

14 killed, 150 injured as quake rocks Greek city

SALONIKA, Greece (AP) — Fourteen persons were killed and about 150 injured in a powerful earthquake that devastated large areas of Salonika, Greece's second largest city, and sent most of the 600,000 residents fleeing to the countryside.

The quake, which registered 6.5 on the Richter scale, struck the capital of northern Greece at 11:03 p.m. yesterday after a month of lesser tremors. Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, like Greece in the Balkan earthquake belt, also were shaken but reported no casualties.

People jumped from balconies. Persons trapped beneath the ruins cried for help.

"The damage and disruption is quite serious," said Gov. Costas Pylarinos, "but with most of the city being new it has resisted remarkably well. It could have been worse."

As tremors continued, engineers warned residents to stay clear of damaged buildings because of the danger of sharp aftershocks. Thousands heeded the warning and fled to the countryside giving parts of Salonika the appearance of a ghost town.

In Athens, Premier Constantine Caramanlis called a special cabinet session to plan aid for the city and declared a state of emergency.

New buildings appeared to withstand the shock well. But older buildings were badly damaged. Many had been cracked by the earlier shocks. Police said 11 persons were killed when two old apartment buildings collapsed.

U.S. Consul General Dan Zachary said there were no reports of any Americans killed or injured. Zachary said the consulate, in a six-story building which overlooks the harbor, had sustained some damage.

Bill and Marianne Tsikitas and Dean Zigouris, three medical students at Salonika University Medical School from Astoria, N.Y., said they were studying on the balcony of a third-floor apartment when the building began to shake.

"Everything in the room began to fall and the walls cracked," said Zigouris. "We grabbed some clothes and rushed barefoot down the three flights of stairs and headed for an open field where we spent the night."

"It's become an earthquake city and I can't stand it," said Mrs. Tsikitas. "The only thing keeping us here are examinations at the end of the month."

Taxi driver Nikos Goumas was watching a replay of a World Cup soccer game on television.

"Suddenly the TV set began shaking," he said. "I thought it had gone out of focus but when the walls of my apartment started cracking and the ceiling falling, I realized what was happening. It was like a train going through my apartment."

The exodus of the population caused huge traffic jams and left the city to policemen, firemen, soldiers and other rescue workers digging in the rubble under searchlights.

Six survivors were dug out of the ruins of one eight-story apartment building.

A children's hospital was severely damaged but the occupants had been evacuated before the major tremor hit. Dolls and toys littered the hospital grounds as one wing completely folded from the impact and collapsed in a heap, a witness said.

Electricity was cut off. Water pipes were broken in many parts of the city. Emergency communications with the rest of the country were set up. Help was rushed from Athens, 190 miles to the south.

"The city was shaking like a leaf," journalist Nikos Soliopoulos said.

The epicenter of the quake was at Lake Volvi, about 30 miles east of Salonika. It was the center also of tremors Monday that gave one local man a fatal heart attack and sent 10 other persons to hospitals with injuries or in shock.

The strongest of the shocks Monday registered 5.2 on the Richter scale. Another tremor on May 24 registered 5.7.

The Richter scale is a measure



of ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one whole number means a tenfold increase in magnitude. An earthquake with a 6 reading can cause severe damage while a quake registering 7 is a major one capable of widespread heavy damage.

The last major quake in Greece occurred in 1965, when 17 persons were killed near Corinth, south of Athens.

New Tremors Jolt Battered Salonika

SALONIKA, Greece (AP)—New sharp earth tremors jolted northern Greece Wednesday in the aftermath of a powerful earthquake that devastated this city of 600,000, killing at least 14 persons and injuring 150, police reported.

Throughout Wednesday, aftershocks continued at the rate of about one per hour, and civil defense engineers urged complete evacuation of damaged buildings in case of further collapses.

The government declared a state of emergency in Salonika and began airlifting medical supplies and tents in military C-130s.

The suburbs of Salonika looked like a giant campsite as thousands of people still clad in their pajamas stretched out under trees and prepared to spend a second night outdoors. Temperatures were in the 90s.

The city's most famous landmark, the 15th century White Tower built by the Venetians as a prison overlooking Thermaikos Gulf, was damaged.

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Fiesta brings earthquake 'ghost town' back to life

From Mario Modiano
Salonika, July 21

The spell that transformed Salonika into a ghost town for four weeks after the last earthquake, is at last breaking. Activity in the city today was brisk and there were signs that more people had come to work than on previous days.

There were a number of reasons. One was last night's brilliant fiesta that defied the full moon scare. There was no earthquake. Another is that tremors which had been feeding the phobia since the June upheaval are rapidly subsiding.

Not least, the presence of Mr Konstantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, has been reassuring. He told me: "The people who are out will be pondering during the weekend. They will say to themselves: Karamanlis is in town, and we are still out. They will feel ashamed and return."

At least 80,000 residents turned up in Aristotle Square in the centre of the city to join last night's festival, causing the worst traffic jams since the night of the earthquake when the people fled.

Today the city centre was busier than it had been for a month. It was expected, provided the week end is calm, that people will start to return on Monday to tackle the mass of problems that they left behind in their fright.

Greek city trembles before the full moon

From Mario Modiano
Salonika, July 19

Salonika was hit on June 20 by a severe earthquake which killed 50 people and caused serious damage but the mass hysteria it generated is still present and the authorities are concerned about the future of the city.

Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, flew in from Athens tonight ostensibly to review plans for Salonika's rehabilitation, but in fact to bolster people's morale. The reason is a persistent rumour that because of the full moon tomorrow the most catastrophic earthquake yet will hit the city.

"I have come to help them make their logic work", he said on arrival.

The two previous shocks occurred on or about the full moon but foreign seismologists who have arrived here also to study the conditions scoff at the people's superstition.

"An earthquake is no more likely tomorrow than it is today or next week", Dr David Carver of the United States geological survey, said. There was no proof that the pull of the Moon could activate anything more than tides.

A team of four seismologists from Cambridge University, led by Professor Jeffrey King, arrived here last night to take measurements from the epicentre, between the Lake Volvi and Lake Langhada.

What frightened Salonika's 700,000 inhabitants was probably the realization of their extraordinary good luck in surviving the earthquake of June 20, which measured 6.5 on the Richter scale and was just short of a catastrophe.

Today, out of 700,000 inhabitants, 100,000 sleep in single-floor houses in the suburbs. About 150,000 others stay under tents pitched in parks, squares, courtyards and stadiums.

The other 450,000 live out of town over a radius of 100 miles in villages and resorts. The authorities estimate that about a quarter of them commute to the city in the morning and go back in the early afternoon.

Shops and offices open between 9 am and 3 pm but uncertainty has paralyzed commerce and little other than food is sold. Soon after 4 pm the city empties and after nightfall the deserted blocks of flats stand dark and desolate with only an occasional flicker of light from the homes of the few braver spirits who ignore the prophets of doom.

Most shopkeepers seem determined not to open tomorrow and factory workers have been sent home on holiday by their employers. Even intellectuals admit they will stay out of town although they regard this attitude as illogical.

There were a few encouraging signs of a saner reaction against the paralyzing fatalism. A committee of intrepid citizens is organizing a song and dance party in a central square of Salonika to hail the new moon, and a chain of snack bars promises free lamb-on-the-spit and wine for all.

The committee's appeal echoed the city's agony: "For God's sake do not go away. Flight will bring catastrophe. Let us support our city. Join the party and chant with us: Salonika lives on."

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