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EXECUTIVE

(2)

*SP 2-3-86*  
*FG 11-4*  
*CO 5-8*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

February 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Brent R. Scowcroft  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
The White House

As we discussed, attached is a copy of our draft message to the Congress on the Guatemalan disaster. Also attached for your information is a copy of the detailed proposal AID will be submitting to support the request for \$25 million. These documents are being transmitted through the Office of Management and Budget for appropriate action.

We appreciate your understanding of the immediacy of the political situation. We need to have Dan Parker tell Senator Kennedy that the President either has signed or is signing a message to the Congress, transmitting a \$25 million relief package for Guatemala.

If you or your staff advise us by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow that we may say that the President has signed the message we will do so. If not, we will advise the Congress that the President is signing a message on the Guatemalan disaster and that that message will be transmitted to the Congress by close of business February 18.

*Denis M. Neill*

Denis M. Neill  
Assistant Administrator  
for Legislative Affairs



Attachments

RECEIVED  
JAN 6 1977  
CENTRAL FILES

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Feb. 17 p.m.

General Scowcroft,

Per your telcon, Denis Neill  
accompanied by Charles Gladson  
delivered the attached at approx.  
11:15 pm.

He said he had discussed with  
Les Janka and Wolthius.

The draft message and the program  
for what the \$25 million is for  
are attached.

Wilma

cc: Bud/Mr. Hyland  
— Les Janka



Message to the Congress of the United States

On February 4th of this year a devastating earthquake struck Guatemala. That earthquake, together with its after shocks has left over 22,000 dead, more than 74,000 injured and one million homeless, as of latest estimates.

Many nations have responded to this disaster with assistance. I believe the United States has a special responsibility to help meet the urgent human needs in this neighboring country. The United States has already taken action:

- Immediate aid was forwarded by U.S. agencies, public and private.
- I dispatched The U.S. Foreign Disaster Coordinator -- A.I.D. Administrator Daniel Parker -- to Guatemala for a firsthand review of the situation.
- He has returned and reported to me and to the Congress on the extent of damage and need.
- The House of Representatives responded with sympathy and passed a unanimous resolution on February 10 expressing support for comprehensive U.S. response.
- Yesterday, the day after it returned from recess, the Senate did the same.
- The Secretary of State will visit the Republic of Guatemala on February 24 to express further our support for the people of Guatemala in this hour of need.



At this time, based on Mr. Parker's recommendation, I am proposing urgent and specific action to turn these expressions of sympathy into tangible support -- to request the Congress to authorize and appropriate a \$25 million disaster relief program.

This disaster has had greatest impact upon the poor. They have suffered *in* death, injury and economic loss. My proposal gives priority attention to help those who have suffered the most.

The proposed "Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976" which I am sending forward would represent a specific humanitarian response of the United States to the victims of this great tragedy, particularly for the multitudes of rural poor in Guatemala who have lost their homes and possessions, and in many cases their very means of *subsistence* existence.

This immediate legislation, and accompanying *appropriation* appropriation, will enable us to respond to the human tragedy in Guatemala. This response will reflect the genuine concern of the American people.

2/17/76

PROPOSED U.S. RELIEF AND REHABILITATION  
OF THE VICTIMS OF THE GUATEMALAN DISASTER

The total amount requested will permit AID to continue participation, in close collaboration with the Government of Guatemala and other donors, to help meet the highest priority immediate relief and rehabilitation needs. In addition to the ongoing emergency relief operations, our proposed input literally is geared to helping Guatemala to win a race against the elements--with an eye on the rainy season which normally begins in approximately 90 days. So as to minimize further suffering and additional major economic dislocation, at the request of the Government of Guatemala and based on continuing assessment in the field, we will concentrate assistance over the coming few months primarily on helping to insure adequate temporary shelter with supporting community facilities and on reopening critical transportation links, especially the badly damaged Guatemala City-Caribbean Highway, the main artery essential to the country's economic viability.

a) EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATIONS (\$7.5 million)

The initial response of the U.S. Country Team in Guatemala and AID's Foreign Disaster Relief Center to requests of the Government of Guatemala was to dispatch a U.S. Military Disaster Assistance Survey Team from Panama



and airlift a 100-bed U.S. military field hospital, fully staffed and equipped. Eighteen helicopters were deployed; medical supplies, tents, blankets and water equipment from U.S. disaster stocks followed. Additional teams of engineers, water specialists and medical/communication specialists were also sent to Guatemala to assist the Government.

The funds cover the continuing costs of initial emergency relief operations provided by the Department of Defense, other participating U.S. agencies, procurement of supplies, transportation, grants to U.S. Voluntary Agencies, the OAS, replacement of disaster stocks in Panama and other support costs. The actual level of expenditure will depend on the duration of the emergency phase, and particularly on the timing of withdrawal of the helicopters, and medical support.

b) RURAL REHABILITATION (\$7.5 million)

1. Shelter.

Funds would be allocated to supply critically needed supplementary building construction materials and hand tools for up to 100,000 units of rural and small community housing in the devastated Indian highlands. The uniqueness of this disaster was its effect on the rural poor who because of the very nature of construction of their dwellings were singled out as the major victims of the earthquakes. The Government of Guatemala estimates that more than 150,000 such dwellings were lost in the earthquakes and subsequent tremors, in addition to more than 100,000 urban dwellings. We expect

that roughly 1/3 of the rural needs will be rebuilt through individual and direct GOG and other donor assistance. To meet the balance of this requirement, and in support of self-help efforts, simple materials and tools that can be purchased locally or in nearby countries or, as necessary, shipped from the United States will be employed. We contemplate, as was done in response to Hurricane Fifi in Honduras with considerable efficiency and economy, a grant-funded program executed through key private voluntary agencies such as CARE, wherein small farmers and the rural poor in general will be provided relatively inexpensive roofing materials (e.g., galvanized tin and asbestos composition corrugated sheets), hammers, saws, chisels, nails, reinforcing bars, simple hardware, etc., and limited technical help. Involvement of existing cooperative organizations in the Indian highlands also will be stressed.

Experience in similar situations has shown that the bulk of such reconstruction is carried out by the families involved. In fact, the process of clearing necessary sites and sorting out materials already has begun. Attention to farming and other economic activity typically takes second place to providing shelter for the surviving family, making this activity not only an essential element of social rehabilitation, but of economic import as well.

Benefits of research sponsored by AID since the 1970 earthquake in Peru will be applied, to the extent possible,

in improving seismic resistance of basically adobe construction. With minimal cost increases, it is hoped that the affected families, with the direct help of the involved PVO's and cooperatives, will by the onset of the rainy season be sheltered in conditions that are sufficiently comfortable and secure to restore to them at least a semblance of the life--hard as it has always been--they knew prior to February 4. Roofing materials to be supplied will be of a kind that will limit the extent of personal injury in any future earthquakes (as compared to tiles commonly used) and also will be useable in more permanent construction.

