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General

ASU encourages members to support aid agencies

21 March 2003

Despite local demonstrations and international diplomacy, the war we dreaded has happened. Yesterday the first weapons were employed in Iraq by the US Coalition, meting out their intended death and destruction. Regardless of individual standpoints on the legality of this War, what we all agree on is that the death of innocent people and the destruction of homes is a tragic consequence.

The Australian Services Union, in anticipation of large scale casualties and the displacement that will occur when homes are destroyed, encourages all members to give generously to any charities and aid organisations working in the war zone.

These organisations perform the inevitable task of picking up the pieces of shattered lives and trying to ensure that a further humanitarian disaster does not come on the heels of the first one, the war itself. Aid workers show their heroism every day and night they spend in their critical work and are therefore deserving of our thanks as well as any support we can afford to give.

Without the tangible assistance of ordinary people, aid organisations are hampered in their efforts to alleviate the suffering of the victims of war.

Many ASU members work in the social and community services and will therefore personally recognise the efforts that will be required of aid workers. Some of our members may, in fact, be involved in this current aid effort. We send to them our best wishes and solidarity.

The ASU does not wish to specify any one aid organisation but asks you to consider making a donation to any of the following (the hyperlinks will take you either to a home page or a page dedicated to the situation in Iraq):

- [Medecins Sans Frontieres](#) (Doctors without borders) (already has a six doctor team stationed in Baghdad)
- [Australian Red Cross](#) (has launched a specific Iraq appeal)
- [Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA](#) (the overseas humanitarian aid agency of the ACTU) (has also launched a specific Iraq appeal)
- [UNHCR](#) (the United National Refugee Agency)

A joint statement of the ASU National Officers:

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