But while the villagers of Santa Tomas waited with patient hope for their landina, the villagers in neighboring Magdalena were swamped with three or four times the amount of landina they needed.

Magdalena’s excess of landina was supplied by an evangelical group based in Guatemala City. A Guatemalan government engineer overseeing the reconstruction of the village was asked why Magdalena had so much landina while Santa Tomas had none.

“Just lucky,” he said. “I understand this evangelical group went to the Emergency Committee offering to help rebuild some village. Somebody just looked at a map, pointed to Magdalena and said, ‘Why not go there?’”

A typical rural home, like those planned for neighboring Santa Tomas, requires 10 to 15 sheets of landina. Magdalena was given 40 to 50 sheets for each family in the village.

The government engineer said there were no plans to share Magdalena’s excess landina with any of the neighboring villages. Instead, the people of Magdalena will use landina only for roofing but for walls as well.

The likelihood is that Santa Tomas eventually will get its landina.

But the vital question is whether Santa Tomas and scores of villages like it will get their landina and other necessary construction material before the six-month rainy season begins in about eight weeks.

Nearly one in every six Guatemalans is now without shelter, according to the best estimates.

President Laugerud Garcia has pledged that all will be under shelter by the time the rains come. Col. Echeverria and other Guatemalan officials echo his confidence.

But exactly how much landina is needed, and exactly where it is coming from, is unclear. Laugerud said this week that 300,000 sheets are needed. An official of the Emergency Committee placed the need at 2 million sheets.

There is general agreement that little or no landina remains on the Central American market, and officials are vague as to other sources of supply.

Paralleling the enormous task of providing shelter is the huge job of clearing earthquake debris from rivers and highways. Unless blocked riverbeds are opened, the rainy season promises widespread flooding. While most major roads have been cleared of landslides knocked down by the quake, the rains also could wash down temblor-loosened earth and block many key highways.

A U.S. Army engineer battalion and a number of Mexican construction crews are helping the Guatemalans on the river and road work, but it is estimated that it will take three to six months to complete it.

Meantime, some volunteer agencies are stockpiling food and other supplies in many Alta Plano towns and villages, anticipating that they will be cut off from the rest of the country when the rains come.

* Los Angeles Times

Wed, Mar 24, 1976—Part 1

is not so much a matter of encountering occasional evidence of the catastrophe as of being totally engulfed by it.

Devastation is everywhere and utter. You literally inhale it in the form of powdery tan dust, the pulverized remains of the traditional thick-walled adobe dwellings that collapsed by the thousands during the big quake and the hundreds of lesser temblors that followed it.

According to the latest official count of the Guatemalan government, 22,886 people died and another 77,060 were injured in the quake and its aftermath.

A total of 196 towns and villages were destroyed or badly damaged.

No one can yet give a precise figure—there may never be one—but the best estimate is that 1 million people were left homeless, by far the greatest number in the back-country towns and villages.

While the food and medical needs of the earthquake victims have been met, to date almost no permanent replacement housing has been built. Again there are no official figures, but at best only a few hundred “temporary” shelters (many will become permanent as they are improved) have been erected.

The government said that at least 200,000 units of housing must be built if everyone is to have a roof overhead by the time the long rainy season begins in May.

So, in a very real sense, Guatemala is still struggling to get back on its feet.
Relief Effort Within Guatemala

Continued from Third Page

William Pruzensky, director of Catholic Relief Services for Guatemala, said his organization had 2 million pounds in the country and quickly brought in another 2 million pounds from its warehouses in Mexico and El Salvador which was quickly distributed to quake victims.

Still, food kept coming in, much of it by expensive air freight, and at least some of it so exotic to the Indian people who were hardest hit by the catastrophe that they had to be instructed how to use it.

Dr. Carroll Behrhorst, who has operated a unique and widely respected clinic and paramedic training program in the Altiplano town of Chimaltenango for 13 years, recalled that one volunteer group delivered 9,800 cans of tuna fish to his compound several days after the disaster. He said that because tuna straight from the can is too rich for Indians accustomed to a diet of corn, beans and potatoes, his staff had to show them how to drain the fish oil and mix the tuna with their ordinary foods.

Other relief workers reported similar experiences in other towns and villages.

There is no question that some of the medicines and clothing flown into Guatemala were of little utility.

Relief workers said that many well-intentioned but none-too-practical foreigners obviously just cleaned out their bathroom medicine cabinets and clothes closets and shipped the contents off to Guatemala.

Bromene pills and Vick's Vaporub, baby-doll nighties and mismatched shoes too large for the small-statured Indians were not the kind of supplies that were desperately needed by victims of the earthquake.

However, disaster workers stressed that the problems created by such indiscriminate generosity should not be blown out of proportion. They said the vast majority of the relief supplies from abroad was both useful and gratefully received.

As Dr. Behrhorst commented, "There may have been a distortion of priorities, but generally things sent were quite relevant and reasonably well-organized considering all the circumstances."

Of the volunteers who rushed to Guatemala to offer their help, Milton Freundel, AID's assistant director for management, said:

"I saw an awful lot of what you might call 'disaster groupies' who flew in at their own expense, ready to dash off into the boondies and lend a hand. They came with no thought of how they would be supplied, how they would be fed, without knowledge of the language." Freundel said all of the "groupies" were well-intentioned, and some of them well-qualified and useful, but others simply were not suited to the work at hand. "I very gently, very diplomatically, persuaded them to take the next plane back home," he said.

As many as 50 private voluntary aid groups-ranging from internationally known organizations like CARE, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army to small missionary teams — already were established in Guatemala or moved in within a few days after the disaster.

As in any undertaking of such large scope and urgency, there were difficult problems in coordinating the efforts of the voluntary agencies with one another and with those of the government.

Joe Varley, a 29-year-old peace corpsman on loan to UNDRO's Voluntary Agencies Coordinating Committee, discussed the problems with unusual frankness.

Each group, depending on its resources, has been assigned at least one town or village as its special responsibility. "There are some cases," Varley said, "of more than one agency claiming a town."

Often, according to Varley, individual organizations have acted independently, "like sovereign nations" without informing other groups what they are doing.

"Generally I would say there has been a lack of coordination between agencies," Varley said. "As a result, some of the aid is not being distributed in a rational manner. Some people are getting so much aid they are discouraged from rebuilding; others are not getting enough to begin."

Rosene, UNDRO's more experienced and diplomatic professional coordinator, took a softer line. "Every disaster situation involves great potential for confusion and small conflicts between agencies. They are bound to come up. I wouldn't say there are serious problems."

A visit to Santo Thomas Milpas Altas and Magdalena Milpas Altas, small farming villages about a mile apart in the Altiplano, turned up an example of lack of coordinated efforts.

Both villages were virtually destroyed by the quake. More than 275 homes were lost in Santo Tomas, about 700 in Magdalena, according to village officials.

The people of Santo Tomas are being aided by CARE, which provided them with large quantities of basic foodstuffs. The villagers receive weekly rations of flour, oats, beans, and cooking oil in exchange for working one day a week at clearing rubble and cleaning up the village.

CARE also has sent two young Americans from New Mexico, Louis Gonzales and Roy Bruner, to Santo Tomas to help get reconstruction under way. Gonzales and Bruner, both journeymen masons, are experts in the making and use of earthquake-resistant, concrete-stabilized adobe bricks.

They have designed and built two basic structures as models. They are simple (one room), cheap and can be erected in two days at a cost of less than $300. They are roofed with "lamina"—lightweight, corrugated metal sheets which are cheaper, safer and easier to use than the traditional heavy tiles.

But lamina is in short supply. CARE Director Salas said "every piece of lamina in Central America" has already been bought up for Guatemalan reconstruction.

So far CARE has been unable to provide lamina for Santo Tomas, except for that used on the models.
Aid Effort in Guatemala Generally Effective

Continued from First Page

"We used the experience of Nicaragua as a lesson to our committee," he said in a diplomatically veiled reference to reports of widespread misappropriation of supplies from warehouses in that country after the disastrous 1972 earthquake there. "As soon as the stuff arrived," he explained, "we sent it out, rather than letting it pile up in the warehouses. Sometimes a plane would land at night and the next day materials were sent out ..."

In some instances, he admitted, more supplies were dispatched than were immediately needed. "But that does not bother me," he said. "I think it is better that the people (in the devastated areas) got it, and were able to keep it in reserve, because they will eventually use it. That is better than stacking it up here and maybe losing it (through corruption or pilferage). Let the families in need have the reserves if there is any."

Direct cash donations, such as the large sums raised by television and radio appeals in Los Angeles, were channeled through the controller general of Guatemala, according to Echeverria.

Funds have been drawn on as needed by the Emergency Committee to purchase supplies and equipment. The Colonel said 20 government auditors have been watching the funds "precisely to avoid the possibility of any problems about how it is handled."

Cash donations made for Guatemalan relief through various voluntary agencies—the International Red Cross, CARE, Catholic Relief, Salvation Army and others—have been administered under the organizations' own financial procedures. Cash donations by various nations through the office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) likewise have been channeled through that organization's regular financial channels.

