Quake hits Greece

By GILLIAN WHITTAKER
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A strong earthquake that rolled through southern Greece Tuesday night was blamed for five deaths, and five people were missing after a hotel collapsed in the town of Vrachati west of Athens, officials announced.

Hundreds of injuries were reported, with most of the victims suffering cuts and bruises from falling plaster and shattered windows.

Thousands of Athenians, some in their nightclothes, fled into the streets when the quake struck at 10:54 p.m. Many spent the night outside, camping in huddles around bonfires.

One woman, running down a street in Athens, shouted to passersby, "Where can I find my children?"

Police said an eight-story hotel in Vrachati broke apart during the heavy tremors and it was possible five people may have been trapped in the rubble. Vrachati is near the quake's epicenter, placed offshore in the Gulf of Corinth about 40 miles west of Athens.

Police said the hotel had few, if any, guests, because it is primarily for summer tourists.

One quake-related death was reported in Athens. Police said a woman was fatally injured when she panicked and jumped through a second-story window.

Officials said four other women died of heart attacks apparently brought on by fear of the tremors.

First-aid stations in Athens were crowded with people seeking treatment for minor cuts and bruises. At least six people were reported injured in Corinth, 40 miles west of Athens, and four in the town of Halkida east of the capital.

All military units were placed on a state of readiness by the Defense Ministry as a series of aftershocks rippled through the area.

The strong quake followed a moderate tremor earlier in the day.

Athens police said several old buildings collapsed and walls were cracked and windows broken in hundreds of buildings, but damage was relatively light considering the strength of the quake, which registered between 6.6 and 6.8 on the Richter scale.

Traffic lights failed in Athens, causing major jams at key intersections.

The U.S. National Earthquake Center in Golden, Colo., said the quake registered 6.3 on its seismographs.

Telephone lines to the Athens Seismological Institute went down, but it reported later it had measured the quake at 6.6. It said the strongest tremor lasted two minutes and was followed by aftershocks.

State television said the quake also was strong in the towns of Larissa in central Greece, Messolonghi in the west and Patras and Nafplion in the south.

An earthquake that registered 4 on the Richter scale jolted the same area earlier in the day, but no damage or casualties were reported from that tremor.

A spokesman at the Golden center said the strongest quake recorded in modern times in Greece occurred March 31, 1955, and registered 6.7 on the Richter scale. Six people were reported killed in the series of tremors that battered the country's central zone.
12 Reported Killed, Scores Injured In Greek Earthquake

ATHENS, Greece (UPI) — The official death toll rose today to 12 with scores injured in an earthquake that collapsed four hotels in towns around Athens and forced residents of the capital to sleep outdoors or flee the city.

The earthquake, recorded by the Athens Seismological Institute at 6.6 on the open-ended Richter scale, struck Tuesday night and was followed by a series of strong aftershocks.

Police reported 12 persons were killed in the earthquake and 55 were injured.

With the exception of government offices, where many failed to appear for work, all offices, schools and banks in Athens were shut today. The only shops open were food stores.

Four hotels collapsed near Corinth. A railway bridge connecting Athens with the region was closed and landslides forced detours on the highway to the area. Villages and small towns between Athens and the capital suffered more than the capital. One of the 12 people known dead was killed in Vrahati, a town along the Corinth Gulf coast, when an eight-story hotel crumbled. One person was missing and feared dead in the ruins.

In Megara, 30 miles southwest of Athens, four people were killed and 10 were injured by falling masonry, authorities said. In Halkis, one woman was killed, and in Vrahati, a woman was found dead under debris, authorities said.

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

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

The institute said the epicenter was in the Gulf of Corinth, 44 miles west of Athens, around a group of small islands known as the Aegina. Athens has been relatively immune to earthquakes because Corinth is a frequent victim.

In Athens, many people took blankets and spent the night in public squares or parked cars.

"I saw things falling, chairs dancing, glasses jumping," said Lisa Keller, 29, a history professor at the American College of Athens who spent the night in a friend's car in a parking lot. "I don't want to feel it again."

Shop windows were broken in downtown streets and some large glass doors and windows were broken at the 14-story Athens Hilton, the tallest hotel in the city. A Hilton desk employee said there was "some panic and some cracks in a few inside walls but nothing serious."

"We never felt such a strong earthquake before," said 74-year-old Athenian Angieli Mica. "The television almost fell from its table. The lights went and all of a sudden I heard people in the street shouting and crying."