## 2. Supporting Community Facilities

To the extent complementary, relatively simple construction needs can be met quickly and economically, assistance also will be extended to restore a minimum of vital community services (small farmer markets, schools, slaughtering facilities, health posts, etc.) to permit communities to continue their traditional role as providers of social stability and cohesion in the Indian areas. In all cases, such assistance will be limited to keeping communities socially and economically viable until broader, more durable, public services can be restored. In this effort, close coordination will exist with the GOG's Municipal Development Institute (INFOM), with which AID has had a long and successful relationship in Guatemala.

As needed and requested by voluntary agencies with known competence, funds will be made available to support Guatemalan Government efforts in relieving the social trauma of victims.

c) TRANSPORTATION LINKS, INCLUDING RESTORATION OF THE GUATEMALA CITY - CARIBBEAN HIGHWAY. (\$7.5 million)

Based on a careful survey just completed by an 11-man U.S. Army Corps of Engineers detachment, it now appears that in a period of 60-75 days (before the rainy season makes such work difficult, if not impossible), the immediate phase of restoring Guatemala's principal export and import link with the rest of the world can be accomplished.

The road must be made passable for the thousands of trucks and buses which normally transit this highway, now interrupted by a stretch of approximately 50 miles of severe slides and destroyed bridges.

If this work can be accomplished, as proposed, using the services of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or other emergency help that can be mobilized immediately, it is expected that the Guatemalan Government will be able to provide the maintenance capability to keep the road open during the rainy season. In the meantime, there are indications that international financing should be available for the major job of permanent reconstruction that cannot begin

until later in the year when the detailed engineering and weather conditions would permit this major operation to get underway.

Additionally, destruction of a number of vital farm-to-market roads in the Indian highland area has cut off communities from the access they need to maintain some economic touch with 20th century life. Special priority will be given to opening up these vital lifelines of communication, necessary to facilitating broader reconstruction efforts in the future.

d) OTHER URGENT ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS (\$2.5 million)

Based on the results of high altitude aerial reconnaissance, dangerous topographical changes appear to have developed in various parts of the earthquake-affected area. Possible flooding from the rupture of naturally-formed dams as water accumulation occurs, particularly after the onset of the rainy season, could cause severe additional loss of life and physical damage if not corrected opportunely. Specialists in dealing with the difficult engineering and demolition problems entailed and other assistance as necessary, beyond that which is available and can be financed in-country, will be provided.

Summary: Immediate relief efforts, complemented by the undertakings listed above, represent a basic, necessary and



immediate response to pressing humanitarian and economic needs felt by the Government of Guatemala and confirmed by our field assessments. They are essential to restoring near-normal life in Guatemala and to recapturing the momentum of development progress which, under the administration of President Laugerud, had only recently begun to move the large mass of Guatemala's urban and rural poor closer to enjoying the benefits of growth.

Some shifts in the application of requested funds may prove necessary as assessments of needs and costs continue to be refined and as the financial capacity of the Guatemalan Government itself and assistance from other donors can be better identified.

In this connection, AID will remain alert to ways of applying funds not only so as to meet pressing shelter and vital communications problems in the short run, but to facilitating as well, by community and cooperative action especially suitable in the Indian highlands of Guatemala, broadener participation in the very process as well as the benefits of development.

Time has now become the major opponent in the continued support of our Government and people to Guatemala. If the assistance proposed herein can be made available immediately, essential work can be completed before the onset of the rainy season, so alleviating additional anguish for a burdened people.

*Signed  
2/19/76*

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

February 19, 1976

EXECUTIVE  
SP2-3-86  
DI2/CO 58  
CO 58

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Legislation Authorizing \$25 Million  
for Guatemala Disaster Relief

Attached for your consideration is a proposed message to the Congress transmitting authorizing legislation calling for an appropriation of \$25 million in 1976 for relief and rehabilitation in the wake of the recent earthquake in Guatemala.

Additional information is provided in Jim Lynn's memorandum at Tab A. The proposed legislation and a section-by-section analysis is at Tab B.

OMB, NSC, AID, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Chapman) and I recommend approval of the proposed message to the Congress which has been cleared by Bob Hartmann.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign both originals of the message at Tab C.

*Although not stated in the President's message, the section-by-section analysis was transmitted to Congress as part of the message - per request of R. Lander (TMD)*





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

FEB 18 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: JAMES T. LYNN *Chair*  
SUBJECT: Legislation Authorizing \$25 Million  
for Guatemala Disaster Relief

AID Administrator Parker proposes that the United States provide Guatemala with \$25 million for relief and rehabilitation in the wake of the recent earthquake. He has prepared authorizing legislation calling for an appropriation of \$25 million in 1976 to remain available until expended. The funds would be provided in accordance with the disaster relief provisions of Section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act which waive the restrictions on other foreign aid.

AID estimates that the funds will be used as follows:

- ° \$7.5 million for emergency supplies and temporary shelter, including reimbursement of existing accounts for funds already used.
- ° \$7.5 million for the reconstruction of housing primarily in rural areas, with emphasis on immediate needs prior to the rainy season in May.
- ° \$7.5 million for restoring roads and bridges, including the highway from the capital to the main port.
- ° \$2.5 million for surveys and reconstruction of other structures which present a hazard to safety.

This allocation may change somewhat as AID continues to assess the specific requirements. A second bill will probably be required in the transition quarter or 1977 to finance longer-term reconstruction needs.



I concur in Administrator Parker's proposal and recommend that you promptly transmit the attached special message and authorizing legislation. The materials have been reviewed and approved by the National Security Council staff. I will shortly forward for your transmittal a 1976 budget amendment for \$25 million.

Attachments



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

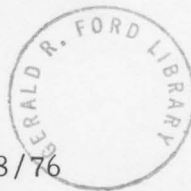
Dave -

*Bob Linder*

You might want to read this.  
When you are finished it should go  
to Bob Linder.

Trudy

2/18/76



*Copies to:*

*Brent Scowcroft { Lavinia  
James Cavaregh } 2-18-76*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Bob Linder

This must have been delivered by  
Daniel Parker when he met with  
the President yesterday.

Trudy Fry  
2/17/76



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON

THE ADMINISTRATOR

February 16, 1976

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Special Report on the Guatemalan Disaster

In seismic terms, the Guatemalan earthquakes were "major"; in human terms, this disaster must be ranked as a tragedy of great and terrible magnitude. Based on my visit to Guatemala on February 12 and 13, I will attempt first to give you a brief overview of the disaster and its setting.