Despite the predictions of cynics—"You just know the big shots and the army are stealing the stuff," said one U.S. businessman operating in the capital—there was unanimous agreement among both top-level and grass-roots relief workers interviewed by The Times that so far there has been little if any corruption in the massive aid effort.

Peace Corps volunteers, often suspicious of officialdom in general and military officialdom in particular, said they have seen no evidence of misappropriation of supplies.

"The army here is basically honest," said Rick Bronson, volunteer coordinator of Canada's extensive relief operations. "You know the army is made up 95% of Indians—and they aren't going to steal from their own people."

There were rumors of official corruption. As one example, UNDRO coordinator Russell Rosene recalled a disturbing report by villagers that the local army commandant was withholding a large number of blankets, presumably stashing them for later blackmail sale.

"I went directly to Col. De La Cruz (of the Emergency Committee) and told him about the report privately," Rosene recounted. "The colonel said, 'Why don't we check it out right now? We jumped into a helicopter and eight minutes later we were there. We looked where the people said the blankets had been hidden and there was nothing there, nothing to it.'"

To report that there have been no verifiable instances of corruption, though, is not to say that the Guatemalan relief operation has been carried out without a hitch.

"We knew from the start that when we tried to work in a disaster situation we would make mistakes," Echeverria said. "I must admit we never were prepared to face a tragedy this massive."

The breakdown of communications within the country and with the outside world resulted in confusion, overreaction in some cases, underreaction in others. One shattered village might be swamped with aid, while another might get little or none.

Although not everyone agreed with him, William Salas, CARE's director for Guatemala, said flatly that "there really wasn't any need for outside food."

He said his organization, which has been operating large scale health care, school construction and nutrition programs in Guatemala for 14 years, had more than 9 million pounds of food stored in 27 warehouses throughout the country. CARE began distributing its supplies immediately after the quake.

"We distributed about 6 million pounds," Salas reported. "After the first week, we put a stop to the distribution. The needs had been met."

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False reports of the situation (like one by a U.S. news magazine that Guatemalans had been reduced to eating rats) and exaggerated reports of needs inspired well-meaning foreign citizens to donate foods, medicine, clothing and other goods that often were inappropriate or simply not worth the expense and effort of transporting to the country.

Some volunteer agency executives said the relief effort would have been considerably more effective if donors had given only cash to recognized aid groups rather than giving goods.
Confusion, Waste in U.S. Quake Relief Effort Prompt Reviews of Procedures

Continued from 20th Page

...ing and medicine," said Eric Orme, assistant director of the California Office of Emergency Services. "But the messages either were not sent or were disregarded."

Soto said he was in constant communication with both the Guatemalan embassy in Washington and with the government in Guatemala City and that his appeals for food, clothing and medical supplies were based on instructions from both places.

Yet Jorge Guardia, a representative of the Guatemala Red Cross who visited Los Angeles early in March, said, "The situation was alleviated quite a bit after the first week," and expressed surprise that Soto's appeals continued for as long as they did.

Soto finally disbanded the Guatemala Emergency Relief Committee of Los Angeles the week of March 8, under pressure from city officials.

Although the Guatemala relief effort is considered to have been something of a debacle, especially in Los Angeles, officials of several governmental agencies and relief organizations said valuable lessons were learned.

"It's all a matter of personal relations and contacts," said Capt. Don Sather of the Salvation Army. "Through this one I've met enough fine people so we could do a much better job if this happens again in two months."

Virginia Worsley, medical adviser to AID's foreign disaster center, said in the future efforts would be made to fly a team of doctors, epidemiologists and pharmacists to the disaster scene immediately so that accurate information about emergency needs could be made available sooner.

Miss Worsley also plans to talk to the American Medical Assn., hoping for better coordination of volunteer doctors to prevent the "terrible waste of manpower and expertise" that took place in Guatemala.

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Assn. will be consulted "to try to come up with objective criteria to pass on to members, so through their sales people they can get down to the little drug store on the corner, who is often asked to donate," Miss Worsley said.

AID also hopes to correct the communications problem which delayed the sending of complete information about Guatemala relief needs to American states and cities.

At the state level the most urgent need is to get accurate information to the news media as fast as possible, in the opinion of Jim Haigwood of the state Office of Emergency Services.

This, he believes, would have blunted the impact of the Guatemalan consulate's appeals and might have prevented donors from sending such worthless items as peanut butter, canned ravioli and wigs.

"I don't mean we should tell the media what to do," Haigwood said, "but if I can put together a sexy enough show fast enough—maybe with the mayor, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and so on—then, if the local consul general or somebody else wants to come in and say something else, they've got to establish credibility."

Haigwood also hopes some way can be found to create a permanent cadre of volunteers—doctors, pharmacists, pilots, fund raisers and others—"so a consul general doesn't have to depend on the first guy who walks in off the street with a grand idea of how to rebuild his country."

Regan, the Los Angeles civil defense coordinator, said the Guatemalan experience taught the city how to deal with "fly-by-night operators" who propose dubious relief ventures.

After the Honduras hurricane and floods one would-be Samaritan staged a fund raiser and "split with about $7,000," he said.

Another loaded a plane with relief supplies intended for Honduras, then flew to Arizona and sold them.

But this time, Regan said, it was possible to head off a volunteer who offered to drive 10 rented trucks filled with supplies to Guatemala, if only he could be assured that the trucks would not be stopped or searched, either coming or going.

"The best we could figure out was he wanted to get into that devastated country and bring back all the loot he could get, including probably narcotics," Regan said.

Regan said the city's efforts were more successful than they were after the Honduras disaster, when it took 18 months to dig out from under an avalanche of unwanted goods.

Still, improvements can be made, he said. A series of meetings has been scheduled with local relief organizations, to devise a coordinated plan the city can follow when future disasters occur.

Regan hopes that guidelines, once established, will be accepted by the 16 Latin American nations which maintain consulates in Los Angeles.

However, he and most other officials concede that no plan can stop a zealous consul general. Haigwood said, "but if there is contrary information, the media might play down the appeals and this would cut down on the donations."

AID's Worsley said she doubted any plan to curb relief campaigns would work because most poor countries that suffer natural disasters, such as Guatemala, are eager to obtain as many relief supplies as possible, no matter what their real needs.
Laugerud Garcia declared an end to the emergency in his country Feb. 27. By the time AID's official appraisal of Guatemala's relief needs reached Los Angeles, Mayor Bradley and Soto already had held a joint news conference at City Hall, appealing for cash and canned goods.

Tom Sullivan, the mayor's press secretary, said the news conference was called because the Guatemalan consulate said there was a crying need for canned goods...it turned out they had very little contact with the country itself.

After the mayor's appeal, city fire stations and other collection points were used with food, clothing, blankets and other goods. At least 30% of the clothing was unsuitable for Guatemalans. The inappropriate items included evening dresses, beach hats and dancing shoes. Temporary "satellite" collection centers quickly filled up and the city was forced to secure a 25,000-square-foot warehouse in the City of Commerce to contain the flow of merchandise.

Donated food and clothing began to pile up in warehouse.

Most of these arrangements were made by Michael Regan, the city's civil defense coordinator, and a task force of volunteers quickly pulled together.

"When the Guatemalan incident happened I called a few people I knew," said Regan, a 58-year-old retired Los Angeles police officer who operates an "emergency command center" in the basement of City Hall East.

The Regan task force included John Ulmen, who conducts art tours to Latin American countries and speaks fluent Spanish, and two Department of Water and Power employees skilled in warehouse operations.

City trucks picked up food, clothing, medical supplies and other goods from various collection points and transported them to the warehouse.

Some medicines sent by the city could not be used, according to a doctor who flew into Guatemala shortly after the earthquake.

Dr. Burton Sokoloff, a Birmingham pediatrician, said penicillin tablets from Los Angeles civil defense supplies were outdated by nine years and had to be thrown away.

"You get in a hassle with these doctors," Regan replied. "They say it's too old, it's no good, blah, blah. But we tell them it's survival medicine and that's all it's good for...if the choice is between these goods and the man dies, this is better...Maybe you have to give two or three doses instead of one, but these doctors don't want to adjust the doses."

Space was found on airplanes--regularly scheduled Pan Am flights or charter craft--for the medical supplies and other seemingly urgent items, but food and clothing began to pile up.

In part: this happened because Consul General Soto, who speaks little English and had been on the job only about 15 months, distrusted the Salvation Army.

"He was skeptical about who to trust here," said Ulmen, who acted as liaison between the city and the consulate. "He was getting advice from all sides and he didn't know who to believe."

It took almost two weeks for Regan, Haigwood and others to persuade Soto to transfer the clothing task from his own enthusiastic but untrained volunteers to the more experienced Salvation Army.

Once this was done, the mountains of clothes and other items began to disappear. About 100 tons of clothing and 50 tons of food were shipped on a Colombian freighter. Last week the City of Commerce warehouse was closed.

