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Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 8 April 1979

SUMMARY

There were no reports of gregarious populations anywhere, for the first month since November 1977. However, it is still possible there could be some swarms in inaccessible areas of southern Ethiopia and that some swarms could be produced in Red Sea coastal areas of northern Ethiopia.

There were widespread low density populations of hoppers and adults in the Mekran and Baluchistan of Pakistan, of adults and possibly hoppers in southern Iran. Small numbers of adults have also been reported from India, Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - APRIL 1979

WEST AFRICA

Weather (based on analysis of Meteosat and GOES I/O imagery for period 16 March - 6 May, see attached tables)

Most of the region was dry throughout the period. Northern Mali and southern Niger and Chad received light and moderate widespread rains during the second halves of March and April. Light scattered showers were observed in Senegal, Mauritania and Upper Volta on two days during the seven-week period.

No surveys were undertaken and no locusts were reported.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Weather

Important moderate to heavy rains fell during the second half of March in large parts of Central/Southern Algeria, southern Tunisia and north/central Libya caused by various persistent frontal systems and troughs. These rains, which were preceded by widespread rains in January and early March, undoubtedly have created suitable breeding conditions over substantial areas. More rains fell in northern Libya in late April/early May.

No locusts were reported during April. One mature adult was seen in the Hamada at Hamra in Libya in late March.

EASTERN AFRICA

Weather

Good and locally very heavy rains were observed in large parts of Ethiopia throughout the period except for a dry spell from 15 - 25 April. Key locust breeding areas in Eritrea, the Ogaden and the Railway Area received moderate to heavy rains on various days. Heavy rains were observed in Southern Somalia. From 15 April - 6 May good rains were observed for central and southern Sudan as well as the Red Sea coastal areas.

No locusts were reported from anywhere within the Region.

NEAR EAST

Weather

The most important rains for this region fell in the interior parts of Saudi Arabia where during the periods 16 - 25 March and 2 - 5 May depressions caused widespread rainfall mainly in the central part of the country. Scattered but heavy thunderstorms occurred during various days in April over the northern interi

areas. Rainfall in the Red Sea coastal areas of the Arabian Peninsula was observed mainly over the mountains. Conditions on the coastal plains were dry for most of the period. Light-moderate rains were observed on various days for both Yemens. Oman and the United Arab Emirates were observed to have received light-moderate rainfall on one day during this period.

SAUDI ARABIA

Extensive ground surveys were conducted in northern and north-eastern Saudi Arabia, in the Nejd and along the northern and southern Tihamas. Small numbers of scattered locusts were found on the southern Tihama and around Yenbo.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Moderate rain and small floods were reported between 4 and 7 April in interior areas bordering the Yemen Arab Republic. There was also light rain on the western coastal plain on 17 and 20 April. Scattered adults were observed around Em Riga in early April and Wadis Maraq and Fajrab (1245N, 4420E) on 23 - 24 April.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Annual vegetation on the Tihama was drying out and conditions were unsuitable for breeding. Small numbers of adults were seen in several localities north of Hodeidah.

No locusts were reported from elsewhere in the Region.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

For this region satellite imagery coverage was limited to the period 9 April - 6 May at a low frequency, i.e. once every day.

On the basis of this coverage, the locust breeding areas of the region were observed to be virtually dry throughout the period. Some areas in central Iran received showers on 13 and 29 April. Rain-bearing clouds were observed over a small part of N.W. Rajasthan on 15 April.

IRAN

Scattered adults were reported from several localities in southern Iran.

PAKISTAN

Light to heavy rain was reported from Khuzdar, Las Bela and Turbat districts in the first week of April. During the first half of the month small numbers of solitarious adults were recorded in Turbat, Panjgur, Nushki, Khuzdar, Bhag and Uthal districts, the maximum density being 1800 per square kilometre in the Dalbandin area of Nushki district. Two mature locusts were seen in Uthal district.

In the second half of April small numbers of adults were seen in the Kulanch Valley, around Suntsar, east of Panjgur and on the Kharan plain. The highest densities, of up to about 100 per hectare, were recorded from around Kharan. Solitarious hoppers, predominantly in the first instar and many in weeds around the margin of fields, were found at several localities ranging from the coast to the Kharan plain. In the Kulanch Valley the density of hoppers reached 10 per square metre locally.

