Objective and Structure of the Report

With the Northeast conflict entering its ninth year, IHA commissioned this study in order to provide IHA and the Sri Lanka Bilateral programme with an assessment of humanitarian needs in Sri Lanka, the roles of implementing agencies and local capacities on the scene, and the potential for new programming options.

The report examines the issues under six main headings:

- food needs
- medical and health needs
- the needs of displaced people
- resettlement of internally displaced people repatriation issues
- protection of civilians.

Each issue is discussed, current programmes described and options presented for future programming and other measures. Attention is given to the current and potential roles of implementing agencies and local delivery capacities. A concluding chapter sums up the report as a whole, suggesting priorities for Canadian assistance.

Methodology

The main research for this study took place in Sri Lanka between 1 and 25 September 1991. It involved discussions with representatives of numerous organisations in the field and in Colombo and with representatives of the Government of Sri Lanka, international organisations and donors. Field visits were made to the UNHCR operation in Mannar and to numerous displaced persons' camps.

Consultations were also held with international agencies in Geneva (ICRC, IFRCS, ILO, WCC) and New York (UNDP, UNICEF) and with knowledgeable groups and individuals in Canada and the United States. The author also took part in, and benefitted from, discussions with distinguished Sri Lankans and others familiar with the country's problems who attended a conference on humanitarian cease-fires in Ottawa in November 1991. With the exception of some details referring particularly to food needs in specific localities and other information so indicated in the text, the report reflects the situation current in the early months of 1992.

(End P 5)