Regan said he tried to persuade Soto to stop his appeals for food, clothing and medical supplies as early as Feb. 8, four days after the earthquake, but the consul general refused.

"He said, 'Do you know what would happen to me if I stopped helping my country?' He said his government would not accept that--that if he stopped collecting things they'd bring him back and put him in jail."

Soto also was being pressed by many of the 25,000 or so Guatemalans living in the Los Angeles area.

"He was under a lot of pressure to do something," a state official said. "So he gave in and started the appeals for things that somebody--mostly volunteers who walked in off the street--told him were necessary."

In mid-February, as goods piled up in Los Angeles and San Francisco, state officials appealed to Washington for help.

"We went to (the Department of) State, who asked the Guatemalan ambassador to get word to consulates to put the brakes on food and clothing."

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QUAKE AID ANALYSIS

Guatemala Relief: Two Perspectives

LOS ANGELES (Cont)

In the post-mortems being conducted by governmental agencies and relief organizations, these have emerged as the major problems:

—In the chaos created by the Feb. 4 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks it was difficult to obtain accurate information about the extent of the damage and the need for aid.

—There was a breakdown in communications between the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development, which monitors foreign disasters, and disaster coordinators in the 50 states and in the nation's largest cities.

—Brave, sometimes inaccurate coverage of the earthquake by newspapers, radio and television helped trigger massive outpourings of unnecessary relief goods.

—Many relief campaigns were handled by inexperienced, ad hoc groups of volunteers, not by established organizations such as Red Cross, CARE or Catholic Relief Services.

—In Los Angeles, lack of coordination among governmental and relief organizations led to a considerable waste of time, money and effort.

Of all these difficulties the most serious was lack of solid information in the first few days after the quake, it was generally agreed.

"You need as much accurate information as early in the game as you can get it," said Christian Holmes, acting coordinator of foreign disaster relief operations at the Agency for International Development (AID) in Washington.

But accurate information was in short supply because the Feb. 4 quake knocked out almost all communications in the country and a major gap in the efforts of relief workers.

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GUATEMALA (Cont)

Robert C. Fuller, economic adviser with the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development, agreed with Websters' assessment:

"Under the conditions, everything was handled excellently."

Fuller pointed out that "most of the stuff that came in" was from countries other than the United States. He estimated that between 5% and 15% of the aid was of U.S. origin. Like several others interviewed, he made special note of the fact that even poverty-stricken Pakistan dispatched a plane load of supplies.

(According to the National Emergency Committee's still incomplete statistics, at least 31 nations have sent nearly 9 million pounds of relief supplies by airlift alone. The committee could not even estimate the volume of supplies that came by sea or by land from neighboring countries, but it was enormous. Vast and as yet uncalculated amounts of food, medicine, clothing and large numbers of technical experts and skilled relief workers also were rushed in by about 50 voluntary agencies.)

While records were kept by both U.S. and Guatemalan officials, they were not detailed manifests.

Officials said it would be extremely difficult to show exactly how much of what went where—for example, that a specific shipment of vaccines from Los Angeles went to a specific hospital or field first aid station.

"Material will be very hard to trace, almost impossible," said Col. Guillermo Echeverria, who is deputy chief of staff of the Guatemalan Army and coordinator of the Emergency Committee. "It just went all over, especially during the first couple of weeks.

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At Least 2,000 Believed Killed in Guatemala Quake

Tremor Registering 7.5 Felt Through Mexico and Central America

From Times Wire Services

GUATEMALA CITY—About 2,000 persons were believed killed Wednesday in Guatemala by an earthquake that rumbled across a 2,000-mile stretch of Central America and Mexico, the military chief of the Guatemalan National Emergency Committee said.

There were no reports of heavy casualties in other countries hit by the earthquake, but severe damage and panic were reported in Honduras. Officials in El Salvador reported some roads and highways cut. Minor damage was reported in southern Mexico.

Guatemalan President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud announced official confirmation of 800 dead and 3,000 injured Wednesday night but predicted the figures would climb as reports arrived from isolated areas.

Col. Manuel Angel Ponce, the emergency committee's chief of staff, said his figure of 2,000 killed was "conservative," adding that "alarmist reports" were coming in from the interior of the country.

In the capital, a broadcast said: "The quake hit at 3:04 a.m. and was recorded at 7.5 on the Richter scale, an earthquake of exceptional force. The epicenter was put at 30 miles southwest of the capital between the villages of Patazita, 50 miles west of Guatemala City."

Radio Fabulosa, the only commercial radio station functioning in Guatemala City, said 500 persons had been killed in San Mateo Ixtalan near the border with Mexico. "Telephone communications are cut with many sections, and as a result, trouble is being experienced," Ponce said. "We have only a little information."

He said the hardest-hit zones were the two-thirds of the country north of Guatemala City, much of Guatemala's 67,511 square miles is remote and cut off by communications with the capital under best conditions.

Roads into the destroyed provincial areas were cut, Ponce said, and the country desperately needs portable power plants, tractors and bulldozers.

Lines of blood-spattered people formed outside Roosevelt Hospital, which had stopped admitting the injured. Two women said they had been turned away at General Hospital because it was full.

The Roosevelt Hospital morgue was jammed to the doors. Three bodies lay in the hall outside.

People jammed into the streets in the neighborhood of Barrio del Galito west of the main square where full blocks of adobe houses were destroyed. Many wept helplessly for those trapped in the debris.

Hotels were evacuated, and several were evacuated until experts could determine their safety. American tourists rested in gardens of the luxury hotels, some with no idea where they would spend the night.

Some sections of the city were without water, and women and children climbed through debris looking for water.

Firefights started around a broken water main where survivors tried to gather enough water to last the night.

The wealthy residential area in the southern part of town was largely spared, although some high-rise condominiums were cracked.

The midtown area, known as the 3rd and 5th zones, appeared the most heavily damaged.

However, James C. O'Neill, spokesman for Catholic Relief Services in New York, said that relief field workers reported three other zones of Guatemala City were hardest hit—the 1st and 7th in the west and part of the town and the 19th zone, a newer middle-class section.

Communications within the country were interrupted for hours but reports of casualties were reaching other countries from Guatemala City.

The Guatemalan ambassador in Colombia, Stella de Chavez, said after having made direct radio contact with Guatemala City she had received reports that at least 600 persons had been killed.

CARE relief organization in New York said its representatives in Guatemala and Honduras reported a death toll in Guatemala City of 500, with 2,000 injured. CARE said it was standing by with relief supplies in Honduras. Catholic Relief Services in New York said it was flying in supplies, funds and disaster experts to Guatemala.

Barbara Buck of Lawrence, Kan., a tourist, was asleep in an 11th floor room of the Camino Real hotel and was awakened by a loud noise.

"I won't ever forget that noise," she said. "I was in bed and this horrible sound started."

Shirley Joseph, also of Lawrence, Kan., said, "I was on the ninth floor when everything started falling in the bathroom. I tried to get out, but my husband shouted it was an earthquake. We just grabbed each other. Then we started down the stairs. The ground was moving under our feet." Amiga, Guatemala, the original capital which was destroyed in earthquake 200 years ago, was slightly damaged.

Guatemala City was last badly damaged by an earthquake in December, 1917. The last major earthquake in Central America occurred Dec. 23, 1972, when 10,000 persons were killed in Managua, Nicaragua, which is about 315 miles south of Guatemala City.

Help began to pour in from neighboring Central American nations. President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua flew to Guatemala City to offer aid and advice to President Laugerud.

American President Luis Echeverria ordered high-ranking officials to Guatemala, with offers of food, medicine, clothing and technical assistance in reconstructing the worst hit areas.

From Washington, the American Red Cross dispatched a disaster specialist to Guatemala. Douglas L. Dierdrich, a Red Cross international relations officer, will be accompanied by Armando Amado Chacon, president of the Guatemalan Red Cross. He was visiting in Atlanta, Ga., when the temblor struck.
GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE TOLL

Continued from First Page

Bulldozers were used to bury victims in some of the villages. This was a matter of expediency in addition to easing the threat of epidemics—there were just too many victims to dig individual graves.

Helicopters and ambulances were bringing a constant stream of severely injured persons to Guatemala City. This compounded a medical crisis so grave that doctors who have worked almost nonstop since the quake early Wednesday were performing emergency operations in makeshift tents while other victims lay in the open on cots or pallets.

Joe Alvarado, Red Cross general director in Guatemala, said that "whole towns are being found that were buried and many more bodies are being discovered."

The situation in Guatemala City was eased somewhat Thursday night when grocery stores reopened, giving residents their first food in two days. Water service was restored Thursday night and the electricity service was functioning except for intermittent blackouts in various parts of the city.

Reports from Antigua, the 16th century capital only 15 miles away, indicated serious damage. The city was still isolated by slides.

President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud ordered immediate distribution of food and medicine coming in on relief flights.

Lumber for coffins ran out at the General Hospital morgue in the capital. Corpses in the streets were draped with dusty sheets of plastic. More bodies were stacked in the hospital patio, in offices and in the chapel.