Athenians flee quake

By GILLIAN WHITTAKER
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Panicked Athenians streamed out of the city Wednesday after Greece was hit by two strong earthquakes that killed 13 people and injured dozens of others in collapsed houses and hotels.

The quakes damaged the east and west faces of the famous Parthenon, including two corner columns of the ancient temple on the 2,500-year-old Acropolis overlooking Athens.

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 in new tremors.

"People must understand that they are suffering unnecessarily by staying out in the open now if they are sure that their houses are safe," Premier 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 quakes registered 6.6 and 6.3 on the open-ended 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 hardest hit cities. The shocks destroyed five hotels in the area around the Gulf and collapsed more than 200 houses, 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," said pensioner Costas Zorios 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 Bouvalas, 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 open Thursday.

The premier 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.

Anchorage Daily News  Thursday, February 26, 1981
73
15 Killed In 2 Greek Earthquakes
Terrorized Athenians Flee City Fearing More Buildings May Collapse

From The San Diego Union's News Service

ATHENS, Greece — Thousands of Athenians streamed out of the city yesterday after Greece was hit by two strong earthquakes that killed 15 people and injured dozens of others in collapsed houses and hotels.

The quakes damaged the east and west faces of the famous Parthenon including two corner columns of the ancient temple on the 2,500-year-old Acropolis overlooking Athens. Statues and other exhibits fell to the floor in the Athens and Corinth archaeological museums.

Police said five people were reported missing after the quakes hit the country during the night. The capital city was almost deserted by midafternoon as people drove into the countryside, fearing that more buildings might collapse in new tremors.

"People must understand that they are suffering unnecessarily by staying out in the open now if they are sure that their houses are safe," Premier 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."

Banks were shuttered, schools and universities canceled classes and most businesses were shut down because even the few employees that showed up were terrorized by rumors that a stronger tremor was expected.

The latest official report said more than 250 buildings collapsed. Most of the buildings were old and uninhabited, but among those leveled were the Corinth police headquarters and five hotels which, apart from their owners, were empty due to the winter season closure.

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

Corinth. 40 miles west of Athens, was one of the hardest hit cities with about 90 buildings collapsed. Also, Piraeus, a village of 9,000 on the northern coast of the Gulf, and the nearby Spiota and Loutraki where two hotels collapsed.

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," said pensioner Costas Zorios 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 guests who had been trapped in the hotel when it collapsed.

Anchorage Daily News February 28 1981
Quake iaces Parthenon with cracks
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Worried archeologists Friday reported significant earthquake damage to the Parthenon temple atop the Acropolis, symbol for 2,500 years of the glory of ancient Greece.

The ancient marble columns, which have survived fire, invasion and air pollution erosion over the centuries, suffered cracks that experts described as serious although they were barely noticeable to a reporter's eye.

The cause of the damage was an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale which struck Greece with shattering force Tuesday night. It was followed by 652 aftershocks in 24 hours from an epicenter in the Gulf of Corinth, 60 miles southwest of Athens.

The quake left 15 persons dead, scores injured and hundreds homeless in chilly, rainy weather.

Historic Corinth, where St. Paul delivered his address to the Corinthians, escaped damage although it was a few miles from the epicenter. A spokesman for the Corinth museum said none of the thousands of treasured antiquities there were damaged.

Nearby modern Corinth, however, was scarred by severe damage.

Earthquake Damage

TUESDAY. MARCH 3. 1981

According to the quick estimates drawn, so far, the buildings damaged by last Tuesday's and Wednesday's earthquake are put at 10,000 in the Athens area and the total — including Athens — at 16,500. Athens has 600 buildings unfit to be occupied.

In the Corinth Prefecture, 365 have been regarded as ready to collapse, while in the town of Corinth itself 189, and Loutraki 197, have also been regarded as dangerous or expected to collapse.

The estimated damage done by the earthquakes is, at the moment, put at 5,500,000,000 drs.

The Government has announced that loans will be given to all those who were hit by the earthquakes at reduced interest rates and repayments within 10 years. The possibility of offering taxation benefits to the victims is also under consideration.
Earth tremors continuing

THREE moderately strong earth tremors shocked southeastern Greece on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the Athens Seismological Institute said.

The institute said the three shocks, also felt in Athens, registered 4.7, 4.5 and 4.8 on the Richter scale. The shocks came from the same epicenter, 70 kilometers west of the capital.

The institute also said last night that there were 39 tremors recorded between 7 a.m. and 7:02 a.m. yesterday. The tremors ranged from 3 to 4.8.