INDIA

There were isolated light rains in north-west Rajasthan on 15 - 16 April, Ganganagar recording 6.2 mm of rain. Isolated adults at a density of 300 per square kilometre were recorded from one locality in Jaisalmer in the first fortnight of April, and at another locality in Jaisalmer at a density of 75 per square kilometre in the second fortnight.

AFGHANISTAN was reported clear.

FORECAST FOR LATE MAY - JUNE 1979

In Eastern Africa any adults produced as a result of winter-spring breeding on the northern Red Sea coast of Ethiopia, and which may include some swarms, will move westwards and reach the interior of Sudan and possibly Chad. Breeding could start in Sudan, Chad and the western lowlands of Eritrea Province of Ethiopia towards the end of the forecast period. Escapes from any undetected breeding in the Railway Area and Danakil may also move into the interior of Sudan or be trapped in the highlands of northern Ethiopia. The possibility that there are swarms in southern Ethiopia is now receding but if there are some they will either breed in Bale and Hararghe Provinces of Ethiopia or move without breeding to the coastal escarpment of northern Somalia.

In the Near East breeding is likely to occur in the interior of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and adjacent areas of the Yemen Arab Republic, possibly on a scale sufficient to produce hopper bands. Breeding and band formation could also occur in areas in the interior of Oman and in the United Arab Emirates, which received rain in early May. Breeding on a small scale is likely to continue on the Tihama of the Yemen Arab Republic and is likely to start along the coast of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

In South West Asia breeding will continue in interior valleys of Baluchistan of Pakistan and adjacent areas of Iran, and possibly Afghanistan, but will end in coastal areas. Adults produced in these spring breeding areas, which could include a few small groups or swarmlets, will move eastwards into the summer breeding areas of Pakistan and north-west India.

In North West Africa breeding will continue in western, central and eastern Algeria and Tripolitania. Fledging will commence and the adults, which could include some groups, will start to move south across southern Algeria.

In West Africa it is possible that Chad could be invaded from the east if any swarms are produced on the northern Red Sea coast of Ethiopia, and these could start to breed towards the end of the forecast period. Mainly scattered adults are likely to reach Mali and Niger from the north, but this invasion could include some groups.

Rome
17 May 1979

RAINFALL ANALYSIS BASED ON METEOSAT AND GOES INDIAN OCEAN
SATELLITE IMAGERY (16 March - 6 May 1979)

WEST AFRICA

Period (1979)	Country																				
	Senegal			Mauritania			Mali			Niger			Chad			Upper Volta					
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H			
16 - 25/3	x			x			x	x		x											x
26/3 - 4/4								x			x	x		x							x
5 - 14/4																					
15 - 24/4																					
25/4 - 6/5																					

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

	Algeria						Morocco			Tunisia			Libya								
	Central			South			South			South			Central			South					
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H			
16 - 25/3	x	x	x	x	x	x										x	x				
26/3 - 4/4	x	x																			
5 - 14/4																					
15 - 24/4																					
25/4 - 4/5																					

Key: L = Light rainfall x = widespread
M = Medium " o = local
H = Heavy " "