Rescuers covered their noses with masks against the smell of death. Survivors seeking loved ones covered their faces with handkerchiefs. Firemen hauled 72 bodies from the morgue in two hours and buried most in a common grave.

In San Lucas village, 20 miles away, 100 women lined up for meat from a cow killed in the quake. Hungry dogs fought to lick the blood. One woman who arrived too late sobbed: "Everything is closed and I don't even have a piece of bread for my children."

Nine injured women moaned on cement tables in the public market. The owner of the only store that standing patiently before opening his doors.

By mid afternoon 92 bodies had been buried in San Lucas. Sixty-two persons were missing in the rubble.

Although only small amounts of aid had arrived by Thursday, great amounts promised. Mexico said it is sending mobile kitchens capable of supplying 30,000 meals a day. U.N. officials prepared to send in 15,000 tents, surgical units and antibiotics. The United States said it was sending an 1,100-bed emergency hospital, with a second in reserve.

But Thursday night the aid had not arrived and many residents of Guatemala City and the villages around it slept in the streets and in the parks, huddled against a chilly drizzle that fell much of the day.

The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City immediately donated its $25,000 emergency fund for relief work and the State Department began airlifting another $226,000 in money and supplies.

A seven-man U.S. military disaster survey team was dispatched to the scene from Panama to discuss the crisis with Guatemalan leaders and arrange further aid.

(Rev. Albert B. Johnson, a spokesman for a Spanish-language association of Catholic bishops, reported that reports received from Red Cross officials in Guatemala spoke of freezing weather in the mountains where thousands were without shelter. ("People are freezing," he said. "They need blankets, tents. They are desperately short of blood plasma, antibiotics, splint bandages."

President Laugerud said about one-tenth of the adobe housing used by Guatemala's poor was destroyed and tens of thousands of people spent the night in tents and makeshift shelters.

"As usual, it is the people with the least means who suffer the most in these tragedies," Laugerud said.

He said it would take at least 20 days to clear the rubble. The few travelers who arrived from the interior regions brought reports of horrible destruction there. They said the towns of Sumpango and San Juan de Comalapa, about 50 miles west of Guatemala City, were in total ruins with many dead and injured.

"It was a pathetic scene," said Alfonso Bravo, an employee of the newspaper Prensa Libre. "The dead were just being laid in this huge hole. There were many people injured, but they had no medical attention. They were just suffering."

The epicenter of the quake was located 30 miles southwest of the capital.

The temblor struck along a 2,000-mile strip of Central America and Mexico, but the main force was in Guatemala.
GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Powerful aftershocks spread panic through the battered streets of Guatemala City Friday just two days after an earthquake that killed at least 5,000 dead by official estimate.

Unofficial death toll estimates ranged as high as 14,000.

Reports from the interior said entire villages were razed by Wednesday's quake.

The aftershocks, a big one shortly before noon followed by weaker ones, sent thousands of people into the streets and parks wailing in fear.

"Porque, Dios mio; Porque, Dios mio," one man screamed — "Why, my God; Why, my God," Others prayed in loud voices.

The tremors, the hardest of about 60 aftershocks that have jarred Guatemala since Wednesday — opened cracks in the large downtown hospital of San Juan de Dios and all the patients were evacuated to the courtyard. Doctors continued to treat them outside.

Buildings that had been weakened but left standing by the big quake crumbled. Several sections of the centuries-old Metropolitan Cathedral, already badly damaged, collapsed.

Reports from Mexico City and the U.S. Geological Survey said the biggest shock registered between 5.75 and 6 on the Richter scale — considered strong enough to cause severe damage. Wednesday's quake registered 7.5.

The United States and other nations and international relief agencies launched massive aid efforts, but getting the food, medicine, water and manpower to the hardest hit regions outside Guatemala City was made nearly impossible by landslides and collapsed bridges.

"They're eating rats and anything else they can get their hands on," a Guatemalan Red Cross official said of the devastated interior. Authorities said the hardest hit regions stretched across three-fourths of this nation of 6 million.

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Powerful Aftershocks Spread Panic in Guatemala City; Toll Passes 5,000

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spokesman said, "Today, it's an entirely different situation."

In the capital, thousands of poor whose adobe houses were demolished by the quake remained in makeshift shelters in the streets, cooking over braziers of charcoal ripped from collapsed homes.

The American Red Cross in Washington said it has already sent $100,000 and asked Americans to send contributions to their local chapters.

The relief agency CARE reported it had sent medical supplies and other emergency assistance to Guatemala, including 5,000 blankets purchased in neighboring Honduras and flown to Guatemala by the Honduran air force.

The U.S. Embassy said CARE also had begun to distribute 11 million pounds of food stockpiled in Central America and the agency said Guatemalan President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud had appointed his brother, Dr. Hans Laugerud, to work with CARE in organizing food distribution.

The U.N. World Food Program in Rome announced an initial emergency grant of $30,000 worth of food and said it would send more.

Meanwhile, in Washington, AID Director Daniel Parker said Friday that the earthquake and aftershocks may have raised the sea bottom at Barrios, the principal port city in the devastated Central American country.

This could mean that the tremors raised the seabed and could pose major supply and rehabilitation problems for Guatemala, Parker said.

The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City was evacuated and all radio contact with Washington was temporarily lost Friday as a result of the powerful aftershocks.

Parker said a large cloud of dust was reported to have risen over Guatemala City, indicating major crumbling of buildings weakened in Wednesday's quake.

Ford, meanwhile, sent a personal message of sympathy to Guatemalan President Laugerud and promised continued American disaster relief for the victims, a White House spokesman said.

Parker said the $500,000 initially allocated for U.S. relief efforts was being doubled.
Witnesses Say They Were Shaken From Their Beds

Passengers arriving on one of the first flights out of Guatemala City Wednesday said they were shaken from their beds just after 3 a.m. by the powerful earthquake that struck the city of 1.5 million people.

Pillars fell from the ceilings and TV sets and lamps flew across their hotel rooms, they told reporters at Los Angeles International Airport. The electricity went out almost immediately. They grabbed candles and flashlights and hurried into the streets.

Panic erupted in some sections of Guatemala City, said Carl Womack, a La Mirada resident who was staying in a hotel in an older part of the city. "When you're in bed and something like that happens, and there's no lights or electricity, you run out into the street half-awake," he said. "Everyone was running around screaming."

Womack said a police station, an old adobe building across the street from his hotel, was destroyed by the earthquake and he saw two officers being carried away on stretchers.

"It felt similar to the Sylmar earthquake, but it didn't seem as bad," Womack said. It didn't feel like a 7.5. In the area I was in, all the windows were broken and a lot of the older buildings were cracked, and wherever there was a wind vane or a spire, that had toppled off."

(The San Fernando Valley quake of Feb. 9, 1971, registered 6.6.)

Jack Loeb, a Costa Rican resident staying in a newer high-rise hotel, said he saw thousands of Guatemalans "sitting on the sidewalks in a state of shock. They were wrapped in blankets; it was very cold."

"Some of the older homes and buildings were destroyed, but surprisingly, the new buildings in town held up well," he added. "We drove around the city after the sun came up and there was destruction, but it

15,000 Dead in Guatemala; 500,000 May Be Starving

Fearful Survivors Stay Out in the Open

BY STANLEY MEISLER
Times Staff Writer

GUATEMALA CITY—A visitor to Guatemala for the first time since Wednesday's massive earthquake is deeply impressed by the numbers of its dead, but even more so by the fears of its living.

There have been numerous smaller shocks since the major quake, and Guatemalans dread that still more terrifying devastation awaits them.

Many people of the city now live in the streets under tarpaulins and tablecloths and stitched rags. Most, of course, live this way because their homes are destroyed. But a large number refuse to sleep indoors for fear of another earthquake.

The fears show as soon as a visitor steps off the plane in Guatemala City, especially if he does so in the early morning darkness, the time the earthquake struck. As an immigration official checked my passport early Sunday morning, I accidentally pushed his table. His body snapped back. "Temblor," he whispered. Then he realized what had happened and smiled without joy. "I have been here almost all the time for four days," he said, "and I have had little sleep."

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40,000 Reported Hurt; 200,000 Are Homeless

GUATEMALA CITY—At least 15,000 persons perished in Guatemala's earthquake and aftershocks, the Emergency Relief Committee announced Sunday.

However, a senior relief official estimated the death toll at more than 20,000.

Rene Torres Baralt, director of Venezuela's Civil Defense Organization, made the estimates after a series of flights over devastated areas.

The emergency committee based its new death toll on late reports from the Chimaltenango area, 40 miles north of the capital, and estimated that another 40,000 persons were injured and 200,000 were homeless from the quakes that began Wednesday.

Officials estimated that half a million people—or about one Guatemalan in 10—may be starving as a result of the devastation.

In Guatemala City, milk was scarce and its price doubled to 50 cents a quart. The cost of bread, when any could be found, was up 150% and vegetables cost 40% more.