Panic-stricken people rushed into the streets in their pajamas when a fairly strong earth tremor shook Salonika during the night, police said.

No casualties or damage were reported after the tremor which the Athens Observatory measured as 4.6 on the Richter scale.

ANTHOUPOLIS central square in Athens is still under canvas while the local residents, whose homes have been declared uninhabitable after the earthquake, wait for authorities to take action.

DEATH, DESTRUCTION FOLLOW NEW QUAKE

Another strong earthquake, 6.2 on the Richter scale, hit almost all of Greece from Messinia to Volos, Salonica, Chalkidiki and from Athens and Halkis to Eftanissa. It occurred just two minutes before midnight.

There were more victims, new damages and new panic, strengthened with a new quake at 3:10 a.m., measuring 5.2 Richter.

Four people lost their lives, 150 were wounded and 400 houses completely destroyed. But once more, panic proved worse than the earthquake. All deaths were due to heart attacks and the wounded were the victims of their panic.

The new quake is a post-quake tremor coming from the same epicenter although it moved NW, about 60 km away from Athens.

Experts say that this means that the post-quake tremors will become gradually weaker and that people shouldn’t worry. Reporters of the newspaper TA NEA say that most people left their houses once more and only a few remained cool.

However, many people saved their lives because of their fear in the Viotia villages where many houses were destroyed but in human lives were lost. People were in alert.

The mayor of the village Kapareli, Viotia, started a telephone conversation with reporters of the newspaper TA NEA but was interrupted abruptly when the whole building started shaking and the mayor could not continue the conversation. Later on reporters stated after visiting the village that half the village was destroyed and people need help.

Houses destroyed include: 50 in Platees, 25 in Melissohori, 10 in Lefktra, 15 in Loutouli, 15 in Ampelohori.

In the 44th and 48th km of the National road linking Athens — Corinth traffic was halted because of falling rocks.

Professor of seismology of the Athens University, Mr Drakopoulos, told the Newspaper TA NEA: “These post-quake tremors are coming from the same epicenter and consist of a phenomenon we are going to face in the near future. I was not surprised by these phenomena and I wouldn’t be surprised even if they were of the class of 6.4 degrees on the Richter scale.”

In response to a question about people believing that there were not going to be more strong earthquakes, he said: “They were wrong. I simply said that they were not going to pass 6.6 degrees on the Richter scale. It was a release of energy gathered on the same epicenter and we are going to have a decline of the post-quake tremors. TV authorities of ERT and YENED said they did not give instructions to people because they could undertake responsibility for telling people to leave or to remain in their houses. If the houses have no damage they can stay in.

It should be noted that for 1 1/2 hour seismographic buzzers kept buzzing and strong quakes were registered at the Athens Institute of Seismology.

At 9 a.m. we had a new quake of 5.8 of the Richter scale. In telephone contact with Upsala, the head of the Upsala's Seismological Center Mr Claus Mayer said:

“I consider this quake a post-tremor as it comes from the same epicenter, although it was strong. It is slightly possible to have a new earthquake as strong as the one of the 24th February (6.5 Richter) which according to our estimations is considered main earthquake. A transfer of the epicenter is possible and could cover a distance of 30 km but according to our records such a possibility is not likely in this case.”

He said houses with minor cracks from the first and the second earthquakes on the 24th and 25th of February risk becoming bigger.
2 New Quakes Shake Greece

The third and fourth earthquakes in less than two weeks shook most of Greece, claiming at least one life and slightly injuring 30 people, Athens radio reported. Residents of Athens, still fearful after the last big quakes, rushed through the streets to open spaces. Police said many houses in rural areas that were weakened by the earlier tremors collapsed in the latest ones. The new quakes measured 6.2 and 5.2 on the Richter scale, compared to 6.6 and 6.3 for the earlier quakes.

2 More Earthquakes Jolt Athens, Greece

Two strong quakes jolted the Athens, Greece, region early today, toppling 250 houses in one village and sending thousands of Athenians fleeing into the streets. One person died of a heart attack, and witnesses reported several injuries from the tremors, the third series of quakes to rock Athens in nine days. Authorities gave no overall casualty figures.

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGES
ATHENS CATHEDRAL

Mass at the Athens Cathedral will be discontinued until damages caused by last Tuesday’s earthquake are repaired. As VRADYNI mentioned, cracks occurred because of the earthquake and the Archbishop, after checking the building with the help of civil engineers of the Technical Service of the Church, has ordered it closed. During the entire week until Tuesday night, marriage ceremonies, etc., took place as usual, except the Sunday mass, which took place in the little church of Agios Eleftherios next to the Cathedral.

