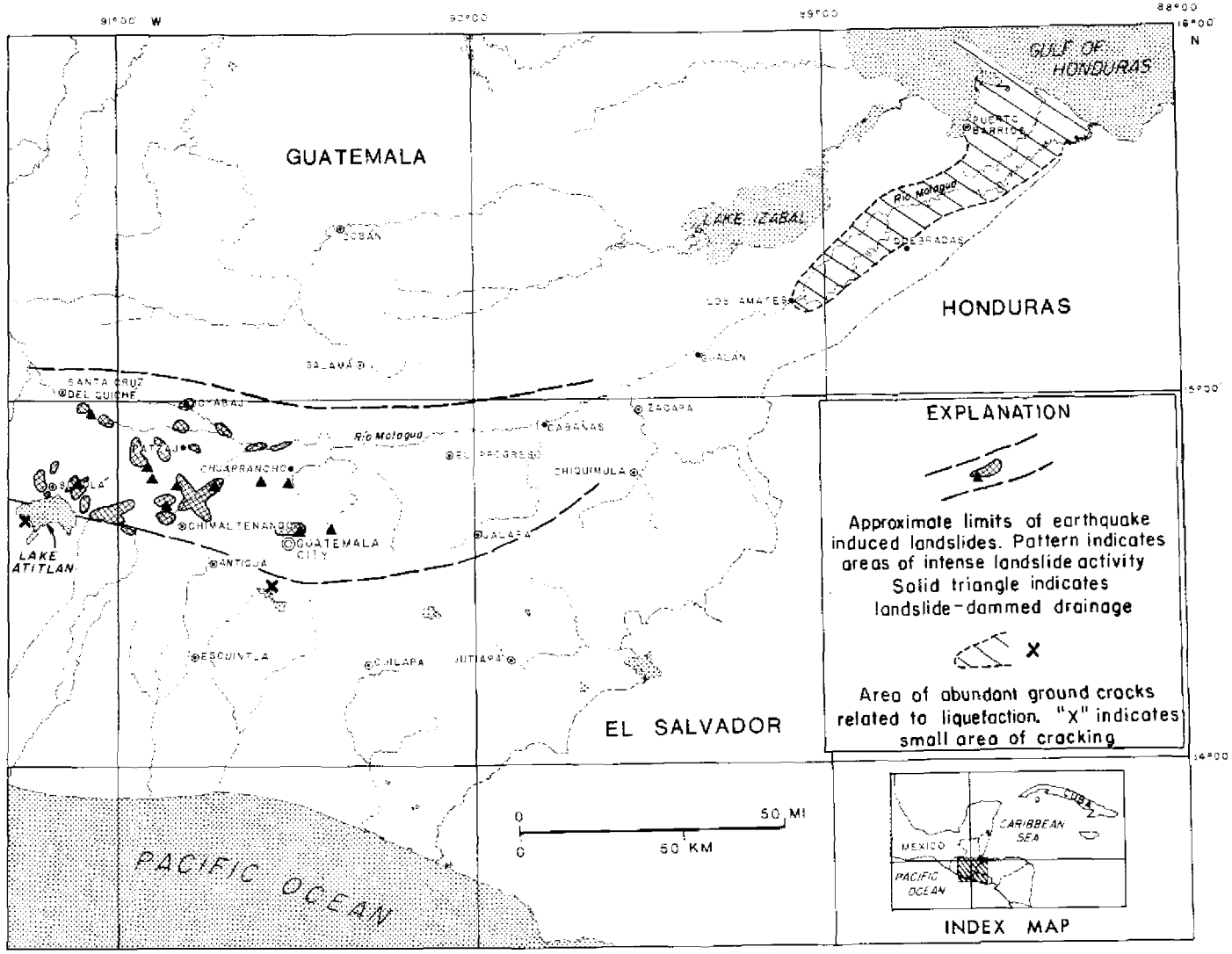

FIGURE 38.—Areas of earthquake-induced landslides and of ground cracks probably related to liquefaction of unconsolidated deposits. Landslide distribution is from a preliminary study of post-earthquake aerial photographs by Edward Harp, Ray C. Wilson, and Gerry Wieczorek of the U.S. Geological Survey.

rated materials was accompanied by ejection of water or water-sediment mixtures and the formation of sand mounds (figs. 38 and 39). Similar effects of sediment liquefaction were observed in the delta on the northern side of Lake Amatitlán near Guatemala City and along the shore of Lake Atitlán; they reportedly occurred as far away as Lake Ilopango in El Salvador.

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

There is no indication that the main event or any of its aftershocks were related to volcanic activity. One of the writers (Bonis), who studies the active volcanoes of Guatemala on a continuing basis, believes that the amount of ash erupted from the Volcano Pacaya, located south of Guatemala City, may have increased slightly but that the apparent increase is well within the limits of the prequake variations in the volcano's activity.

Numerous reports have been received of steam suddenly venting from the ground after the earthquake or of changes in hot-spring activity. Because this area is characterized by widespread and abundant thermal activity related to the volcanoes or their deposits, such reports are to be expected. Those reported anomalies that have been checked by geologists, however, suggest that there is no evidence of dramatic new volcanic activity initiated by the earthquake that could be a hazard to life or property.

FIGURE 34.—Landslides in steep road cut in stratified pumice and ash deposits at San Cristobal, west of Guatemala City.

FIGURE 35.—Aerial view looking northeastward along Río Pixcayá, due north of Chimaltenango, showing numerous landslides in pyroclastic deposits. The river was partially dammed by a major landslide, shown by arrow in the middle distance. (Also see fig. 37.)

FIGURE 36.—Aerial view of landslide in pyroclastic deposits near the edge of a steep-sided gully (barranco) in Guatemala City. Slides such as this (as shown by arrow) and their associated headwall cracking caused extensive damage to homes, roads, and other facilities in the northern part of the city.