President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud ordered police and soldiers to shoot
SURVIVORS

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At the Ritz Continental Hotel in downtown Guatemala City, a porter nervously carried my suitcase to the fifth floor and then darted away as soon as he could to stand outside the building. Another employee of the hotel, who once had worked in Los Angeles, said to me, "He is afraid, the idiot. I lived through the earthquake in L.A. in 1971. I know a building like this can stand up."

But a shock struck the city a short while later, a tremor that measured 3.4 on the Richter scale. The hotel, whose plastered walls have already cracked to reveal huge slabs of their inner brick, quivered for 30 seconds. At breakfast, a waitress asked for orders and then began to cry, "I am afraid," she said.

The town of Antigua, about 20 miles southwest of here, Carlos Humberto Quintanilla, a local teacher, showed two foreign journalists the wreckage inside the 18th century church of Senora de la Merced. Pieces of the dome had collapsed on the floor. He estimated that restoration would cost $1 million. But he ushered the journalists out after a few seconds. "I don't recommend your staying because it is dangerous," he said, shaking his hand to indicate the possibility of a tremor.

For fear of another collapse, Mass was celebrated Sunday morning in front of the church. Worshippers knelt behind a tent that covered the wooden sculptures of the bleeding Christ and saints.

Claudio Urrutia, the director of the Guatemala National Observatory, said he tries not to make an announcement these days every time there is a quiver on his seismographic needles.

"People get too nervous," he said, "and I have to treat them psychologically. When I know there is an earthquake, and my wife gets frightened, I shake her and say, 'It is not an earthquake.' She says, 'You are too hard on me,' but if I weren't too hard, she would be frightened."

The fright is understandable, for there has been great devastation in Guatemala, and there is great misery now.

It is almost too easy to record the misery. An outsider need only pick an injured person at random to hear tales of how one survived while others died.

Maria Rosenta Perez, for example, lay on a cot in the patio of a clinic in Chimaltenango and twisted from the pain in her leg. She was sheltered by a spread-out sugar sack held up by four poles. An Indian woman, perhaps in her 20s, she said, "My house fell on me Wednesday morning and broke my leg. All the children died." How many children were there? She held up four fingers and then her hand fell on her lap.

Chimaltenango, about 30 miles west of here, was one of the most heavily hit towns. It is in the Altiplano, the region of clear, mountainous beauty where most of Guatemala's Indians live.

Almost 5,000 people reportedly died in Chimaltenango and the villages in its district.

Adobe was probably the chief contributing factor in the high death toll.

In the nearby village of Parramos, for example, only two houses stand. The rest of the homes are either rubble now or useless walls guarding collapsed roofs. These homes were made of thick adobe with Spanish tile roofs on heavy wooden bases. When the earthquake struck, the adobe did not roll with it. Instead, it collapsed.

Another aftershock—the 526th recorded since Wednesday—rattled Guatemala City at 2:14 a.m. Sunday.

Rescue workers moving into the ravaged countryside of this nation of 6 million said the unburied bodies posed severe health hazards.

Defense Minister Fernando Romeo Lucas, suspended food-carrying helicopter flights to the worst-hit town of San Martin Kilotepeque where survivors refused to bury the dead unless they were paid. He ordered the town's men to continue the burials and there was an unconfirmed report that a special brigade has been dispatched to burn all unburied bodies.

About 1,200 people died in the town, which is 35 miles northwest of Guatemala City.

Food, drinking water, medicine, blankets and tents, hospitals and doctors were in critically short supply throughout the country.

The government ordered the requisition of trucks and other utility vehicles to move the dozens of tons of relief supplies arriving hourly at Guatemala City International Airport.

The United States organized an airlift of 17 Air Force planes, earmarked $1 million for relief and started rushing in supplies.

Aid also came by air and truck convoys from Argentina, Uruguay, Ecuador, Venezuela, Mexico, Puerto Rico and other Central American countries.

The main economic damage caused by the earthquake may be to the sugar crop, one of the country's main exports. Serious damage to the road system is expected to make it extremely difficult to export the crop in the next few months.
Rain and Typhoid Add to Quake Misery; Toll Rises

GUATEMALA CITY—The official death count in Guatemala’s devastating earthquake surpassed 17,000 Monday night. Doctors pleaded for serum to fight an outbreak of typhoid and other diseases spread by contaminated food and water.

Heavy rain and temperatures that dropped to the 50’s added to the misery of the more than 200,000 homeless sleeping out of doors.

President Kjell Eugenio Lasgerud told diplomats that 17,032 persons had been killed, 54,826 injured and 221,994 left homeless by Wednesday’s earthquake and hundreds of aftershocks.

Unofficial sources said they expected other victims to be found beneath debris or landslides and predicted the final death toll could exceed 20,000.

The doctors’ plea for serum came on the heels of reports of typhoid outbreaks in the countryside. The government said the Red Cross had set up inoculation stations throughout the capital.

One Guatemala City district was placed under quarantine, but officials would not say why.

U.S. Embassy officials here said the quake was the greatest disaster in recorded history in Central America. Up to 12,000 persons perished in a Nicaraguan earthquake in 1972.

In South America, nearly 67,000 died from quakes and landslides in northern Peru in 1970.

The National Meteorological Observatory said Monday that 684 earth...

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GUATEMALA TOLL

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quakes and tremors had jolted Guatemala since Wednesday.

After the latest tremor, the volcano Pacaya, visible from the city, began belching clouds of gray smoke.

An earthquake registering 6.0 on the Richter scale occurred off the west coast of Mexico, about 180 miles from Guadalajara, Monday afternoon, the U.S. Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of damage.

In Guatemala City, the figures on the number of looters reported shot ranged from five to 200.

The newspaper El Imparcial reported that “no less than 200” had been shot and killed since Wednesday by soldiers, police and civilian vigilantes guarding damaged homes.

The newspaper attributed the information to unidentified sources in the Guatemala City government and to the recently formed Civil Defense Committee.

A spokesman for the city government said he was unable to confirm the report, however, and an official at the president’s office said he thought the figure was exaggerated.

The newspaper La Prensa Libre said police and soldiers had shot and killed five looters.

"Although the news is without official confirmation, it is known that no less than five thieves have been slain... while attempting to break into houses. The thieves were organized in bands and were armed with knives and revolvers,” the newspaper said.

It said neighborhood vigilantes had been mobilized to guard homes abandoned by their owners since the quake.

City officials broadcast appeals on the few functioning radio stations for people to return to their jobs.

Water is now available for at least a few hours a day in more than half the districts of the city.

Electricity supplies and public transport are almost normal again, and firms are competing for labor to repair damaged factories.

Shops are open, though many have increased their prices in defiance of government orders, and some are admitting only one or two customers at a time for fear of robbery.

Banks, too, were open.

But in the countryside people are putting up signs begging for food or flagging down vehicles to ask for money.

In the flattened towns that could be reached by road, the army and relief teams from the United States and other Latin American countries are delivering basic supplies of food and medicine.

In more remote settlements within the devastated semi-circle up to 65 miles to the north of the city, many of the victims are still hungry and thirsty.

The Agency for International Development in Washington reported U.S. aid to Guatemala totals more than $1.5 million and it said food stocks are now sufficient for short-term needs. Israel and eight Latin American countries also are pouring aid into this ravaged nation with a population of 6 million.
Guatemalans Sift Ruins for Any Scrap to Rebuild With

BY STANLEY MEISLER
Times Staff Writer

SAN MARTIN JILOTEPEQUE, Guatemala—The enormity of what lies ahead for Guatemala can be seen by watching Indians sift through the rubble of their homes in hopes of salvaging some boards, some sticks, some pieces of galvanized iron for rebuilding.

The earthquake which struck one week ago has turned towns like San Martin Jilotepeque into heaps of rubble and dust, and it is hard to believe that the towns can ever be built again.

The Guatemalan newspapers describe this town as the scene of the worst devastation. In fact, a tour of several towns revealed that there probably are towns with worse destruction.

But comparisons are pointless. There is a limit to the amount of destruction a town can take, and San Martin Jilotepeque has reached that limit.

The main square shows it. Only a single building, the city hall, still stands, but it stands without a roof and most of its facade. The church has collapsed, one of its bells lying among the fallen rocks. The rest of the buildings have collapsed into such small pieces that it is impossible to guess what they once might have been.

The townpeople now worship before a statue of their patron saint, St. Martin, in a metal shrub built in front of the collapsed church.

To get to the plaza, people have to step gingerly in bare feet on streets.

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that are strewn with stones, mud bricks, and wooden planks.

San Martin Jilotepeque contributed greatly to the enormous death toll of the earthquake. Officials Tuesday put the nationwide total at more than 17,000.

But the dead here have been burned or buried, and a visitor does not sense the horror of that loss. The Indians do not show their grief easily to strangers.

What a visitor does sense is the seeming hopelessness of the task that lies ahead for these Indians.

Nevertheless, there is an optimism about rebuilding. "Now we are going to build our homes with galvanized iron roofs and wood," Carlos Lopez said. "No more adobe bricks; no more Spanish tiles. They weigh too much."