The Minister, on the same day, sent two civil engineers, D. Vassilakis and N. Mavronas, to check the building. Here is their report:

"The church, built between 1842—1862, is generally in good condition, although, as a result of the recent earthquake, there are some cracks in the arches above the three main entrances and some other cracks on the roof. There are though loose sections by the cracks, which are ready to collapse and consequently all functions at the church should stop until repairs are made.

"Also, fences should be put around the entrances in order to protect the passers-by. After removal of the loose sections, a study for repairing all damages will start and pieces of glass will be put in, to retard further development of the cracks."

Most of the damages occurred on the section designated for women. The dangerous parts of the church are isolated with ropes so that people can enter for prayer.

Various ceremonies continue to take place as well as guided tours. Priests of the church believe that causes of these damages are the alterations that took place in 1968 when the then Archbishop Mr. Ieronimos ordered the construction of tombs after digging in the base of the church in order to inter the ashes of Agia Philotheo and other items which needed to be put underground.

After 140 years of existence and after experiencing other earthquakes it is the first time there have been so much damage. It is said that in 1894's earthquake, when all the surrounding buildings collapsed, the Cathedral was the only building not damaged.

The problem of the celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, 15 March and of 25 March, is still of concern to Archbishop Sarafim. The church of Aghioi Dionysios tou Aeropagitou, Skoufa str., is preferred for the celebrations of the 15th of March and the church of Aghios Thomas in Ghoudi, for the celebrations of the 25th March, but nothing has been decided as yet.
EXTENSIVE DAMAGE IN THEBES

ANOTHER STRONG EARTHQUAKE HITS GREECE EARLY THURSDAY

THE THIRD IN TWO WEEKS - AND THE NEARLY CONSTANT VIBRATION

OF THE EARTH DURING THE DAY - AND THE NEARLY CONSTANT VIBRATION

MALLY COOL

ATHENIANS

THE EARTHQUAKE

The third in two weeks - and the nearly constant vibration

MALLY COOL
PROBABILITY OF MAJOR QUAKE NOW SLimmer

Wednesday night's powerful tremor lessens the probability of a destructive quake considerably, according to experts.

"It was a rather powerful aftershock," Athens Seismological Institute Director Ioannis Dracopoulos told an YENID interviewer early Thursday morning. "It was the third largest tremor, emanating from the same seismic center: 38 degrees and 25 min. latitude and 23 degrees and 10 min. longitude (about 60 km. from Athens)."

The aftershock, Mr. Dracopoulos explained, reached 6.2 on the Richter Scale almost identical to the first aftershock early Wednesday, Feb. 25.

This means that a huge amount of seismic energy has been released already, the seismologist said, thus making the chances of another tremor over 6.0 on the Richter Scale almost negligible.

In answer to a question, Mr. Dracopoulos said that it was strictly by chance that large quakes appear to always occur in the middle of the night.

"Quakes," the seismologist said, "do not start from a certain intensity which keeps decreasing with each aftershock. Simply the frequency of the seismic activity decreases until it peters out."

Ironically, according to Mr. Dracopoulos, last night's quake should be of some relief among the people because of the release of seismic energy, as described.

Dr. Dracopoulos also said that the feeling people had that last night's tremor lasted longer than the two last weeks was an illusion brought about by self-suggestion.

"We simply must learn to live with quakes," he said. "And people must realize that houses do not collapse as easily as one may imagine."

AFTERSHOCKS CONTINUE

The Athens Seismological Institute recorded 168 aftershocks between 7:00 a.m.

Three new severe earthquakes, tremors shook the country yesterday and caused thousands of panic-ridden Athenians to evacuate their homes to spend the night in the open-air. Many public services did not work yesterday because of the general fear.

At least four persons died from fear-induced seizures while at least 55 were injured in different regions of the country.

The first of the tremors struck at 11:58 p.m. on Wednesday night and registered 6.2 degrees on the open-ended Richter Scale. At 3 a.m. and 9 a.m. yesterday two fresh tremors shook the country, measuring 5.2 and 5.8 points respectively.

The Athens Observatory announced yesterday that the number of tremors was later attributed to severe one of 6.2 degrees that hit Greece last on Wednesday night.