General Situation

The major shock area is large - about 3,530 square miles, or equivalent to the Grand Rapids-Kalamazoo-Battle Creek area of Michigan. 1.03 million people populate the area and 80 - 90 percent are now homeless. In the entire affected area, 22,360 are dead, 74,000 were injured and over one million were left homeless. (The wife of President Laugerud, concentrating on assistance to children, estimates at least 5,000 children became orphaned.) Overall, 20 percent of the country's people are directly affected. I should mention that as harder information comes in, the numbers keep rising. In U.S. terms, comparable figures would mean 2,800,000 killed and injured and 38,000,000 homeless.

The greatest impact is upon the poor - and it is essentially a rural disaster. The rural poor cluster their small adobe homes in villages. Adobe brick walls, while they look substantial, are not strong. They collapsed allowing the heavy clay tile roofs to fall in on the sleeping victims. The urban poor live in make-shift shacks which simply fell apart.

It is relevant to make two interesting side comments to the above. First, the casualty toll was great and the count was difficult to make because so many victims were trapped, unable to get outside before their dwelling collapsed during the approximate thirty seconds of the main shock. Second, conventionally built homes, especially the newer, though damaged, were not destroyed, thus inflicting fewer and less serious casualties.



Compounding the dimensions of the disaster was that it took place at 3:02 a.m., the time when the greatest proportion of the population was inside, asleep and not alert to respond quickly. And adding at least to the confusion was the darkness. Where electricity existed, it was cut or turned off to reduce chances for fire and electrocution from exposed, high-tension lines.

Outside Guatemala City, the terrain, rugged, mountainous, probably of volcanic formation, makes communications of any kind (roads, phones, even radio) difficult even in normal circumstances. Thus, in the vast hard-hit rural area virtually all immediate relief assistance was limited to that available locally. The sudden, gigantic and urgent needs for emergency help, tools, medicines were largely unmet during the crucial early hours and first days until rescuers could make their way in by some means.

Before turning to the response stage, I would like to mention another facet, parenthetically. Your description to me of the unusual nature of an earthquake you had seen some years ago in Yugoslavia was confirmed. It is awesome. It is almost eerie. Unlike other types of disasters, there is no clear-cut point marking the end of exposure to further risk. More than 600 tremors have been felt since the first quake. They are still happening. Several of the many I felt were severe enough shocks to do additional damage and to be visible in the sense of seeing the movements of the building I was in.

This has resulted in a widely felt sense of insecurity. A view of Guatemala City from a helicopter reveals tents in gardens, parks and on the sidewalk or street in front of homes seemingly and reportedly not seriously damaged. Also, many people sleep in their cars, if they don't have tents or other shelter from the very cool nights.

My impression is that, in immediate response to the disaster, virtually everyone who wasn't a victim turned, unhesitatingly, to aid others. President Laugerud, for example, took direct personal command immediately and was even able to check on one hospital's response capability within 27 minutes after the quake.

This self-initiated individual type of response quickly became organized by entity, e.g., government ministry, church or civic group, and voluntary agency. Then with the formation of the National Emergency Committee by the President there came the means of beginning to coordinate activities for a national response, including the allocation of assistance resources to areas of priority need.



## I. Assessment of Damage

### A. Physical Damage

Damage is concentrated in the densely populated Indian-inhabited Eastern Highlands, portions of the capital city and wide areas to the west, roughly 20 percent of the area of the country. A number of important rural population centers in the affected area were nearly totally destroyed, including Mixco (population 10,900), San Pedro (4,800), Patzicia (7,100), Patzun (8,300), Joyabaj (2,400), Tecpan (5,900), San Juan Sacatepequez (6,700), and El Progreso (4,000).

#### 1. Housing and Other Building Damage

By far the most devastating impact of the earthquake was on the housing of the poor. The great majority of Guatemala's population resides in small towns and rural areas in adobe houses. Over 150,000 of these are estimated by the Government of Guatemala to have collapsed. In Guatemala City, some 100,000 dwellings of the urban poor were destroyed. The value of these urban and rural dwellings has not been determined. In most cases, they were built by the families who occupied them. It is probable that they will be rebuilt in the same fashion. A rough estimate of the financial costs of replacement might range from \$150-\$250 million, depending on whether new construction will adopt earthquake resistant design improvements.

There was, of course, loss to commercial, church, and public buildings, essentially in the small rural towns. No estimates are available, as yet, on these losses.

Several major hospitals in the capital were damaged by the quake and their staffs have been operating in other available buildings on a make-shift basis, pending assessment, repair, or replacement of damaged hospitals. Hospitals in several other communities were also severely damaged, as were many health centers and health posts.

#### 2. Infrastructure

##### (a) Transport and Communications

The Guatemala City-Puerto Barrios highway and railroad, the primary transportation links from the capital to the Caribbean coast, have been cut because of a three-span fallen bridge and numerous landslides. A U.S. military engineer survey team is now in the field assessing the extent of damage.



A much more circuitous road from the coast to the capital is still open, but cannot handle the entire heavy traffic load that normally passes between the capital and the coast. Preliminary estimates of the cost of restoration of the road from Guatemala to the Caribbean approach \$25 million. In many areas of the highlands, roads also have been blocked by numerous slides. An estimate of cost of restoring major and secondary roads throughout the damaged area is \$35 million, of which the major cost will probably be for the main highway artery to Puerto Barrios. The cost to repair the railroad is not yet known.

Telephone communications, never particularly good, have been severely damaged by the quake. Phone lines are down throughout the affected area. Restoration is under way. However, it will be some weeks before all major phone lines are repaired.

#### (b) Water and Electricity

The first earthquake left approximately 40 percent of the residents of the capital without water supplies, and the water supplied to other sections of the city was unprotected by chlorination. This situation has improved marginally since then, due to emergency repairs and to increased chlorination. In many smaller cities, the water supply and distribution systems were partially destroyed, although the main water sources and storage systems remain relatively intact. Restoration and improvement of all of these systems will require major effort.

Electricity in Guatemala City is back on. However, regional transmission as well as local distribution of power service to many localities in the interior has been and still is disrupted.

#### B. Economic Impact

##### 1. Balance of Payments Effects

Fortunately, Guatemala enjoyed a relatively strong balance of payments position in 1975. Its net foreign exchange reserves increased from the end of 1973 to the end of 1975 from \$201 million to \$280 million, a level equal to approximately four months of imports. Still too early to project the effects of the earthquake on Guatemala's foreign exchange position, it is clear the tourism income, which reached \$70 million in foreign exchange earnings in 1975, will decline and probably sharply. While, in the overall, hotels are only slightly damaged, some suffered heavy damage. It will be some time before prospective visitors regain confidence and resume their travels to Guatemala.