But this, like most of the towns and villages destroyed by the earthquake, is a town of poor Indian farmers who have few resources with which to rebuild. Guatemala is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, and the Indians are the poorest of the poor.

Alvino Ellias, a 40-year-old farmer, said he had salvaged galvanized iron from his collapsed home and now needed $100 to build new walls of adobe.

But Ellias owns only an acre of land, not enough to feed his wife and two children. He must spend a month each year working on cotton and coffee plantations on the Pacific coast to earn money for food.

"It will take me four to five years to rebuild," he said. "We don't have money. We are poor people."

In Patzun, another town near Chimaltenango in the mountainous area known as the Altiplano, Mayor Guillermo Teleguario was asked how many homes were destroyed in the town that once housed 10,000 people.

"Ninety per cent," he replied. "No, 100%. There are houses that still stand, but no one can live inside them."

Can Patzun rebuild? The mayor only sighed.

A friend, Gusto Mendez, broke into the conversation. "The only way we can reconstruct this town," he said "is if we can persuade the government to set up a factory to make galvanized iron for us at a cheap price."

The town of Joyabaj, just north of the Chimaltenango area, has been destroyed. Its population has left, either moving to the homes of relatives elsewhere or into a relief camp near the town.

Bruce Clemmens, a CARE official there, said that people in the camp "are breaking down what is left of the town. We don't know yet if they will rebuild it."

Other relief officials said they were sure Joyabaj would be rebuilt elsewhere. But this troubled them. They were afraid that the site of the new town would simply be the new relief camp. The decision on where to set up the camp was made without the future economy of the town in mind.

In Comalapa, which once had a population of 22,000, former Mayor Miguel Angel Ovalle is acting as head of government again. The mayor and his family died when their home collapsed. It was on the main street, a road of more than a mile of strewn rubble obscured by swirls of choking dust.

"Our problem now," Ovalle said, "is where to live. We will rebuild, but the question is when."

Meanwhile, relief flights from the United States and Mexico landed every hour at Guatemala's international airport—keeping up a lifeline of food, water and medicine.

The U.S. Embassy said 17 planes were taking part in the American airlift. Mexico had 15 planes.

Total U.S. government and private aid was estimated Tuesday at $3.5 million but may top $5 million if needed.

Another light aftershock rattled the country Tuesday morning, one of more than 600 tremors since the earthquake hit. Besides the official government death count of 17,032, the toll was 55,000 injured, nearly 220,000 homes destroyed and more than a million people homeless in a land of 6 million.
Telethons Planned for Quake Victims

A telethon to raise money for Guatemalan earthquake victims will be broadcast Saturday on KWHY, Channel 22, officials at the Guatemalan consulate said Wednesday.

They said money would provide more immediate relief for the disaster victims than the goods that are being stockpiled for eventual shipment to the stricken country.

The telethon, billed as Operation Brotherhood, will air from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. Donation checks should be made out to that name, Guatemalan Consulate Dario Soto-Montenegro said.

Preparations are nearly complete for the air shipment of 35,000 pounds of medicine and other relief materials to Guatemala City, he said.

Soto-Montenegro said a private air carrier had been contracted to fly the shipment out of Van Nuys Airport this morning.

A second relief flight is planned for Saturday, he added, and plans are nearly complete for a truck convoy to leave Los Angeles next week carrying 20 tons of relief materials to Guatemala through Mexico.

In another development, Los Angeles officials said that $2,000 worth of surplus medical supplies had left by truck Wednesday for Guatemala. It was part of a larger shipment of goods trucked by the Glendale-based Feed the World's Hungry relief organization.

The Los Angeles City Council authorized the donation of unused medicines and other medical supplies that have been stored for several years in the basement of the old Central Receiving Hospital.

Guatemalan Indians have been stoked amid theInvoke of disaster. Page 28.

STRONG NEW QUAKE SPARKS PANIC IN GUATEMALA CITY

GUATEMALA CITY—Another powerful earth tremor jolted Guatemala Wednesday night, shortly after President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud announced that the confirmed death toll in last week's series of quakes was 18,562.

There was no immediate word on the intensity of the new tremor or of new casualties. It was felt strongly here and spread panic among thousands of survivors camping out in open spaces of the city.

The National Observatory said the tremor appeared to be the strongest of more than 700 felt since the major shocks last week.

In announcing the official death toll, Laugerud said that 2,603 injured had been treated so far. There were about 50,000 homeless in the capital alone and more than a million throughout the country, he said.
INDIANS STOIC

Villagers Accept Fate of Quake

BY STANLEY MÖSSLER

Times Staff Writer

GUATEMALA CITY—President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud of Guatemala has called upon his people to stoic in the face of the destruction of the Feb. 4 earthquake.

And there is a certain stoicism. In every town, Indians, dressed in their glorious patterns of reds and blues, line up quietly and patiently for food and medicine.

But at times, the stoicism fails. In the town of Peten, Monday, for example, Gregorio Quis, an old man whose daughter and grandson were injured badly, told usmen, "There is no water. There is no sugar. There is no salt. There is no bread. There is no meat. There is nothing."

In general, however, few of the Indians complain or show in line or beg. Their quiet, seeming acceptance of their woeful fate creates the illusion that all of their problems are being taken care of.

This is not true. Their problems are too great, communications are too tenuous, the resources of Guatemala are too few.

A huge relief operation led by the United States, Guatemala's richest neighbor, is under way with significant contributions from Latin neighbors almost as poor as Guatemala. Four U.S. Army Chinook helicopters started transporting food Tuesday. A visitor to the ravished towns finds American, Venezuelan, Mexican, Nicaraguan and Costa Rican doctors. There are foods and medicines from many countries, even from as far away as Spain.

There have been delays. The U.S. Army seemed slow in setting up its 100-bed field hospital by an artificial lake near Chimaltenango. By Sunday afternoon, at a time when nurses could find scores of people in dire need of medical attention, the hospital had only 25 patients on its beds. Four more Chinook helicopters, sent down from Ft. sill, Okla., had to linger in Mexico because of bad weather.

There also has been some seemingly foolish pride in the part of the Guatemalans. The government reportedly turned down an offer of help from Britain because of Guatemalan claims to the territory of Belize, a colony of Britain.

But generally there has been remarkable cooperation from Guatemalan officials and no stories of corruption or diversion of supplies such as those that marred relief operations in Honduras after hurricane Fifi in 1974 and Nicaragua after its earthquake in 1972. The Guatemalans are allowing foreign aid agencies to operate without interference that they be supervised by the Guatemalans.

"The most critical health situation in Guatemala today is water," said R. Carey Coulter, an official of the U.S. Agency for International Development. "We can do more than anything else to prevent disease by providing good water."

To help solve this problem, Capt. Victor Wehman, a U.S. Army sanitary engineer from Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.,

"We will airlift anybody's food," an AID official said. "There's no competition in this business."

Surveyed five of the worst devastated towns early this week to see what had to be brought in. In all these towns, the earthquake had cracked the pipes of the old water systems.

In some cases, Wehman had to persuade officials that muddy water could be used so long as it was treated with chlorine.

As a result of his survey, the U.S. government decided Thursday to send 97 rubber, 3,000-gallon water tanks to Guatemala with about 10 huge water trucks to supply them.

While the lack of water is causing health problems, many townpeople may not recognize the cause, since their old water pipes never supplied pure water anyway.

In Comalapa, acting Mayor Miguel Angel Ovalle watched four men carry a body past him on a wooden plank. "We are having epidemics," he said, "because there are too many dead animals in the street."

As a result, many townpeople are lining up on the outskirts of town to receive typhoid injections from a team of Venezuelan and Guatemalan doctors.

The earthquake struck Guatemala after the Indians had finished their corn harvest.

Nevertheless, there are shortages, and many people do not have the pots in which to cook. The Chinook helicopters, too big to land in many of the stricken towns, carry up to 3,000 pounds of corn and beans in slings, which are dropped into the towns.

The food comes from the United States and several other countries. No other country has the resources to mount such an airlift," AID official Coulter said. "We will airlift anybody's food. There is no competition in this business."

"Shelter has become an enormous problem. President Laugerud has estimated that the destruction of more than 100,000 homes has left more than a million Guatemalans homeless. This will pose an incredible reconstruction problem in the future."

In Guatemala City and the countryside, many people are sleeping in makeshift tents put together from sheets, tablecloths and stitched rags. The problem has been augmented in Guatemala City by people who have inhabitable homes but prefer to sleep in the streets for fear of another quake. The continual tremors that shake the city every day add to their fears.

The nights are cold both in Guatemala City and in the highlands, and it is hard to come across a Guatemalan laborer in the city without a cold. Families sleep with little bedding for they have used much of it to make their tents.