The new tremors were particularly felt in the areas of Lamia, Volos, Larissa, Cephallonia, Halikidiki and Corfu.

The region of Boeotia and Megara suffered the most.

According to press reports, the tiny village of Kaparell in Thebes paid the highest price in terms of damage: more than 95 houses destroyed with another 50 completely ruined in nearby Platiai.

In Lefktra, Melissinohori and Astuvi some 145 houses were evacuated by their inhabitants.

The director general of the Geodynamic Institute, Professor John Dracopoulos, stated yesterday that the sudden rise in the number of tremors was due to the strong quake that hit the country at midnight Wednesday. He added, however, that the chance of another equally strong one was remote. Professor Dracopoulos noted that the tremors' epicenter had moved 10-15 kilometres closer to the capital area.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Culture and Science yesterday confirmed that the Athens Acropolis' treasurers had suffered no damage from the new tremors. The Ministry said that archaeologists and other scientists were on the alert on a 24-hour basis guarding the archaeological treasures of the country nation-wide.

The management of the Corinth Canal yesterday denied rumors and false reports of a strong tidal wave in the Corinth Gulf between the cities of Corinth and Loutraki. The management said that the Canal was functioning normally.
Quake Levels Village, Epicenter Unchanged

Twelve seconds and an earthquake of 6.2 on the Richter scale were enough to destroy the village of Platea and damage other villages such as Kapareli, Lefkari, Melissohori, Aghios Vassilios, Kalamaki and more small villages of Thebes on Wednesday.

Since the earthquakes of Feb. 24 (6.6 Richter) and Wednesday's (6.2 Richter) 4,000 houses and buildings were completely destroyed and 15,000 damaged in the perfectures of Attica, Boeotia, Euboea, and Corinth.

The Government provided assistance to the quake-stricken people amounting to 15 billion drs for:

- Building construction loans up to 1 million drs.
- Repairs up to 120,000 drs.
- 10 percent grants and the rest interest-free loans for a 15-year period.

Greek Seismologists Professor John Drakopoulos and Vasilos Papazahos and foreign seismologists of Upsala — Otto Koulhanes and Klaus Meyer — stated that the last quake was in the limits of expectations and in a joint announcement said:

"Wednesday's quake had the same epicenter and there are only a few possibilities for a stronger than the 6.6 Richter quake."

Mr. Drakopoulos said:

- The tremors after the last 6.2 Richter quake were after-shocks, not new quakes.
- All evidence shows this was a strong after-shock and not an indication of an impending quake.
- With the 6.2 Richter quake the epicenter shifted by 10 km.
- People should remain in their houses if no damages occurred in the structure.

Mr. Papazahos, who said he is not worried, noted:

- The epicenter has not shifted eastwards.
- The after shocks following the 6.2 quake were natural.
- Post-quake analyses are encouraging.
- A quake epicenter more than 40 km from Athens is considered unlikely to cause major damage to the city.

From Messrs. Koulhanes and Meyer:

- Wednesday's quake (or Upsala 6.4 Richter) was an after-shock from the strong earthquake on Feb. 24.
- A new quake with the same epicenter is high unlikely.

Serious damages occurred to houses and buildings of Maroussi and Halandri. In Plaka (3, Kyriostou st.) and Megara a wall fell on a car. Elektra Kamaritsiki, 55, was found dead in her house. 20 Eurovis str., death probably due to a heart attack.

In Kapareli, Platea, 50 houses were completely destroyed as well as 45 in Loutraki, 10 in Lefktra, 10 in Melissohori, 5 in Xeroum, 5 in Asfri, 4 in Erythres, 1 in Thisi, 1 in Neohorio, 1 coffeshop in Theva and 6 houses in Porto Germano. In Ampelohori 15 houses are close to collapsing, with 6 in Halkis in the same condition. In Ipato-Efioson 25 houses have serious damages and in Chaeronia 6 houses were damaged.

Fifteen houses in N. Artaki, Politika, Katenon, Makrykampos and Aghios Athanassios have cracks and 10 houses in Tanagra. One in Traganara, Lamia ever completely destroyed and another one in Lavrio (Attica) received serious damage.

After a check in Corinth of 6,428 houses of Corinth, Loutraki; Kato, 2676 among them are considered not safe, 2352 under repair but inhabitable 1014 under repair but unhabitable and 1376 near collapse.

From 7 p.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. on Thursday there were 168 tremors compared with 206 the previous 24 hours.

