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### THE GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE OF FEBRUARY 4, 1976

#### A Preliminary Report

At 3:02AM local time, February 4, 1976 (09<sup>h</sup> 01<sup>m</sup> 46.0<sup>s</sup> GMT), a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck Guatemala with epicenter at 15.27°N 89.25°W. An aftershock on February 6 (18.<sup>h</sup> 19<sup>m</sup> GMT) with 5-3/4 to 6 magnitude was located at 14.3°N 90.5°W (preliminary location).

Charles Knudson of the U. S. Geological Survey left San Francisco February 5 to check the strong motion instruments. The EERI Reconnaissance Team consisting of Donald F. Moran, F. Robert Preece, Thomas D. Wosser, William H. Smith, Raymond H. Rice, and David P. Schwartz left February 6, 1976 and returned on February 12, 1976.

The EERI fielded this Team with additional support provided by Testing Engineers, Inc., Woodward-Clyde Consultants, Dames and Moore, H. J. Degenkolb & Associates, and the American Iron and Steel Institute.

A U. S. Geological Survey Team composed of Karl V. Steinbrugge, Alvaro Espinosa, Raul Husid and George Plafker also left February 6. By arrangement with the Seismology Division of the Canadian Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Dr. D. H. Weichert met the team in Guatemala City on February 8, 1976.

The following preliminary report is a collection of individual reports by team members, Karl Steinbrugge, and Lloyd Cluff. A minimum of editing has been done, primarily to delete repetitious material.

Some of the papers contain conclusions and impressions, however, it is premature to present conclusions representing the concensus of the entire team. A second EERI Team left for Guatemala on Monday, March 1, 1976 and a combined report by both teams is planned.

The team's efforts were facilitated by the willing assistance of many local public officials, engineers, and architects. Roberto Monterroso was particularly helpful.

The cooperation of the USGS people is especially appreciated.

H. J. Degenkolb  
President EERI