More importantly, the earthquake is expected to cause a significant upsurge in imports, particularly of glass, construction materials, and equipment. Some stocks of manufactured goods will also have to be replaced. Guatemala's main foreign exchange earners other than tourism, i.e., coffee, sugar, cotton, bananas and meat, have not been affected, and almost all of its industrial production capacity remains intact.

As its foreign debt service burden has been below 5 percent, Guatemala therefore has the capacity to borrow substantially to help finance its reconstruction and investment programs. Heavy reliance on large commercial borrowings, however, would increase debt servicing costs rapidly.

## 2. Budgetary Effects

The government's budgetary position, traditionally strong, will certainly be adversely affected. Some reductions may be expected in corporate and personal income tax collections as affected businesses write off their losses. Most significant will be the effect of increased government expenditures for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The government will be called upon to assist the rural and normally poor municipalities in restoring the water supply and other essential services and provide emergency assistance to the homeless and medical assistance to the injured. Moreover, credit for housing reconstruction will be needed for many of the homeless. Unfortunately, these expenditures, either for temporary or more permanent shelter, cannot be spread over a number of years but will have to be concentrated within a relatively short period.

## 3. Effect on Prices

Price stability has long been a characteristic of the Guatemalan economy, but that changed in 1973 and 1974 when, as did many countries, Guatemala, largely from external causes, experienced serious effects from inflation. However, by the end of 1975, price stability had significantly improved. Strong inflationary pressures are expected, as an aftermath of the disaster, in the area of construction and construction materials. Demand is expected to exceed substantially available productive capacity. Wages in the construction industry are expected to rise sharply. As an offset, the just completed harvests of corn, beans, and wheat were relatively bountiful and can be expected to hold down price increases in basic foodstuffs. However, large quantities of grains were stored in and around homes and were partially lost. This may cause some increases in food prices.



#### 4. Employment Effects

A number of businesses, closed temporarily until power was restored and repairs were made, are now reopening. However, many neighborhood shops and small businesses have been completely destroyed. Tourism and arts and crafts, normally an important source of employment, may be depressed for at least some months. Moreover, with so many homes destroyed and material possessions lost, the arts and crafts industry, largely a home industry, may suffer dislocation.

These adverse employment effects are expected to be of a short-term nature. The intensive reconstruction effort will provide additional jobs in the construction and construction materials industries. The manufacturing industry, which accounts for roughly 6 percent of the GNP, has not been seriously affected, and most major commercial establishments either have resumed, or soon will resume, operations.

In sum, the impact of the disaster on the balance of payments budget, production, and employment is not expected to be unmanageable. In human terms, however, the disaster is truly a disaster. Hardest hit were the poor, those who can least afford to lose their employment, homes, and possessions.

## II. Disaster Relief

### A. Immediate Response

#### 1. Government of Guatemala

A national emergency was declared immediately after the first earthquake. The military received and has exercised extraordinary powers to deal with the immediate relief problems. The government has invested, and is investing, massive effort in clearing roads of landslide debris, completing initial damage assessments and distributing government food stocks. Price controls are being enforced to prevent the exploitation of temporary shortages. Citizens generally are contributing time and financing to help to save lives and feed the most affected. Private sector resources, whether channeled through the Guatemalan Red Cross or other organizations or provided on an individual basis, have played a significant role in speeding relief to those affected by the earthquake. The mass of the population is "cooperating" by its patience, and an almost stoical capacity for suffering.



The Guatemalan Government has formed a National Emergency Committee to coordinate the government relief efforts and the generous assistance being provided by the U.S. and other donors. The coordination task is large, complex and continuing. The improving communications system and the growing experience of the government point toward the easing of the coordination problem.

There have been but few reports of looting, with the government moving quickly to deal with any reported problem. During our visit we heard no complaints about diversion of relief supplies.

## 2. United States Government

Within hours after the first quake, the U.S. country team in Guatemala and A.I.D.'s Foreign Disaster Relief Center were in operation on a 24-hour basis. Quickly, we began to move in supplies, equipment, and personnel. Among the first arrivals was a U.S. military Disaster Assistance Survey Team (DAST) from Panama. This was followed quickly by a fully-equipped and staffed 100-bed U.S. military field hospital that is in operation in the center of the hardest-hit area - Chimaltenango.

Subsequently, we provided a U.S. Engineering Survey Team to assess damage to roads, bridges, and railroads; 18 large helicopters; 8 two-man medical/communications teams to assess needs and provide medical assistance in isolated areas; and a considerable amount of tents, medical supplies, field kitchens, generators, etc., from A.I.D.'s disaster relief stockpile in Panama. Two medical officers from the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta and two U.S. Public Health Service pharmacists are assisting the Guatemalans in establishing systems to survey disease outbreaks and in organizing the receipt, storage, and use of the large quantities of donated medical supplies. We are also funding the transportation costs for certain high-priority relief shipments by voluntary agencies. Most of our efforts are concentrated in the hardest-hit areas of the highlands around Chimaltenango, for the Guatemalan Government has asked us to concentrate our resources on this area, which was almost totally devastated.

As of February 14, we have allocated \$3.6 million to this effort. The cost of relief over a 30 to 60-day period may require up to \$20 million, depending on the timing for the phasing down of helicopter and field hospital use.



### 3. Other Donors

#### (a) Third Country and International Organizations Relief Assistance

Thus far, 24 nations other than the United States (and the list is growing) have contributed to the relief effort. Contributions are being made in cash, personnel, transport, food and other commodities. I am attaching hereto a listing of third-country assistance based on the information currently available to us (TAB A).

International organizations are also responding to the needs of the immediate relief phase. Their known contributions, which already amount to over \$3.6 million, are listed in attachment TAB B.

#### (b) Voluntary Agencies

Voluntary agencies, such as CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, Seventh Day Adventists, Partners of the Americas (Alabama), and a host of others, including from other countries, have provided and are providing generous and effective support as they put to quick use long and practical experience in dealing with disasters. There is no reliable estimate yet available of the financial value of their assistance. A listing, based on currently known information, is also attached (TAB C).

#### B. Post-Immediate Relief Phase

We are now at a time when immediate relief requirements are moving into manageable proportions. Medical emergency needs have been largely identified and satisfied, but certainly not entirely, particularly in the more remote rural areas. In-country stocks of medicines, bolstered by donations still arriving, should be adequate to satisfy requirements, although there may be specialized needs from time to time which generally can be handled by other donors and private voluntary organizations. The major hospitals in Guatemala City are functioning well and are meeting the immediate needs for medical and surgical care.

No signs of epidemics have appeared. The process of restoring water services in rural towns, as well as in parts of Guatemala City, is moving ahead rapidly with provision for proper treatment of water supplies receiving high priority. Apart from the need for a relatively minimal quantity of tools and supplies in addition to the water storage tanks already supplied by the U.S., completion of temporary repairs to



water systems in the affected area should be possible without significant further external relief requirements.

