humanitarian supplies (flour, medicines etc.) being prepared.

It should be especially noted that earlier the Soviet Union, and now Russia had never participated in humanitarian international actions so extensively and substantively.