

14-SEP-05

PPI TRADE FACT OF THE WEEK:

118 countries have offered hurricane relief.

=====

THE NUMBERS: Some sample donations:

Cambodia: \$25,000
Cameroon: \$250,000
Canada: \$5 million, evacuation flights, rescue helicopters, food, medical and dive teams, forensic experts, etc.
Chile: Sheets, blankets, medical equipment
China: \$5 million, 1,000 tents, 300 generators, 24,800 sheets, and 10,000 children's clothes
Cyprus: \$50,000
Czech Republic: 24,000 blankets, 600 camp beds, 3,500 first aid kits

WHAT THEY MEAN:

As of September 12, the State Department was reporting donations and pledges of technical help, evacuation and rescue flights, gasoline, food, medicine, money, and other hurricane relief aid from 118 governments and international organizations. No full list seems to exist at the moment. (The Department published a preliminary count of 35 governments and five international organizations on September 6, but has not updated for the public since.) Some anecdotal examples -- none comprehensive -- include:

- Little Rock Air Force Base, the center for relief flights, had handled 32 international flights by last Monday -- from Belgium, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Israel, Italy, NATO, Spain, Russia, Tunisia, Thailand, and the United Kingdom
- with 1,225 tons of medicine, food, blankets, tents, and other goods. (Kind afterthought: relief donations are exempt from tariffs.)
- Financial help: Comes from countries that are aren't always flush with cash as well as wealthier ones. Afghanistan's \$100,000 check has already been cashed, as has the \$10,000 check from the Marshall Islands, the \$25,000 from the Maldives, the \$10,000 from Papua New Guinea, and the \$100,000 from Kenya. Also on the way are \$300,000 from Albania, \$1million from Bangladesh, \$6,000 from Bosnia, and donations from (among others) Cambodia, Djibouti, Iraq, Liberia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Romania, Samoa, Sao Tome, Sri Lanka, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Yemen.
- Expert advice: Dive teams from France, levee inspection and water-pump teams from the Netherlands, bilingual mental-health professionals from Argentina, helicopter crews from Singapore, and telecom technicians from Sweden are all working along the Gulf Coast.

FURTHER READING:

The State Department's September 6 count of 40 international donors:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2005/Sep/06-7171.htm>

Transcript of an internet chat on international responses with State Department Executive Secretary Harry Thomas:

http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/content/about_usafc/newsroom/announcements_dynamic.asp?ID=1057

Hurricane relief page from Little Rock AFB:

<http://www.littlerock.af.mil/hurcon/index.asp>

Some other examples:

Orleans, France -- The Universite d'Orleans offers 50 2005-2006 academic year spaces for students from Loyola University:

<http://www.univ-orleans.fr>

Also -- France's New Orleans Consulate, oldest in the United States, was set up immediately after the Louisiana Purchase in 1804. The building seems to have been badly damaged; Consul Philippe Lebovics, though, continues to operate from a temporary base in Lafayette:

<http://www.consulfrance-nouvelleorleans.org/index.asp>

Mexico -- A 45-truck army convoy carrying food, bedding, water purification equipment and medical gear, plus 200 doctors and nurses, arrived on September 8, in a 45-truck army convoy commanded by Gen. Francisco Ortiz Valdez. Press in both Mexico and Texas describe it as the first Mexican military unit to cross the Rio Grande since 1848. Reports from the Houston Chronicle:

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/special/05/katrina/3344203>

and Mexico City's El Universal:

<http://estadis.eluniversal.com.mx/notas/303901.html>

Vietnam -- About 30,000 Vietnamese-Americans live along the Gulf Coast, many working in Gulf shrimping and fisheries. With many boats lost and processing plants damaged, the Commerce Department has declared a "fishery failure" in the Gulf, and half of this community has been evacuated to Houston. The An Giang Fisheries Association in the Mekong Delta has raised \$15,000 to support these people; parent association VASEP (Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters)

explains: "Ourselves working in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, always facing natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods, understand better than others the horrible and long-term aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Vietnamese fishermen's hearts are beside the American fishermen and farmers during this hard time."

<http://www.vietnamembassy-usa.org/news/story.php?d=20050913161615>