

Umesh Chandra (EERI 1977) has reported the following from his field crew of Ebasco geologists working in Greece:

"Immediately after the earthquake of 24 February 1981 (origin time 20 hr, 53 min, 37.7 sec GMT: 38.2°N, 23.0°E;  $M_s = 6.8$ ) and its largest aftershock on 25 February (origin time 02 hr, 35 min, 54.8 sec GMT; same epicenter;  $M_s = 6.4$ ) occurred about 65 km west of Athens, a team of Ebasco geologists, comprising Norman Tilford (EERI 1980), Robert Cannon, and David Amick, undertook a field investigation of the epicentral area. They located surface rupture along a fault trending east-west on the north side of the Corinth isthmus.\* Movement is about 50 cm down to the north. Left lateral movement of about 10 cm is indicated. The length of surface rupture exceeds 2 km and is a subject of continuing investigation. The fault rupture reoccupies a scarp about 3 to 4 meters high, indicating earlier stress relief along this line. Significant rockslides and falls are closely related to the alignment of surface structure. Likewise, the most severe building damage occurred along the strike of the rupture. Most of the building damage occurred to poorly constructed Category B, Category C, and Category D masonry structures."

A joint EERI/National Research Council, Committee on Natural Disasters team is proceeding to Athens to join Prof. Panayotis Carydis and coordinate their reconnaissance investigation with the Ebasco group. The EERI/NRC team consists of:

Jim Jirsa (EERI 1976), University of Texas, Team Leader  
 Prof. Carydis (EERI 1976), National Technical University of Athens  
 Gregg Brandow (EERI 1973), Brandow and Johnston Associates

Details of their findings will be reported in the near future.

## Quake Rocks Athens; 8 Die, Nearly 50 Hurt

ATHENS (UPI)—An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale jolted Athens and other parts of Greece late Tuesday, killing at least eight people and injuring nearly 50.

Thousands of Athenians fled their homes and spent the night in the streets, parks or in their cars out of fear of aftershocks. Others fled to the countryside.

"We never felt such a strong earthquake before," Angeliki Micha, 74, said in Athens. "The television almost fell from its table. The lights went out and all of a sudden I heard people in the street shouting and crying."

The quake, which struck shortly before 11 p.m., was centered 44 miles west of here in the area of the Alayon Islands in the Gulf of Corinth.

The heaviest hit town was Megara, 50 miles southwest of Athens, where four people were killed and 10 injured from falling masonry.

In Athens, one woman died of a heart attack in the middle of the street and another was killed when she jumped from her second floor window.

In the nearby town of Halkis, one woman was killed, and in Vrahati along the Corinth Gulf coast a woman was found dead under the debris, authorities said.

In Corinth, where some damage was reported in old buildings, 34 people were hospitalized for injuries.

Police said that several people were injured when panic broke out in theaters and cinemas in Athens. Telephone and electricity lines were cut and panicked residents in the capital rushed into the streets, Athens television said. Los Angeles Times Feb 25, 1981

## Athenians Fleeing City After Quakes

ATHENS (AP)—Panicky Athenians streamed out of the city Wednesday after Greece was hit by two strong earthquakes that killed 12 people and injured dozens of others in collapsed houses and hotels.

Police said five people were reported missing after the quakes hit the country during the night. The capital city was almost deserted by mid-afternoon as people drove into the countryside, fearing that more buildings might collapse as hundreds of aftershocks hit the area.

"People must understand that they are suffering unnecessarily by staying out in the open now if they are sure that their houses are safe," Prime Minister George Rallis said on a tour of the worst-hit areas. "Houses that didn't suffer from either the first or second large quakes have proved that they can stand."

The two major quakes registered 6.6 and 6.3 on the Richter scale. Their epicenter was 42 miles west of Athens in the Gulf of Corinth, the Athens Seismological Institute said.

Corinth, 40 miles west of Athens, was one of the har-

dest-hit cities. The shocks destroyed five hotels in the area around the gulf and caused more than 200 houses to collapse, police said.

The quake was the strongest in Athens in recent years. Many Athenians panicked when lights went out and windows shattered. Thousands spent the night in the open, huddled around makeshift fires or wrapped in blankets.

"We were out almost all night," pensioner Costas Zorios said as he slumped in his car with his wife and two grandchildren.

In Kinetta, between Athens and Corinth, teams worked for eight hours to save Evangelos Bouras, a hotel owner who had been trapped in the ruins of his collapsed hotel.

Schools were closed in all areas affected by the quakes. Rallis said most school buildings had withstood the shocks, however, and would reopen today.

The prime minister added that it was up to local authorities to persuade people to return to their homes. All military units and public services were placed in a state of readiness to deal with emergency situations.

The Seismological Institute said that 485 tremors registering more than 3 on the Richter scale were recorded after the first shock. Of those, eight registered between 4.5 and 6.3 on the Richter scale.

Los Angeles Times February 26, 1981

[Update March 1: Two faults, 9 km in length, separated 2 to 3 km, have been located. They have equal offsets. Each is believed to represent the break of a separate earthquake.]