

ITALY

Floods

October 7-9, 1970

...strike picturesque Genoa with devastating fury. 22.5 inches of rain falls during 18-hour period. 37 people were killed or missing and 1,650 left homeless. Property losses were extremely heavy. Estimated dollar damage—\$268.3 million. Disaster relief by the Government of Italy and from private sources in Italy valued at \$120 million.

Value of U.S. Assistance\$16,958

DETAILS:

Most severely hit areas adjoined the Bisagno, Polcevera, Cerusa and Leira rivers and lesser streams. Worst hit was Genoa when the Bisagno River burst its banks in the city's center, and a six-foot wall of water surged through the streets sweeping away cars, buses, animals and trees. Buildings collapsed and an ancient Roman bridge was washed out. In the nearby industrial town of Voltri, some streets were filled with nine feet of mud and slime. People were swept from bridges, drowned in their homes and/or trapped in cars overtaken by the deluge.

All Genoa Province, with its 1.3 million population in an area of 710 square miles was damaged to some degree. Industrial damage was extensive, temporarily leaving 50,000 workers without employment. 152 homes were destroyed and river beds, roads, railways, drainage and sewage networks, commercial and private vehicles, telecommunications systems and powerlines were seriously affected. Many years would be required to effect full repair and recover losses.

