



COLOMBIA

Earthquake

September 25, 1970
8:02 AM

...injures six; leaves 3,000 people homeless in Bahia Solano;
 281 homes destroyed; estimated dollar damage—\$400,000.

Value of U.S. Assistance\$4,750

DETAILS:

On Saturday morning, September 25, 95 percent of the houses in the Bahia Solano were destroyed by an earthquake which struck along the Pacific coast of Colombia. The earthquake measured 6.6 on the Richter scale. Lesser damage occurred in Pereira and elsewhere in the country. Damage to houses, public buildings, communication systems and crops was estimated at 8 million pesos.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

The Civil Defense organization, headed by General Joaquin Matallana, coordinated relief efforts with National and Department officials, religious authorities, the Red Cross, the Air Force, the Navy, citizens groups (created for the emergency) and counterpart agencies of CARE and Catholic Relief Services. Also assisting in the relief efforts was the Corporation for the Development of Choco, headed by Dr. Mauricio Obregon. In

some areas, committees were formed with the purpose of receiving and dispatching donations of drugs, clothing and food. The Navy and the Air Force aided in the evacuation of 210 families to Quibdo, the Capitol of Choco.

The National Government by decree appropriated 700,000 pesos to finance emergency expenses and to rebuild the village of Bahia Solano. The Corporation for Development of Choco invested about 6 million pesos. It was estimated that total in-country contributions amounted to 10,000,000 pesos, equivalent to about \$500,000.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

On September 28, Dr. Obregon and the Secretary of the Office of the President, Dr. Rafael Naranjo Villegas, had conversations with U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Robert A. Stevenson, asking for assistance from the U.S. Government. Under the American Ambassador's disaster determination, use was made of the A.I.D. contingency fund for the purchase and transportation of disaster relief supplies and equipment in the amount of\$2,000

An official from the U.S. Mission in Bogota was sent to Panama and arranged to obtain from A.I.D. excess property 500 new beds and mattresses and field jackets for approximately 1,000 people. In addition also from Panama excess property, a 9-ton dump truck, a 20-ton four-wheel drive truck and three 5-ton trailers were provided for earth movement and reconstruction purposes.

23,690 pounds of P.L. 480, Title II, non-fat dry milk, wheat commeal and vegetable oil were provided through CARE and Catholic Relief Services for 2,000 earthquake victims. Estimated value of this food .. \$2,750
Total value U.S. Government assistance \$4,750

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES:

CARE—Set up feeding centers in Quibdo and Bahia Solano and on September 26 began to supply food to the homeless utilizing USG P. L. 480 commodities.

Catholic Relief Services—In addition to providing USG P.L. 480 food, CRS supplied vitamins but quantity and value were not reported.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OTHER NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

None reported.

