

## Plane and Train Crashes

**INDIA:** A train-bus accident at a level crossing at Gauhati in the State of Assam, caused 23 deaths and wounded 54. 6 October.

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## Storms

**U.S.A.:** Hurricane Gloria hit the U.S. Atlantic coast, striking Long Island with 210 km per hour winds. Thousands of homes and businesses were flooded and 200,000 people in Long Island were ordered to leave their homes. Many businesses closed. Insurances companies now face a US \$340 million bill as a result of damages. 26 September/4 October\*.

**KOREA:** Typhoon Brenda battered the Korean peninsula for two days, leaving 12 people dead and 46 missing. About 14,000 ha. of farmland were flooded. Damages are estimated at eight million dollars. 7 October\*.

**VIET NAM:** Ten northern provinces were hit by heavy rains and floods from 7 to 15 September and by typhoon Andy from 1-3 October. The most affected provinces were Ha Nam Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Hai Hung, and Ha Bac. First assessments indicated 93 people dead, 2,800,000 seriously affected, 1,400 houses destroyed, and 120,000 houses flooded. In addition, 700 schools and 50 hospitals and clinics were damaged. 11 October\*.

**BANGLADESH:** Heavy rains during a cyclone caused the collapse of a residence hall at Dhaka University, killing up to 100 students and injuring 250. 16 October\*.

**U.S.S.R.:** The Soviet News Agency, Tass, reported that a strong hurricane hit the northern city of Murmansk, destroying many buildings. No figures for casualties or damage were provided. 17 October\*.

**VIET NAM:** Typhoon Cecil following in the wake of Andy struck some of the same areas, especially Binh Tri Thien and Nghe Tinh. The second typhoon left 670 dead, 257 wounded, and 128 missing. Over 45,000 houses collapsed, and 229,000 were damaged. 23 October\*.

**PHILIPPINES:** Typhoon Dot (Saling) hit the provinces of Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Bur Lacan in central Luzon on 18 and 19 October. The typhoon affected 1,183,600 persons, and left 81 dead and 24 injured. Estimates of damages exceed US \$27 million. 25 October\*.

**U.S.A.:** Storms in the first week of November have been blamed for 42 deaths. Floodwaters surged into Washington



Fotografía del Caribe

D.C., Richmond, Virginia and other nearby areas. The floods damaged 10,000 homes and forced the evacuation of 20,000 people in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. 7 November\*.

**INDIA:** Storms and heavy rains lashed southern India beginning 10 November, killing at least 145 people in Tamil Nadu State. 18 November\*.

**SRI LANKA:** Storms in Sri Lanka, made 8,000 people homeless and killed 10. 18 November\*.

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## Volcanic Eruption

**COLOMBIA:** The eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano melted the ice cap and created a mudslide that killed over 23,000 people, injured 5,000 and destroyed 4,000 homes in the town of Armero. UNDR0 launched an international appeal at the request of the Government. Colombian official estimates put the damage at US \$212 million. 13 November.

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## Other Disasters

**PHILIPPINES:** Sixty-one people were missing and feared dead after a ship sank off Luzon Island in the Philippines. Thirty-four passengers and crew members were rescued. 15 October.

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:** At least 10 people died in an explosion on a barge servicing offshore oil installations in the Gulf of Paria. 17 October.

**INDIA:** At least 39 people died and 80 were injured when a petrol tanker crashed and exploded near the village of Cadaval in the southern state of Karnataka. 1 November. ■

# Viet Nam Reels After Six Weeks of Storms

Heavy rains and subsequent flooding have seriously disrupted the economy as well as everyday life in Viet Nam. In the six weeks between 7 September and 16 October, the Northern and Central parts of the country were hit by several typhoons and storms. In just one week in September, 400-700 millimeters (16-28 inches) of rain fell. In October, typhoon Andy surpassed this, dropping up to 1000 millimeters (40 inches) over the provinces of Binh Tri Thien and Nghe Tinh during a three-day period. Finally, in mid-October typhoon Cecil battered the

province of Binh Tri Thien. Viet Nam appealed for international aid, and the Government invited heads of diplomatic corps and international organizations to participate in a tour of the affected provinces.