Shelter thus has taken up a good deal of the attention of the relief workers. The United Nations has supplied more than 5,000 sheets of galvanized iron roofing for temporary housing and 1,200 blankets. Another 15,000 blankets have come from CARE and Catholic Relief Services.
Church Relief Agencies Move Quickly to Aid Guatemala Earthquake Victims

BY RUSSELL CHANDLER
Times Religion Writer

When the massive earthquake shook Guatemala this month, religious groups quickly sprang into relief action. Now, two weeks later, they are still on the front lines of disaster aid.

Virtually every denomination and all agencies working in Latin America are involved in the comprehensive good neighbor effort.

So effective is this aid that Wednesday Daniel Parker, President Ford's coordinator for disaster relief, urged persons wishing to help to contact church and private service organizations. Cash, he said, would probably be more helpful than gifts of food, clothing and the like.

In most cases, religion-related aid was on its way to the stricken country within hours after the first major quake jolted the Central America country, killing an estimated 22,000 persons and leaving 100,000 rural families homeless.

One veteran relief executive had met with Guatemalan disaster relief coordinators three weeks before the Feb. 4 temblor to survey the country's readiness to cope with a major earthquake or volcanic eruption.

Glendale-based Food for the Hungry, an evangelical agency, as a result had already shipped 75,624 pounds of emergency food rations to Guatemala days before the quake "just in case."

"We regard that as presidential timing," reported Larry Ward, Food for the Hungry's president, "and we are pleased to see how well Guatemala's disaster contingency plan is working."

His group has projected a total of $355,000 to be sent in food and funds.

Some food, drugs reached quake areas within first hours.

Because a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod medical missionary had set up a health care clinic in the northeast mountainous region of Guatemala, 760,000 people stranded by the quake had access to medical attention. His staff began treating the injured 20 minutes after the first tremor leveled complete towns.

Though the Missouri Synod is the only Lutheran group with activity in Guatemala, Lutherans in the United States initially pledged $65,000 in relief aid.

Locally, Ananda Marga, a spiritual group of Indian origin, was one of the first to respond, collecting food, blankets, clothes and medical supplies and arranging for their air charter through the Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team. A brochure appealing for relief funds was printed within two days of the disaster.

An estimated 90% of Guatemala's population are at least nominally Roman Catholic, and Catholic Relief Services immediately chartered air freighters. Early this week, 110 tons of priority cargo valued at $385,000 had been transported.

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, president of the U.S. Catholic Conference, requested special relief collections be taken up in all U.S. dioceses. Bishop John Ward of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, representing the CRS here, said that by Wednesday more than $55,000 had been collected in the four-county archdiocese.

He added that one of the church's largest relief distribution centers is in Guatemala City.

Additionally, a multi-thousand-ton food distribution program was carried out by Cantas/Guatemala, the CRS counterpart. Truck convoys of goods from Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador were rolling into Guatemala within hours of the first quake, the National Catholic Office of Information reported. And the Catholic Medical Mission Board airlifted in 33,000 pounds of drugs.

The Assemblies of God, with 41,000 adherents in Guatemala, felt the impact of the quake when more than 50 of its 457 churches were totally destroyed and at least one pastor and five children of pastors were killed.

Loren Triplett, field secretary for the Assemblies in Latin America, flew from headquarters in Missouri with $15,000 in emergency funds immediately after the quake.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief released $30,000 as an initial gift. Denominational officials estimated another $750,000 was still needed in the immediate future.

The Methodist agency sent doctors and support staff, as did the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which dispatched four doctors from Texas.

Two Guatemalan Baptist pastors and at least 15 other Baptists were killed, and five Baptist churches were leveled and four others substantially damaged, according to the Baptist Press.

The Southern Baptist Mission Board appropriated $100,000 for the quake-stricken country, and the Baptist World Alliance transported $12,000 cash for Guatemalan Baptist aid. BWA statistics list 5,386 Baptists and 83 churches in the country.

Church World Service, acting on behalf of the world community of Protestant and Orthodox churches through the World Council of Churches, airlifted large shipments of goods to Guatemala, including 17/5 tons of canned meat provided by the Mennonite Central Committee and $100,000 in cash.

World Vision International of Monrovia sent its director of relief and development with $15,000 and pledged another $30,000 immediately. The agency reported that at least 95 of the 1,200 elementary school-aged children it sponsors in Guatemala had been killed.

The World Relief Commission, a relief arm of the National Assn. of Evangelicals, sent $90,000 the day of the quake to evangelical agencies working in Guatemala. And Billy Graham donated $50,000 and flew to Guatemala to survey needs.

Overall, the U.S. had spent $3.7 million in Guatemala by midweek, according to administration officials, and another $25 million was being sought from Congress.

Some church-related relief officials, like United Methodist J. Harry Haines, fear the outpouring of compassion and help may falter before Guatemala returns to normal.

"Following the classic scenario of disasters, the whole world is on the scene for two weeks and then goes home," he said. "But we see this as a long-term commitment."

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Travel Group Moves to Aid Guatemalans

Members of the travel industry have launched a fund drive to help Guatemala in its recovery from the Feb. 4 earthquake. Also, a $20-a-plate benefit dinner is scheduled Friday at the Ambassador Hotel's Coconut Grove. An auction is scheduled in conjunction with the dinner.

Spearheading the activities is the Travel Industry Guatemalan Emergency Relief (TIGER) committee which has joined forces with Project Concern, Inc., a medical charity, which, according to committee members, will help obtain medical supplies and provide distribution assistance.

Checks should be made payable to Project Concern/Tiger Trust Fund and mailed to TIGER, 1671 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, 90017, before Friday. Reservations for the dinner may be made with Alicia Provencher of Cinerama Hawaii Hotels, telephone (213) 659-5361. Mrs. Provencher is chairman of the committee and Ed Devine of Unitours is vice chairman.

The Earthquake in Guatemala

Guatemala's disastrous earthquake is no longer big news here in the United States. But for those of us whose loved ones are living through the aftereffects, it will be a long time before the dust settles and the earth ceases to tremble.

My husband and I just returned from a week in Guatemala City. Two days after the Feb. 4 earthquake, we made hasty plans to fly there and find our relatives whom we had not been able to contact by phone. Thanks to God, all our friends and relatives are alive and uninjured; however, many are now homeless. We did what we could for them by helping to build a makeshift shelter that will hopefully keep them dry and safe in the coming months.

Everyone we spoke to in Guatemala wanted us to bring back their gratitude for the immediate and generous help sent by the people of the United States and other countries. Many there feel that the nation would not have survived the first week without the aid that poured in.

So far as we could see, the food and medical supplies were reaching the people in most need. Naturally, in such a catastrophe, there are problems of distribution and transportation of the goods, but the consensus in Guatemala among the general public is that the government is making an extraordinary effort to provide for the people.

It is understandable that reports from foreign countries reaching us lose something in the transmission, especially under the conditions of communications caused by the earthquake damage. However, one item reported in the United States papers was especially disturbing to us and the Guatemalans who learned of it. Reportedly the Guatemalans were eating rats. We learned from a U.S. Army medic who was working in a temporary hospital in Aposentos, that this probably was a misunderstanding of the way the Army personnel refer to "ratios" as "rats." He said many of the reporters were interviewing the Army members since they spoke English, and since they were overworked with emergency activities their answers were short.

On behalf of our Guatemalan brothers and sisters we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who responded with love, concern and prayers. Please, don't forget Guatemala. The coming months will be trying ones for the survivors. They are a brave, strong and determined people. "Guatemala esta en pie!" Guatemala stands.

ADELISSA and DANIEL MARTINEZ
Hacienda Heights

Los Angeles Times
Sun, Feb. 22, 1976
'Hey, You Up There . . . That's ENOUGH!'

BY M. GUY LABERGE

ANTIGUA, Guatemala—Although I knew we lived in an earthquake zone, I had never really worried much about it before that violent shaking of my bed, the sound of furniture crashing to the floor, and the smell of dust from crumbling walls.

Our big house in Antigua, 25 miles from Guatemala City, had survived many tremors in the past 200 years with nothing worse than a few loosened roof tiles.

I struggled to my feet, but it was almost impossible to walk, so severe was the shaking, accompanied by loud thuds from below as though dynamite was exploding. I stayed in the shelter of the strong arch of my door until the trembling stopped, then found my trousers and scrambled out to the patio.

My wife, Anne, who had been sleeping in another room across the patio, was safe, as were our daughters Cindy, 14, and Ananda, 8. Anne’s hands were bleeding where she had cut them when she mistook her window for the door to Ananda’s room. And Ananda had narrowly escaped the large chunks of cement and plaster that tumbled onto her bed; any one of them could have killed her.

We shivered in the 47-degree cold of the patio, then risked a return to the bedrooms for blankets. But a trip to the kitchen for coffee and rum was cut short by a second quake, which sent me hurrying to the safety of the patio.

It was now almost 4 a.m., an hour after the first quake. Hearing sirens out front, I ventured outside with my flashlight. Other houses had not fared so well as ours. My neighbor’s house had been crushed. Electric wires were strewn all over the street. People were wandering around with flashlights, incredulous looks on their faces.

