

ORAL QUESTION H-0470/99

for Question Time at the part-session in October I 1999

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Hervé Novelli

to the Commission

Subject: Danger of a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan

The civil war raging in Afghanistan is in danger of causing a humanitarian disaster, particularly now that winter is approaching.

Between 100,000 and 120,000 refugees have already been forced into the Panshir Valley and the Northeast region controlled by the military commander Massoud. The refugees are fleeing a brutal offensive by the Taliban (villages razed to the ground, summary executions and mass graves, the abduction of women, etc.).

Depending on the course of the military operations, the refugees' situation may get much worse should a Taliban offensive force a further 180,000 to 200,000 refugees into the Panshir Valley, which, with the onset of winter, could become a valley of death.

Does the Commission not think that it must, as a matter of urgency, consider the possibility of providing humanitarian aid in order to prevent a humanitarian disaster?

Tabled: 15.09.1999

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