The rains and floods are blamed for 769 deaths and the wreckage of 50,800 homes, 1,900 classrooms, and 314 hospitals and clinics. In all, tens of thousands of people were made homeless. Exceedingly hard hit was Viet Nam's agriculture; paddy fields were flooded, crops, fertilizers, and seeds destroyed, and

irrigation structures damaged. To help compensate for agricultural losses in the provinces of Ha Nam Ninh, Ha Son Binh, Thanh Hoa, and Thai Hung, the Government has asked for 40,000 tons of emergency food supplies and medicines for first aid.

As of 7 November, contributions reported to UNDR0 amounted to US\$1,792,328. Assessment missions are now being planned by the US Mennonite Central Committee and England's Oxfam. Moreover, the Church World Service has launched an appeal for US \$200,000.

Even with international assistance, Viet Nam will need time to recover. Dams have broken, and 300,000 hectares (741,000 acres) of agricultural land are seriously affected. As the waters subside and the aid arrives, Viet Nam can begin to rebuild, but it has been estimated that it may need up to seven years to recover. ■

## Resident Representatives Meet in Copenhagen

Co-operation and partnership in the common cause of disaster prevention and preparedness, and emergency relief, were the main themes of the discussion which took place in Copenhagen between the Co-ordinator and UNDP/UNDR0 Resident Representatives on 8 November 1985.

"Global meetings" of UNDP Resident Representatives are held every 5 years. They bring together not only the Representatives but also members of the UNDP Headquarters' staff, and senior officials of agencies and organizations with whom UNDP has a close working relationship. In order to allow concentrated attention to be paid to disaster-related subjects, a full session was scheduled for UNDR0 in the Global Meeting.

In his introductory address, Mr. Essaafi began by stressing the fact that emergencies were not confined

to "disaster-prone" countries. Industrial and transport accidents, perhaps involving hazardous materials, could occur anywhere. He drew attention to the important part a "UN Team" (not necessarily confined in its membership to UN agencies) could play in shortening the period of confusion which follows major disasters: first, by being itself prepared to act, having collected baseline and other necessary data before the event, and second, by collecting all available information on the scope of the disaster and agreeing on a statement of damage and requirements.

The Co-ordinator went on to describe how national disaster preparedness efforts could be stimulated by Resident Representatives; how it was in a country's (and indeed the United Nations') interests to take such measures in order to protect not only lives but investments in development projects; and

how UNDR0 itself could lift some of the burden of project preparation and execution from Resident Representatives.

In the discussion which followed, every speaker from the floor expressed satisfaction with the fruitful and constructive relationship which had developed between UNDP and UNDR0 over the years, particularly since 1980. A number of issues were identified as needing further work to improve field co-ordination, and to add to the ability of UNDP Offices in developing countries to undertake long-term preparedness and prevention projects as part of a country's development programme. These matters will be examined further in UNDR0 and with UNDP in the coming months.

The Co-ordinator was accompanied during the meeting by the Director of UNDR0, and by a Senior Officer. ■

# UNDRO publications

English (E), French (F), Spanish (S), Arabic (A)

## DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

### UNDRO/UNEP Compendium of Current Knowledge

- Vol. 1: \$ 6 Volcanological Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 2: \$ 8 Hydrological Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 3: \$10 Seismological Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 4: \$ 8 Meteorological Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 5: \$ 6 Land Use Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 6: \$10 Building and Civil Engineering Aspects (F)
- Vol. 7: \$ 6 Economic Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 8: \$ 8 Sanitation Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 9: \$ 6 Legal Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 10: \$11 Public Information Aspects (E/F/S)
- Vol. 11: Preparedness Aspects (E)

## GUIDELINES FOR DISASTER PREVENTION

- Vol. 1: Pre-Disaster Physical Planning on Human Settlements (E/F/S)
- Vol. 2: Building Measures for Minimizing the Impact of Disaster (E/F/S)
- Vol. 3: Management of Settlements (E/F/S)
- Disaster and the Disabled (E/F/S)
- Shelter after Disaster. Guidelines for Assistance (E/F)
- Volcanic Emergency Management. (Handbook) UNDRO/85/3. (E)