NEAR EAST

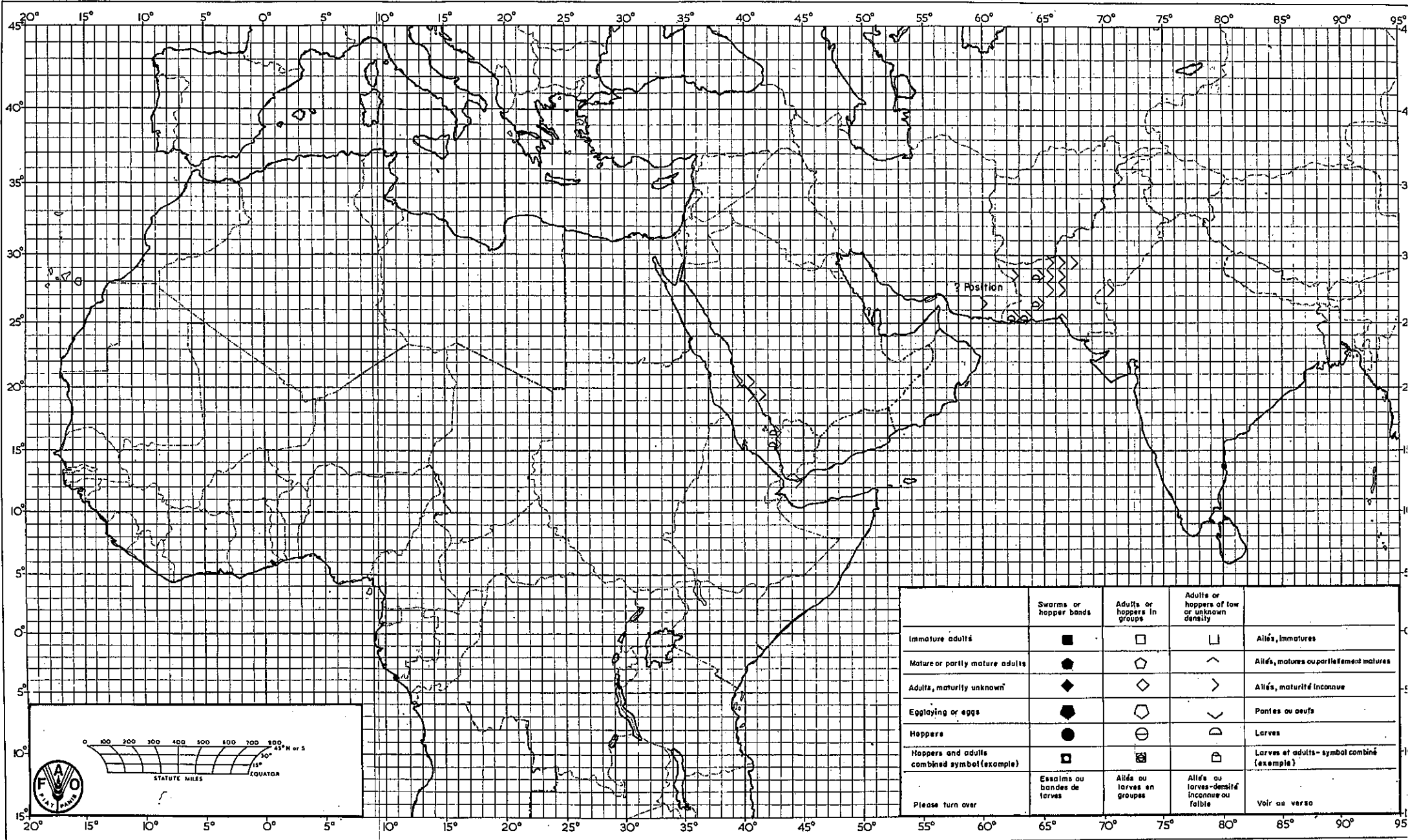
<u>Period</u> (1979)	<u>Country</u>																							
	Egypt			Saudi Arabia						Yemen A.R.			Yemen PDR			Oman			U.A.E.					
	L	M	H	L	<u>1/</u> M	H	L	<u>2/</u> M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H			
16 - 25/3		x						x	x		x			x										
		x	x								x													
26/3 - 4/4		x			x			x	o		x			x	o		x						x	x
5 - 14/4		x							o		o	o		o	x									
									o		o			o										
									o															
		o			o			x															o	
		o	o		o	x			o		x	x		o										
25/4 - 4/5		x			o			x	x		o			o										
		o						o	o		o													
									x															

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

<u>Period</u>	<u>Country</u>														
	Iran			Afghanistan						Pakistan			India		
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H
16 - 25/3	No satellite coverage														
26/3 - 9/4	No satellite coverage														
9 - 14/4			o												
15 - 24/4															o
25/4 - 4/5			x												

1/ Red Sea Coastal Areas
2/ Interior

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 8 APRIL / AVRIL 1979



	Swarms or hopper bands	Adults or hoppers in groups	Adults or hoppers of low or unknown density	
Immature adults	■	□	◻	Alliés, immatures
Mature or partly mature adults	●	◐	◑	Alliés, matures ou partiellement matures
Adults, maturity unknown	◆	◇	◇	Alliés, maturité inconnue
Egg laying or eggs	◼	◑	◑	Ponies ou oeufs
Hoppers	●	○	◐	Larves
Hoppers and adults combined symbol (example)	◼	◑	◑	Larves et adultes - symbol combiné (exemple)
Please turn over	Essaims ou bandes de larves	Alliés ou larves en groupes	Alliés ou larves - densité inconnue ou faible	Voir au verso