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UNICEF to fly medical supplies

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will fly 103 tons of emergency medical supplies and equipment to hospitals in Burma to help hundreds of people wounded in anti-government demonstrations there, an agency official said yesterday.

A privately-chartered Hercules C-130 transport plane arrived here yesterday from Jakarta and is to begin flights into Rangoon tomorrow. The UNICEF official, who asked not to be identified, said he will make six trips on consecutive days to the Burmese capital.

Diplomats say hundreds of people have been killed and many wounded since a military coup in Rangoon Sept 18. The government says about 350 people have died.

The official said 83 tons of medical supplies worth US\$454,361 arrived here Tuesday from

the organization's warehouse in Denmark's capital, Copenhagen. The other 20 tons were drawn from the Bangkok warehouse of the International Committee of the Red Cross and through local procurement, he said.

Under diplomatic and UN supervision, six convoys will distribute the supplies to 50 hospitals and 20 medical dispensaries nationwide. In Rangoon, the supplies will be sent to 16 large hospitals and 18 smaller ones, the official said.

UNICEF, which has an office in Rangoon, has also given 350,000 Burmese kyats (US\$58,333) to a recently-formed ad hoc "Interphase Committee for Relief Operations," which is trying to raise 5.28 million kyats (US\$880,000) in emergency funds to help the Burmese, the official said — AP

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