Water supply capacity in the capital is back to about 50 percent of pre-earthquake levels. Shortage of supply is of lesser concern than is quality. The municipal water plants are chlorinating the water being distributed, but damage to the city's parallel water and sewage pipe systems has rendered supply potentially unsafe. Attention is being given to this problem by the government with assistance by the U.S. and others. The monitoring by the health authorities of hospitals and clinics is continuing in order to detect as quickly as possible any emerging health problems.

The major continuing problem, for the short and long run, is the need to provide adequate shelter to the many homeless. Given the relatively modest aspirations of the rural population, provisional needs increasingly are being met by the government and several donors. However, additional new inputs for this purpose are being considered by others. Properly handled, temporary shelter solutions can form the basis for rapidly resolving permanent housing needs through self-help programs utilizing simple materials and tools.

Barring further major quakes, a reasonable degree of normal economic activity and public services should be restored and in place in all but the remote areas by the end of this month or early March. An important factor bearing on this process, however, will be the rapidity with which closed roads are opened to permit access for the movement of food and other commodities. While there is no possibility that the main highway to Puerto Barrios can be opened within this time frame, temporary bypass construction will be needed. In-country equipment capacity should be sufficient to handle general road clearing work, but preliminary surveys by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of Atlantic highway damage indicate that reopening of the highway will require a major effort, especially if the work called for along the fifty miles primarily affected is to be completed by the advent of the rainy season in mid-May and which normally continues until November. Whether this operation, located in rugged, difficult terrain, is within the country's capability must await completion of the in-depth damage assessment by the Corps of Engineers and a review of construction capacity now being carried out by the Ministry of Public Works. Decisions are expected shortly. Opening the road is obviously one of the priority tasks. The government, with its own facilities, hopes to be able to restore the railroad link before the rainy season.



Food stocks, augmented through foreign donations, should be sufficient for the next few months. There will be continuing difficulties, however, in ensuring adequate supplies in all areas because of access problems.

### III. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Even while the Guatemalans struggle to deal with the emergency needs facing them, attention must be given, and is being given, to the next phases, i.e., the shorter-run rehabilitation task and the longer-run reconstruction task. There is no clear line distinguishing between these phases, and they are not necessarily successive in time sequence, as some must proceed in planning and execution simultaneously. Essentially, what is involved are decisions on policies and actions for interim and long-term responses to the consequences of the disaster.

After a relatively long period of slow economic growth, Guatemala, in recent years, has begun to develop a national network of public services with increased capacity to attend to the development needs of the large mass of rural and urban poor. The interruption caused by the earthquake in this delayed process of spreading the benefits of development to perhaps 80 percent of Guatemala's people poses not only a humanitarian problem but a challenge of fundamental importance to the future course of that nation. In recognition of this fact, President Laugerud has announced that it will be the policy of his government to continue overall development efforts for the entire country, guided by the 1975-79 Development Plan. The necessary rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the earthquake affected areas are obviously of high priority, but this priority should desirably not deter the government from its development efforts to improve the quality of life of the poor Guatemalans.

The National Economic Planning Council is about to complete an initial assessment of damage cost and economic impact projections which will form the basis for more precise estimates of external assistance needs and internal self-help capacity. Major capital inputs will obviously be required for housing, road repair, public infrastructure (schools, medical centers and hospitals, water supply systems, and public buildings), small business rehabilitation and communication facilities. Moreover, small farmer productivity must be assured through effective and timely provision of normal governmental and cooperative services (credit, technical assistance, distribution of improved seeds and fertilizers, etc.). The extent to which this institutional infrastructure has been disrupted in the



affected areas is not yet fully determined, but it is important that it be in place and functioning within the next 6-8 weeks in anticipation of the May planting season. Obviously, projections of future food import needs will be influenced by how well the planting goes in the affected area which, outside of Guatemala City, is largely populated by small, subsistence-level farmers.

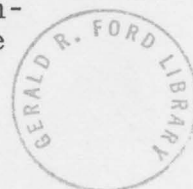
#### IV. Resources for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

##### A. Guatemalan Self-Help Measures

The administration of President Laugerud has been distinguished by its dedication to accelerating programs with impact in the long-neglected social areas. A competent managerial team within his cabinet has pushed forward major development projects, ranging from improved water supply to greatly increased electric power that had begun, before the disaster, to move Guatemala into the forefront of the Central American countries in terms of growth. If, as we hope, major economic activity quickly will be restored to the pre-earthquake level and fiscal progress can be maintained and intensified to help carry the heavy burdens now placed upon the population, Guatemala should be in a position to help finance a major portion of the programs required to regain and surpass its pre-earthquake situation.

The Guatemalan authorities stress their recognition that the foundation of Guatemala's recovery cum development thrust will rest solidly on its own self-help measures. They further recognize that external assistance will depend heavily on demonstration of such self-help. It is too soon to judge whether it will be possible for the government to pursue fully recovery and development simultaneously. Fortunately, as noted, at the time of the disaster, Guatemala was in a relatively strong financial and economic situation which can bolster the self-reliance underpinning of their laudable approach. Some tradeoffs may be necessary, however.

A major question in the post-earthquake period situation is the administrative and managerial capacity of Guatemalan institutions to handle the increased burdens of a reconstruction program. This is understandable because of the burdens being placed on top of the normal ones already associated with implementing an active and expanding development program. Preliminary consideration is being given to creating a special reconstruction entity. Such an entity would have the responsibility and authority to plan and direct the utilization of all resources destined for reconstruction. An important benefit of this approach would be



that the entity would be in a position to hire or have assigned to it top-notch, qualified personnel, thereby avoiding the problem of overloading existing ministerial staffs. Presumably, the new entity would also be granted emergency powers, enabling it to bypass many of the Guatemalan Government's present internal administrative procedures, thus speeding up project implementation.

B. External Assistance

1. United States

Apart from immediate assistance provided to meet the initial emergency and which will be phased down with the decreasing need for such assistance, the question of further U.S. assistance can be approached from two levels. The first essentially involves reviewing existing loan and grant projects to determine whether restructuring would be feasible. This examination is underway. Fortuitously, A.I.D. recently (December 1975) had authorized a \$13 million loan for small farmer development which is directed at the Highland Indian farmer. The Minister of Finance has indicated that the Guatemalan Government wishes to sign the loan agreement immediately. Our preliminary assessment is that essentially no restructuring will be necessary to ensure concentration of resources where needed. Also, the Government of Guatemala and A.I.D. signed in November 1975 a \$7 million rural primary education loan which included approximately \$4.2 million for up-grading school buildings primarily in the Highland area. Some reorientation of priorities in this program will likely be required in terms of school site selection, but, essentially, this loan is available to assist in the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort. Also, additional U.S. Government support, through the U.S. International Disaster Assistance Authority, for the early rehabilitation effort is being considered, pending further assessment of identified needs. The assessment is already underway and will require continuing close coordination with the government, other donor nations, and international organizations. Only until we know more of the nature and substance of the international and Guatemalan Government's national response can we establish our own priorities and clarify possible additional funding requirements.