They ranged from 3 to 4.6 degrees on the Richter scale, except one of 5.8 degrees at 8:59 Thursday morning. There was one more of 4.6 at 12:29 Thursday afternoon. They were all from the same

Expert Details Quake Damage To Acropolis

The latest earthquake did not harm Acropolis monuments, it was announced by the Ministry of Science and Culture, which added that archaeologists are spending the night near the monuments ready to state any possible damages caused by the quakes.

Reported damages:
- In Megara some cracks occurred in the warehouse building of the museum.
- At the Dafni Monastery small sections of the walls fell off.
- A statue fell down at the Theva Museum but it was not harmed.
- Cracks became wider at the Chalkis museum.
- Antiquities at the small local museum of Perachora have been collected and stored for safety.

Professor and Academician G. Mylonas, in his speech at the Athens Academy on Thursday, pointed out that damages to Acropolis monuments are not substantial. The Parthenon, he said, is in a good condition except at the base of one column which shifted by one cm.

Mr. Mylonas, in describing the minor damages in detail, said they could be restored.

Athens Daily Post
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1981

Relief Measures for Quake Victims Decided

AS ANNOUNCED earlier in the week, the Economic Committee met yesterday to consider ways to deal with the situation in the aftermath of the earthquakes. The committee decided upon the following steps:

First, regarding housing, emergency loans will be available to residents of the districts of Attica, Boeotia and Corinth. These will be interest-free loans payable in 15 years. The first installment is due two years from the date the loan is granted. Specifically, owners of buildings in need of reconstruction may obtain the equivalent of 10,000 drachmas per square meter, up to a maximum of 1,000,000 drachmas, for the needed repairs.

Farmers will also be able to select the type of farm house they wish from plans prepared by the Ministry of Public Works and will be eligible for an additional 50,000 drachmas. For damage repair to houses and apartments the maximum is set at 120,000 drachmas.

Second, as regards commercial enterprises in the affected areas, it was decided that the Government will guarantee up to 70 percent of the amounts required for reconstruction in the form of 10-year loans at 10 percent. In this case, too, the first installment is due two years from date of issue. Individual merchants and professionals are eligible for loans up to 700,000 drachmas payable in three years.

Finally, the committee decided on supplementary aid measures for the stricken areas such as the extension of due dates of notes and other financial obligations for three months.

The immediate housing needs of all victims, the committee determined, have already been met in hotels and makeshift shacks.

Athens News
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1981
EARTHQUAKE RELIEF GOES INTO ACTION
As Tremors Continue To Strike

Some minor earthquake tremors were again felt in Athens today but caused no panic among the fearful citizens of the capital.

A tremor also occurred in Salonika early yesterday morning which measured 4 points on the Richter scale. The quake's epicenter was not, as hitherto, in the Alkyonides islands, in the Corinthian Gulf, but in the area of the Volvi and Lagoada lakes. No casualties or damage were reported.

Some 129 new tremors were registered by the Athens Observatory, none of them stronger than 4.3 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale.

Meanwhile Prime Minister George Papandreou yesterday announced a special 15-billion drachma relief program for the earthquake-stricken areas of Attica, Corinth, and Bectia. The program provides for 15-year loans at low interest for the partial or complete repair of damaged houses in these regions.

The government will also grant currency facilities to the citizens of the stricken areas to meet various other urgent needs.

Part of the 15 billion drachmas in aid will be covered by special contributions of the EEC.

It was announced yesterday that the British Government is to provide the authorities with 250 tents, following an official request made through NATO for disaster relief assistance in the aftermath of the earthquakes. The British Red Cross started arrangements for the dispatch of the tents on 3 March.

The tents (each with a capacity of six people) will be used to help house temporarily the thousands made homeless by the earthquakes. The total cost of the consignment is approximately £50,000.

Three new earthquakes jolted the Athens area, killing at least one person and damaging more than 100 homes, police said. The initial tremor measured 5.7 on the Richter scale while the second and third tremors each measured 5.2. All three were centered in the Gulf of Corinth, 40 miles west of Athens, the Seismological Institute there reported. Police said a farmer, 65, was killed during the first tremor. His death brought to 18 the number of people killed in a series of quakes in Greece that began Feb. 24.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1981

Athens Daily Post

THE HISTORIC village of Plateia was particularly hard hit by the last quake at midnight Wednesday. The church of Saint George, built only a few years ago, was a near total loss. Sections of the church (above) literally came unglued by the force of the tremor.

Athens News
Saturday, March 7, 1981