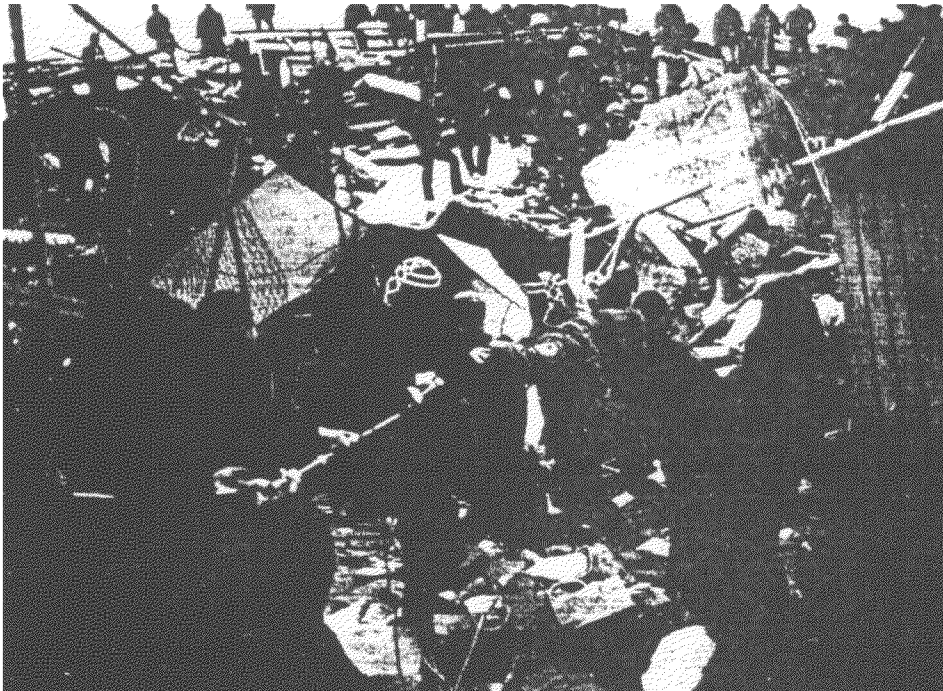


"Documento original en mal estado"



UNDRO/N. Solomatine

Most of the male population was engaged in searching for survivors under the rubble and removing debris with spades and bare hands ...

while some of the stricken population, either hysterical or in a state of shock, camped out helplessly on the streets close to the few belongings they had been able to salvage, most of the male population was engaged in searching for survivors under the rubble, removing debris with nothing more than spades or their bare hands.

It is an established fact that in all disasters of this type, first-aid and rescue operations are largely carried out by the local authorities and the stricken population itself and that most of the trapped survivors are pulled out from the ruins within the first few hours by relatives, friends and neighbours. The Armenian earthquake was no exception. Although Soviet officials could not indicate how many of the 15,000 people rescued were saved by foreign teams, they confirmed that the majority were saved within the first few hours following the disaster

Assessment of Needs and International Assistance

On the spot, the UNDRO del-

egates, in close co-operation with the authorities, prepared lists of immediate requirements, including tents, warm shoes, clothes and cooking utensils. Mobile hospitals, surgical equipment, artificial kidneys, mobile power generators and emergency communications units were also requested as rescue work continued and thousands of injured were extracted from the ruins.

On the occasion of the arrival of a special flight from UNDRO's warehouse in Pisa, the UNDRO delegates were received by Prime Minister Ryzhkov who stressed the United Nations' role in mobilizing and co-ordinating international emergency relief and indicated the USSR's intention to co-operate in and contribute to, strengthening this aspect of United Nations activities. During the meeting, it was agreed that disaster preparedness and prevention should be an integral part of national efforts to establish a sound basis for economic and social development in Armenia. The possibility of UNDRO pro-



... while others camped out helplessly on the streets close to the few belongings they had managed to salvage.