## DISASTER ASSESSMENT AND TECHNICAL REPORTS\*

- Composite Vulnerability Analysis: A Methodology and Case Study of the Metro Manila Area. (Revised Technical Report) (October 1976 - February 1977) (E/F/S).
- Natural Disasters and Vulnerability Analysis. Report of Expert Group Meeting. (July 1979) (E).
- Disaster Management in Papua New Guinea. Technical Advisory Mission to the Government of Papua New Guinea. (12 March - 6 May 1982). (UNDRO/82/24). (E)
- Assessment of the Effects of the River Vistula Floods in the Plock Region of Poland. Report of the Inter-Agency Mission. (26 April - 3 May 1982). (UNDRO 82/13) (E)
- Mobile Disaster Units. Final Report on the International Meeting, Geneva, 27-29 April 1982 & 22-24 May 1984. (UNDRO/82/18) (E/S) and (UNDRO/84/14) (E/F).
- Report of the International Seminar on Disaster Preparedness and Relief, Islamabad, Pakistan. (6 - 10 March 1982). (UNDRO/82/22). (E).
- Disaster Management in Western Samoa. Report of Technical Advisory Mission. (May - June 1982) (UNDRO/82/23) (E).
- Displaced and Drought Affected Persons in the People's Republic of Angola. Assessment of Relief Operations during the First Emergency Phase in the Southern Provinces. (1 October 1981 - 28 February 1983) (UNDRO/83/18) (E).

\*UNDRO mission and technical reports are printed in limited numbers and will be provided on request subject to their availability.

## DOCUMENTS

- Factsheet on UNDRO: Organization, functions, activities. April 1984. (E/F/S).
- Ten Questions on UNDRO (leaflet) (E/F/S/A and Japanese).
- Assistance in case of natural disaster and other disaster situations: General Assembly Resolution No. 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971. (E/F/S).
- Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/36/225 of 17 December 1981. (E/F/S).
- Special Economic and Disaster Relief Assistance: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/37/144 of 17 December 1982. (E/F/S).
- Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/38/202 of 20 December 1983. (E/F/S).
- Special Economic and Disaster Relief Assistance: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/39/207 of 17 December 1984. (E/F/S).
- Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (15 June 1984). Report of the Secretary-General to the Thirty-Ninth Session of the U.N. General Assembly (A/39/267 - E/1984/96 with Add.1 and Add.2) (E/F/S/Russian/Chinese/Arabic).

- Proceedings of the Seminar on Earthquake Prediction Case Histories. Geneva, 12 - 15 October 1982. (UNDRO/83/33). (E). UNDRO/UNESCO publication.
- Aspects of Regional Co-operation in Disaster Preparedness in the South Pacific. Suva, Fiji, 23 - 25 March 1983. (E).
- Proceedings of the Seminar on Earthquake Preparedness, Athens, 11 - 14 January 1983. UNDP/UNESCO/UNDRO Project for Earthquake Risk Reduction in the Balkans.
- Drought Situation in Northern Ethiopia. Report of the Inter-Agency Mission (29 September - 8 October 1983) (UNDRO/83/38). (E).
- Space Applications for the Acquisition and Dissemination of Disaster-Related Data. Expert Meeting. (Geneva, 14-17 June 1983) (E).
- Natural Hazards in Africa. Working paper for ECA/OAU/UNDRO meeting on Natural Disaster Prevention and Preparedness - Addis Ababa 24 - 25 February 1984 (UNDRO/84/1). (E/F).
- Emergency Assistance to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. The Appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. (10 August 1983 - 31 January 1984) (UNDRO/84/8) (E).
- Multi-Agency Mission to Mozambique. (23 - 28 January 1984). (UNDRO/84/10).
- Sécheresse in Mauritanie. Rapport de la mission interinstitutions. (13 - 21 février 1984). (F).

Natural Disaster and Insurance. Proceedings of the First Meeting of the International Working Group sponsored by UNDRO/UNESCO/ THE GENEVA ASSOCIATION. (The Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance Vol. 9 No. 30, 31, 32 and Etudes et Dossiers No. 77)

These publications and documents are available from the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.