U.S. voluntary agencies possess large capabilities, unique to each voluntary agency, which can play an important role in the rehabilitation phase. They are on the ground with established delivery systems which can meet the needs of many disaster victims without further straining government capacity. We hope that this capacity will continue to be utilized in the post-relief phases.



Over the next months, we anticipate that the Guatemalan Government's planning process will identify specific, longer-run needs which could appropriately be met through A.I.D. development loans and grants and which would clearly be consistent with congressional mandate criteria for development assistance. We should seek to be responsive within the means that may be made available through the appropriation process.

## 2. External Assistance from Other Sources

For the post-emergency relief phase, I believe that the major burden of external assistance can be carried by the multilateral agencies, particularly the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The major requirements for shelter and urban reconstruction, generally, as well as more permanent restoration of infrastructure (roads, bridges, railroads, and ports), may well find substantial financing through these multilateral channels to supplement Guatemalan resources. It is interesting to note that only last month the Inter-American Development Bank provided \$135 million in loans for Guatemala (more than that country has had in total during the previous fifteen years of the Bank's existence). Portions of these may be redirected as a result of the disaster. Both financial institutions are already planning their active involvement. An IDB team has already been to Guatemala and a World Bank team is being dispatched shortly.

## 3. Coordination

Leadership in the coordination of the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts has to come from the Guatemalans. They know it. With the support of ourselves and the many others interested in helping Guatemala, they can well perform the task. We anticipate that a consultative arrangement among donors and lenders will develop to insure a maximum, coordinated effort.

## V. Contingency Planning for Possible Future Disasters

Even now, the Government of Guatemala must significantly strengthen its contingency planning for future disasters. Regrettably, the possibility cannot be ruled out that Guatemala, much of which is located along the long east-west Motaqua Fault, may still face other quakes.

The U.S. Government can provide technical assistance to the Guatemalans for contingency planning. We plan to help Guatemala lay out the various options it may have for



responding to any future natural disasters. We feel that more can be done to help the Guatemalan Government not to be taken by total surprise in the event of another major disaster. For example, United States Geologic Survey Geologists are now monitoring the tensions of the fault line which runs near Guatemala City. The tension has not yet abated fully and, with sophisticated monitoring devices, we may be able to provide the Guatemalan Government with some forewarning of another major earthquake.

Because the terrain of this country has changed significantly in some areas, we are alerting the Guatemalan Government to the concern that flooding of abnormal proportions may occur this year. Members of the U.S. Army Engineering Survey Team are making assessments of some possible waterways that may cause flooding damage to the already-disrupted major highway to the sea.

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Mr. President, the government and the people of Guatemala have responded well to the aftermath of the disaster. Certainly, there were and, indeed are, problems of coordination and maximum effective use of domestic and foreign resources; but the consensus of experienced observers is that the Guatemalan effort, given the enormity of its tasks, has responded well. They merit the continuing help from the United States and others.


President Laugerud asked that I convey to you, on behalf of himself and his people, the deepest appreciation for your personal interest and support. He stressed that it was not only the important technical and material assistance being provided by the U.S. Government and people but also the moral encouragement and bolstering derived by his government and the Guatemalan people from the spirit and timeliness of that support. He emphasized, too, his recognition that Guatemala itself must bear the major burden of the present and continuing costs of the disaster and that the nature and extent of its self-help measures will help determine the nature and extent of external support.

I wish also to commend to you all elements of the U.S. country team. Under the active leadership of Ambassador Meloy, they continue to devote themselves on a round-the-clock basis. I believe all the people of the United States may be proud of the U.S. role in helping the Guatemalan people in the traumatic aftermath of a major disaster.



While many other nations and organizations responded quickly with supplies and personnel, the U.S. response, both public and private, was critical in averting a serious worsening of the crisis.

In making the trip to Guatemala, I was joined by two congressional staff members, Ms. Herschelle Challenor of the House International Relations Subcommittee on International Resources, Food and Energy, and Mr. Richard McCall legislative assistant to Senator Gale McGee, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs. I am grateful for their participation. Mr. Herman Kleine, my Assistant Administrator for Latin America, and Major Marshall N. Carter, USMC, a White House Fellow serving as my special assistant, also accompanied me. Their support is greatly appreciated.

  
Daniel Parker

Attachments:

- A - Third Country Donor Assistance
- B - International Organizations Assistance
- C - Voluntary Agency Assistance



A

THIRD COUNTRY DONOR ASSISTANCE as of February 15, 1976

The Office of Foreign Disaster Relief Coordination has reports of the following contributions in cash or kind from third country donors.

Argentina		field hospital w/medical team
Belgium	30,000 lbs.	Red Cross supplies
Brazil	45,000 lbs.	food and medical supplies
Canada	24,000 lbs.	milk
	35,000 lbs.	food
	75,000 lbs.	milk (\$160,000)
		blankets (\$300,000)
	Cash, Embassy	(\$15,000)
	Cash, Red Cross	(\$100,000)
Colombia	23,800 lbs.	medical supplies
	18,600 lbs.	food
Costa Rica	8,000 lbs.	hospital supplies
		doctors, nurses
	4,740 lbs.	medical supplies, food
	4,000 lbs.	plaster
Dominican Republic		5 doctors
	22,000 lbs.	medicines and food
Ecuador	7,000 lbs.	medical supplies
	7,000 lbs.	food
France		cash (\$11,260)
Germany, FRG	80,000 lbs.	medical supplies
Haiti	7,230 lbs.	food
Honduras	9,000 lbs.	food
		tents
	26,000 lbs.	medical supplies
	19,000 lbs.	food and other supplies
Israel	4,000	blankets
	26,000 lbs.	food and medical supplies
Italy	Cash	(15 million lira)
		(US\$22,000)



