UN to airlift medical aid to Burma

THE UNITED Nations relief agency said yesterday it will airlift 82 tonnes of emergency medical supplies to Burma, where hospitals are struggling to cope with the casualty toll from an army crackdown on dissent.

A spokesman for the the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) told Reuters a million dollars worth of drugs and essential hospital equipment will be flown to Bangkok from Copenhagen on Tuesday for shipment to Rangoon.

The spokesman said the supplies would be distributed directly to the five major hospitals in the Burmese capital, in particular the Rangoon General Hospital which has handled the brunt of the casualties in the army's attempt to crush popular protest against last Sunday's coup.

protest against last Sunday's coup.

A foreign aid administrator said the hospitals had run out of supplies.

RALLYING

The Rangoon General Hospital, a red-bricked monument to the British colonial presence in the heart of old Rangoon, has been a rallying place for demonstrators fighting for democracy.

In mid-August troops opened fire at the height of street battles on a 00/088/HAC/001