

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

RELIEF SECTOR
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EVALUATION OF THE RELIEF WORK AFTER THE GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE OF 4 FEBRUARY 1976

In April 1977, approximately one year after the devastating earthquake struck in Guatemala, the Societies of Central America, Mexico, Panama and the USA met in Guatemala to evaluate the work done during the emergency and post-emergency period.

During three days each Society provided information on the positive and negative aspects of the operations. Frank discussions were held on method of notification, type of personnel and material sent, coordination in the field, international radio communications, state of preparedness, governmental cooperation, regional and international assistance, the role of the Red Cross National Society, the League and all participating Societies.

Several important conclusions and recommendations were noted which should assist both the Relief Sector and the National Societies in future international relief actions. We are attaching the recommendations as an incentive and model to other Societies as well as a mutual aid agreement which has resulted from these evaluations.

It should be pointed out that similar evaluations have been made in the past on the 1972 Managua earthquake and the 1974 hurricane Fifi and subsequent flooding. The League Relief Sector encourages all Societies experiencing major disasters to make similar evaluations of their relief actions on an individual or on a regional basis.