Mexico	12,000 lbs.	medicines and food
	200 tons	5 doctors
	10,000 lbs.	food per day by truck
	17,240 lbs.	meat and medicines
	10,000 lbs.	food and medicines
	8,000 lbs.	milk powder
	10,300 lbs.	radio equipment, food & milk
	13,600 lbs.	medical supplies & food
	12,500 lbs.	food and medical supplies
	27,600 lbs.	food and medical supplies
	16,200 lbs.	mattresses, food, clothes
	10,000 lbs.	food
		medical supplies
New Zealand	CORSO donated \$2,500 to CRS	
NICARAGUA	field hospital completely staffed	
	28,600 lbs.	food
	13,500 lbs.	food
	22,500 lbs.	medical supplies
	6,000 lbs.	tents and rice
Norway	Cash to Red Cross (\$90,300)	
	Cash through VolAgs (\$57,800)	
Panama	18,000 lbs.	medicines
	medical team, plasma, medicines, food & blankets	
	16,000 lbs.	food, hospital supplies
	6,000 lbs.	food
	4,000 lbs.	medical supplies
Peru	medicine, food and blankets	
Spain	medicine & supplies (\$250,000)	
Sweden	Cash to Red Cross (\$22,727)	
	Cash to UNDRO (\$11,363)	
Switzerland	Cash for shelters (\$37,500)	
United Kingdom	250 tents, blankets, sanitation equipment	
Venezuela	Field hospital, medicines, blankets, food, milk, rescue team	
	44,000 lbs.	medicines and food
	20,000 lbs.	food and medicine
	30,000 lbs.	food and medicine
	35,000 lbs.	food and medicine

**B**

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTANCE - as of February 15, 1976

Relief assistance from International Organizations has been reported to date as follows:

<u>CASH CONTRIBUTIONS</u>		<u>US Dollars</u>
1. ORGANIZATIONS OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)		
Cash for the purchase of roofing materials, medical supplies and other commodities		\$700,000
2. LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES (LICROSS)		
Contributions of goods and cash from National Societies		1,500,000
3. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC)		
Cash donation		250,000
4. PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO)		
Cash donation		50,000
5. UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM		1,180,936
A. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)		
Cash donation	100,000	
B. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP)		
Food for Work allocation	985,936	
C. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDRENS FUND (UNICEF)		
Cash donation	75,000	
D. UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION (UNDRO) THROUGH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)		
	<u>20,000</u>	
TOTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS		\$ 3,680,936

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION	6 ea.	packaged disaster hospitals
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(Three states, Alabama (through the Alabama Partners - Partner of Guatemala), South Carolina and Oregon have contributed 2 hospitals each.)



VOLUNTARY AGENCY ASSISTANCE as of February 15, 1976

The following is a list of the Volunteer Agencies and information on their activities as currently known:

Baptist World Alliance	Cash	\$2,000
CARE	9 mil. lbs. 5000 95	Title II food blankets first aid kits miscellaneous medicines
Catholic Relief Services - United States Catholic Conference	Cash 16 ½ tons	\$10,000 shelter material, blankets, emergency kits, tools, clothing (additional 30 tons being shipped by air)
Church World Service	4 truck loads 10,000	relief supplies blankets
David Livingston Foundation	specifics unknown	
Food for the Hungry	specifics unknown	
Lutheran World Service	Cash 5,000	\$20,000 blankets
Medical Assistance Program	specifics unknown	
Support for Instituto Evangelico		medical supplies
Salvation Army	1,000 lbs. 1,000 lbs.  On Order: 60,000 lbs. \$10,000	powdered milk miscellaneous medical supplies  canned food medical supplies
Seventh Day Adventists World Service	40,000 lbs. 2,000 lbs. 3,000 lbs. 5,000 lbs. 200 (have medical team in Tecpan)	food medicine blankets clothing tents



Seventh Day Adventists  
World Service (continued)

## On Order:

50,000 lbs.	corn
50,000 lbs.	beans
50,000 lbs.	rice
16,000 lbs.	medicine
100 bed	hospital
5,000	blankets
1,000	tents

Working in: Guatemala City  
and 4 outlying towns.

Southern Baptist Convention  
Foreign Mission Board

cash	\$25,000
270	tents
250	sleeping bags

## World Neighbors, Inc.

Support of 23 medical personnel from  
U. of Miami in Cooperation with Save  
the Children Foundation

## World Relief Commission

cash	\$35,000
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## World Vision International

cash	\$15,000
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## American National Red Cross

cash	\$100,000
3,400	tents
5,000	blankets
1,000	cots
20,000 lbs.	medical supplies
60,000 lbs.	food

## On Order:

3,000	tents
6	3/4 ton pickups
5	ambulances

Working in: Zones 3 and 6  
Guatemala City and 6  
outlying towns

## Christian Aid

30,000 lbs.	food
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## Help the Aged

10,000	blankets
5,000 lbs.	food

British  
Red Cross

22 tons	medicine
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## Mormon Mission

\$5,000	food
6,000 lbs.	blankets & tents
500 lbs.	clothing
500 lbs.	medical supplies



C

10/2/20  
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C

Categories assigned  
by Fred Huber Staff  
REC 10/2/79



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

FEB 18 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: JAMES T. LYNN *Chair*  
SUBJECT: Legislation Authorizing \$25 Million  
for Guatemala Disaster Relief

AID Administrator Parker proposes that the United States provide Guatemala with \$25 million for relief and rehabilitation in the wake of the recent earthquake. He has prepared authorizing legislation calling for an appropriation of \$25 million in 1976 to remain available until expended. The funds would be provided in accordance with the disaster relief provisions of Section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act which waive the restrictions on other foreign aid.

AID estimates that the funds will be used as follows:

- ° \$7.5 million for emergency supplies and temporary shelter, including reimbursement of existing accounts for funds already used.
- ° \$7.5 million for the reconstruction of housing primarily in rural areas, with emphasis on immediate needs prior to the rainy season in May.
- ° \$7.5 million for restoring roads and bridges, including the highway from the capital to the main port.
- ° \$2.5 million for surveys and reconstruction of other structures which present a hazard to safety.

This allocation may change somewhat as AID continues to assess the specific requirements. A second bill will probably be required in the transition quarter or 1977 to finance longer-term reconstruction needs.

Date 2-18-76

Action Copy Jim Cavanaugh

Info Copy \_\_\_\_\_

Follow Up \_\_\_\_\_



I concur in Administrator Parker's proposal and recommend that you promptly transmit the attached special message and authorizing legislation. The materials have been reviewed and approved by the National Security Council staff. I will shortly forward for your transmittal a 1976 budget amendment for \$25 million.

Attachments



Draft  
2/18/76

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

On February 4th a devastating earthquake struck Guatemala. That earthquake, together with its after-shocks, has left over 22,000 dead, more than 75,000 injured, and one million homeless.

The United States has a special responsibility to help meet the urgent human needs in this neighboring country. Immediate aid has already been extended by U.S. agencies, both public and private, including:

- ° Emergency shelters, medical supplies and food provided by the Agency for International Development.
- ° Transportation and medical facilities provided by the Department of Defense.
- ° Food distribution, medical services, and other disaster relief activities provided by numerous private voluntary agencies.