Guy Laberge, a Canadian and formerly a clerkman, real estate salesman and writer in Montreal, lives in Guatemala, where he operates a jade business.

A third tremor sent us all scurrying to the middle of the street. When it ended, I rejoined my family, who begged me not to leave them again.

We drank coffee and rum until dawn. At daylight, I got on my Benelli 250 motorcycle and set out to see the damage. I cried inside when I saw the destruction of the beautiful structures of colonial Antigua, and I cried openly when a mother laid her four dead children on the sidewalk outside her demolished home. There were already lines of people forming outside the stores selling caskets. In the next day or two we were to see many carrying their dead to the cemetery.

That afternoon, I went to the home of Jose, the foreman of my jade business, whose 2-year-old son had been buried by debris and killed. The body of the boy, eyes partly open and baby teeth showing between open lips, lay in a little white casket atop a makeshift table.

From there, we went to the home of Arturo, our plumber and friend over the years, with whom we had often had long philosophical discussions. My daughter Cindy wanted to visit his daughter, Arabella, a girl Cindy’s age, who had been badly burned when a candle and spilled kerosene set her clothing afire during a religious procession three years earlier. Countless skin grafts had not erased the scars from her face. Arturo saw us approaching, and a look at his face told us the worst: Arabella had been killed. A dresser had toppled onto her bed, and a thick wall buckled onto the dresser. The girl’s mother was beside herself. ‘‘Nct my precious Arabella, Lord! Not her, not her! Why not me? Why her, who suffered so much?’’

We were all to go through a total of 298 quakes within the next four days, a telling experience on anybody’s nerves. Your insides get very queasy. There were many times when we would dart for an open space because we thought we had felt something when actually nothing had happened.

Our little dog, Mielita, was an invaluable help several times. Without warning, she would suddenly begin to growl and sure enough, several seconds later, a quake would be felt. We soon began to heed her advice.

The quakes kept coming one after another, and I tried to explain to the children that you’ve had an upset stomach and finally you throw everything up, it is quite natural to have a lot of burps afterward. They readily accepted this explanation but wished the burps would stop.

Each new little quake progressively weakened buildings, including our house. I saw new cracks; the ceiling in our large living room, which we had used as a showroom for our jade, was now bulging and through the crack we could see that it was supporting a lot of weight. Apparently tiles from the roof had dropped inside instead of falling onto the street.

Antigua was completely isolated. All telegraph and telephone lines were down. Landslides had locked us into our valley of Panchaoy. My friend Alfredo Revo and I decided to set out on my motorcycle to check the high way and see how badly we were sealed in.

We went through five areas where avalanches...
Guatemala Quake Is 'Enough'  

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anchos had blocked the road but left room alongside for at least a jeep to pass. Then we came to an impassable barricade of rocks and trees. We turned back toward Antigua. Entering the second avalanche area, we had to go through about 200 feet of loose sand.

Suddenly the ground shook. We both looked up in time to see the mountain caving in on top of us. I had only a second to make a decision: Should I stop the bike and run for our lives, or attempt to beat the avalanche across? I saw large trees and boulders with tons of sand descending upon us. I decided to race for it and estimated we had about three seconds before it would reach us; if we didn't skid or get bogged down in the sand we would make it.

I was already in first gear. I revved up the engine full speed, controlling the power with the clutch, and we darted across, barely ahead of tons of sand which buried the road behind us. I felt Alfredo's hand patting me on the shoulder. "Well done," he said. "Well done, Mauricio!"

We approached another avalanche area, and again we felt a loud thud under the bike. This time I decided to stop, as we had not yet entered the slide area. Alfredo jumped off and raced down the ditch on the opposite side. I decided to stay with the bike. If the mountain just above me would hold, everything would be all right. In front of me the mountain tumbled, throwing large trees about like a handful of matchsticks. The cloud of dust rose hundreds of feet in the air.

When we reached Antigua all the people were in the streets. My family was standing outside our house, assessing the great damage from this last big quake. The front of our house was mostly in shambles. Our former display room was completely crushed.

My family had worried about me when they saw the large clouds of dust rising from the valley where they knew I had gone. Now they begged me never to leave them again. I promised. But when I found out that the hospital with hundreds of patients had caved in, I had to leave again to find out if there was anything I could do to help.

On my way to the hospital, I was astounded to see that this last quake had caused more damage than the first big jolt. Houses which had been only cracked now lay in total ruin. The hospital was beginning to collapse, and all of the patients were being evacuated to a big circus tent which had been erected in Antigua a few days before. All available transport was being used, including small pick-up trucks and big diesels—everything that could move. Patients, beds and all, were placed across the small pick-ups, with bed legs hanging over the sides and plasma bottles held up by a rider in the truck.

Before the hospital was fully evacuated there was another temblor. "Oh, no, not again!" I thought. I looked up at the sky and through clenched teeth murmured, "Hey you up there...That's ENOUGH!" It was as if from the deepest part of my being I was ordering the heavens—or whatever powers there be—to stop this at once.

The temblor was only a temblor; it was the last serious one we felt. A lot more "burps" occurred the next day, but none to compare with the two main shocks—the first registering 7.5 on the Richter scale and lasting 37 seconds, the second registering 5.4 and lasting 23 seconds. I returned to a home that was dangerous and no longer livable. Anne was afraid even to enter for a few seconds in case something might come tumbling down. But all of our belongings were inside, plus about $10,000 worth of machinery. Quickly we removed our valuable things to the patio. We were all extremely tense. At the least little sound, even wind rustling through the trees, we would almost panic. With the help of friends, I managed to get practically everything moved out to the patio except the heavy machinery such as big grinders and diamond saws. Some friends offered us their home, which had not been damaged, and we moved there.

For days, Antigua remained cut off, with only intermittent electricity and supplies running low.

Our first thought was to leave Antigua after this disaster. Our business had been ruined; the school our children attended was demolished. What future could there be here? We had a little money saved, enough to get us started somewhere else.

But as I rode my motorcycle through the parks and saw the many poor people living in temporary shelters, I knew I had to help. We have loved beautiful, proud, colonial Antigua, the monument city of the Americas, the city beneath the majestic volcano, Agua. And so we will stay. We will keep our employees, and find another building for our jade business and jade-carving school. And Antigua will be restored once again to the glory it knew before the earthquake. I know this, and I know many others—Guatemalans and foreigners alike—share my feelings and my resolve.
For anxious families

Hams provide radio link with quake-hit Guatemala

The hams have come through again.
The HFEA Amateur Radio Club, holder of awards earned in past years for its phone patches connecting servicemen in Southeast Asia with their families in the U.S., has been able to get news of individuals out of earthquake-devastated Guatemala City for anxious relatives and friends in California.

It started when Carol Mellis of Granada Hills began searching for a ham operator who might get her frantic housekeeper, Lucy Chua, news of her husband and three children in Guatemala City. The word was passed along until it reached the Radio Club's Merv Friedman, who started the ball rolling. Mike Tucci, Sam Hollinger, and Bruce Snyder began spending night and weekend watches at the club's radio shack atop Bldg. 606.

At first, the crush of emergency calls made it impossible to make private contacts, but by monitoring the calls out of the stricken city the Hughesites were able to pass on some news to Mrs. Chua.

As it turned out, one of her sons was able to salvage and connect the family phone and tell her that, though their home was in ruins,

Service offered employees

Hughesites seeking news of relatives or friends in Guatemala City may obtain help from the HFEA Amateur Radio Club by calling Mike Tucci at Fullerton Ext. 5733 after lunchtime, or Ext. 2296 during the morning.

Mike, with Sam Hollinger and Bruce Snyder, has monitored and relayed calls and handled direct traffic in the club's radio shack, starting soon after the Feb. 4 earthquake hit Guatemala.

By presstime, the club members expected to have logged about 30 after-work hours in the shack, personally making about 15 outgoing calls and receiving 10 incoming.

they were safe. Mr. Chua was injured, but was not in critical condition.

The Fullerton hams, not happy with what little news they had been able to glean, tended to play down their role, but Mrs. Mellis exclaimed:

"Don't let them tell you they didn't help, because they did. and we're most grateful!"

More help was given later after a system of volunteer ham operators was set up in Guatemala City to provide information supplied by relief workers.

Acting for a San Francisco family who called him, Mike contacted a woman operator who gave him the news that the family's relatives, four adults and three children, were safe. Mike hit lucky. The woman had just received the information, so his turnaround time for the San Franciscans was only 10 minutes.

Though not so quickly, he also was able to provide the same service for three other worried Bay Area families. Later Mike ran a phone patch allowing a young American in Guatemala City to talk with his parents in Florida.

When the Guatemalan operator signed off, she told Mike she was bedding down with her family in the street again. Their home was in ruins, too.

MIKE TUCCI, foreground, is on air to Guatemala City as he tracks down information on people in earthquake-damaged area for anxious relatives here. With him in HFEA Amateur Radio Club shack on Bldg. 606 at Fullerton are Merv Friedman, center, who launched the effort, and the club's president, Joe Moell.