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From our special envoy in
Cotonou (République Orange)



Africa Today

THE HUMANITARIAN PROGRESS

Since mid August 2003, more than 100 humanitarian organizations have arrived in the three republics. It is now obvious that the co-ordination of their efforts has become a challenge.

During last week, several airplanes have landed at Cotonou International Airport bringing in the theatre elements of the humanitarian “command and control”.

The Organization for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Activities (OCHA) will establish a head office in Cotonou with field offices in Savalou and Porto Novo.

The High Commissary for Refugees has preferred to get settled closer to the troubled area: the head office will be established at Lalo, directly at the contact of the refugees.

The High Commissioner declared that refugee camps will be organized in co-ordination with the government of the Republic of Orange. He also said that discussions with all governments’ representatives will be promptly conducted to initiate the repatriation of the refugees as soon as the security conditions in the repatriation areas will be met.