Last week I dispatched my Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance -- AID Administrator Daniel Parker -- to Guatemala for a firsthand review of the situation. He has now reported to me and to Congressional Committees on the extent of damage and need. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed



resolutions expressing sympathy for the people of Guatemala in their hour of distress and urging development of a comprehensive U.S. response. The Secretary of State will visit the Republic of Guatemala on February 24 to express further our support for the people of Guatemala.

I am now proposing urgent and specific action to turn these expressions of sympathy into tangible assistance. The proposed \$25 million "Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976" which I am sending herewith represents an immediate humanitarian response of the United States to the victims of this tragedy who have been injured or have lost their relatives, their homes and possessions, and in many cases their very means of existence.

This legislation, and the ensuing appropriation, will enable us to respond to the human tragedy in Guatemala. Our response will reflect America's concern for the people of Guatemala.



A BILL

To provide for relief and rehabilitation assistance to the victims of the earthquakes in Guatemala, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,  
That this Act may be cited as the "Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976".

Section 2. The President is authorized to provide assistance, on such terms and conditions as he may determine, for the relief and rehabilitation of the people who have been victimized by the recent earthquakes in the Republic of Guatemala. Such assistance may be provided in accordance with the policy and general authorities applicable to or available for the furnishing of assistance under section 491, relating to international disaster assistance, of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Section 3. There is authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out the purposes of this Act \$25,000,000 for the fiscal year 1976, which amount is authorized to remain available until expended. Obligations heretofore incurred against other appropriations or



accounts for the purpose of providing relief and rehabilitation assistance to the people of Guatemala may be charged to the appropriations authorized pursuant to this Act.

Section 4. Not later than ninety days after enactment of appropriations to carry out this Act, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the President shall transmit reports to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the programming and obligations of funds under this Act.



Section-by-Section Analysis of the Proposed Guatemala  
Disaster Relief Act of 1976

I. Introduction

The major purpose of the proposed Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976 is to provide authorization for appropriations for disaster relief activities necessitated by the recent severe earthquakes in the Republic of Guatemala. The bill would create a separate and discrete authorization specifically intended to deal with this major disaster.

II. Provisions of the Bill

Section 1. This section provides a short title for the bill, "Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976".

Section 2. This section authorizes the President to provide relief and rehabilitation assistance for the people of Guatemala who have been victimized by recent earthquakes on such terms and conditions as he may determine. The section incorporates by reference the policy and general authorities applicable to the furnishing of disaster assistance pursuant to section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, including the clause "Notwithstanding any other provision of this or any other Act" of that section which is designed to facilitate the rapid implementation of international disaster assistance programs.

Section 3. This section authorizes the appropriation of \$25 million for FY 1976 on a "no year basis" to carry out the purposes of the Act and provides that obligations previously incurred for the purposes of providing relief and rehabilitation assistance to the people of Guatemala as a result of the recent disaster are authorized to be charged to the appropriations authorized by this Act.

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Draft  
2/18/76

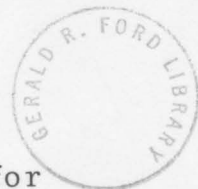
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The United States has a special responsibility to help meet the urgent human needs in this neighboring country. Immediate aid has already been extended by U.S. agencies, both public and private, including:

- ° Emergency shelters, medical supplies and food provided by the Agency for International Development.
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Last week I dispatched my Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance -- AID Administrator Daniel Parker -- to Guatemala for a firsthand review of the situation. He has now reported to me and to Congressional Committees on the extent of damage and need. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed



resolutions expressing sympathy for the people of Guatemala in their hour of distress and urging development of a comprehensive U.S. response. The Secretary of State will visit the Republic of Guatemala on February 24 to express further our support for the people of Guatemala.

I am now proposing urgent and specific action to turn these expressions of sympathy into tangible assistance. The proposed \$25 million "Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976" which I am sending herewith represents an immediate humanitarian response of the United States to the victims of this tragedy who have been injured or have lost their relatives, their homes and possessions, and in many cases their very means of existence.

This legislation, and the ensuing appropriation, will enable us to respond to the human tragedy in Guatemala. Our response will reflect America's concern for the people of Guatemala.

Draft  
2/18/76

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BB

February 19, 1976

EXECUTIVE

5P2-3-86<sup>③</sup>

DI2/CO58

CO58

FO3-2/CO58

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RECEIVED

FEB 20 1976

CENTRAL FILES

Delivered to Senate: 2/19/76 (2:30p)  
Delivered to House: 2/19/76 (3:30p)

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*Gerald R. Ford*

THE WHITE HOUSE,

FEB 19 1976



A BILL

To provide for relief and rehabilitation assistance to the victims of the earthquakes in Guatemala, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976".

Section 2. The President is authorized to provide assistance, on such terms and conditions as he may determine, for the relief and rehabilitation of the people who have been victimized by the recent earthquakes in the Republic of Guatemala. Such assistance may be provided in accordance with the policy and general authorities applicable to or available for the furnishing of assistance under section 491, relating to international disaster assistance, of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Section 3. There is authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out the purposes of this Act \$25,000,000 for the fiscal year 1976, which amount is authorized to remain available until expended. Obligations heretofore incurred against other appropriations or accounts for the purpose of providing relief and rehabilitation assistance to the people of Guatemala may be charged to the appropriations authorized pursuant to this Act.



Section 4. Not later than ninety days after enactment of appropriations to carry out this Act, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the President shall transmit reports to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the programming and obligations of funds under this Act.

Section-by-Section Analysis of the Proposed Guatemala  
Disaster Relief Act of 1976

I. Introduction

The major purpose of the proposed Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976 is to provide authorization for appropriations for disaster relief activities necessitated by the recent severe earthquakes in the Republic of Guatemala. The bill would create a separate and discrete authorization specifically intended to deal with this major disaster.

II. Provisions of the Bill

Section 1. This section provides a short title for the bill, "Guatemala Disaster Relief Act of 1976".

Section 2. This section authorizes the President to provide relief and rehabilitation assistance for the people of Guatemala who have been victimized by recent earthquakes on such terms and conditions as he may determine. The section incorporates by reference the policy and general authorities applicable to the furnishing of disaster assistance pursuant to section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, including the clause "Notwithstanding any other provision of this or any other Act" of that section which is designed to facilitate the rapid implementation of international disaster assistance programs.



Section 3. This section authorizes the appropriation of \$25 million for FY 1976 on a "no year basis" to carry out the purposes of the Act and provides that obligations previously incurred for the purposes of providing relief and rehabilitation assistance to the people of Guatemala as a result of the recent disaster are authorized to be charged to the appropriations authorized by this Act.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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GERALD R. FORD

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