

Cariban Nurse

A friend of yours who works with Cable and Wireless tells you that his co-workers had succeeded in getting one only telephone line working. So the country again had contact with the outside world. But shortly after it was operational it became completely jammed with frantic callers anxious to learn the welfare of their relatives. The line was really of no use.

3:45 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

In the absence of the Hospital's Medical Officer, you have assumed a role of leadership. You have been working virtually non-stop since early Thursday morning. You understand that seven surgeons have arrived from Guadelope, Barbados and the U.S. to assist. You have only two operating tables at Goodwill. You hear that five others are on the way to Cariba. You have no anaesthetist.

3:40 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Cariban Nurse

You notice that things seem to be getting increasingly confused. You can't distinguish between victims in need of care, volunteers and persons seeking information about thier injured relatives. There seems to be a lot of each group.

2:20 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

You hear second or third hand that an officer in the Ministry of Agriculture who made a helicopter tour of the state reports that he has not seen a single banana plant. You know that bananas are the source of the livelihood of most of the country's foreign exchange. The citrus industry, the second largest contributor to the islands foreign exchange, has also be devastated: every tree has been damaged and all are leafless and fruitless.

2:00 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Electrical Engineer

An international agency, ABC, has responded to the Cariban calls for help. You receive the following cable:

REGRET DISASTER BLANKETS TENTS FOOD MEDICAL
SUPPLIES ON WAY SEND DETAILS FURTHER
EMERGENCY NEEDS

9:30 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Senior Staff Nurse

A Conference Nurse who is anxious to contact her family in Barbados criticizes the Electrical Engineer's use of the communication facilities. "For over an hour he has done nothing but send messages why doesn't he stop and listen for a while?"

9:25 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Minister of Health

The Minister of Industry wishes to know how soon the water supply will be operative and how soon after that will it be safe. He explains that there is little hope of resurrection in his domain until you have remedied that basic service.

8:35 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Minister of Health

You learn **from** a young, school boy cadet that Cable and Wirelases is functional. There is, of course, a set in Police Headquarters.

8:20 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Electrical Engineer

You now have one telephone line in operation. The telephone is at Police Headquarters.

8:05 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Minister of Health

You hear that people are refusing to bury their dead without coffins. They say that the loss is terrible enough; but they refuse to accommodate the ignominy of wrapping their dead relatives in cloth and dumping them in hastily dug holes. They want proper coffins and they must have their last rites.

11:22 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Senior Staff Nurse

One of the Conference Nurses advises you that a large number of the patients she has seen since about mid-afternoon are quitely confessing to her that they have not eaten for the day and have no idea when or what they will eat next.

9:50 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Conference Nurse

You return to the hotel's cellar and discover that three of your colleagues have spent the entire day there. The ventilation is poor. The pails have slop. The stench is awful. You are tired. And hungry.

9:15 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Cariban Nurse

A fisherman from Fond St. Jean reports that every single boat in the village is in splinters. "I can't understand how the Big Fisherman treat his little brothers so. I don't know what we supposed to do now... boats, motors, homes everything you know Nurse, everything mash up. And a whole set of people dead. If you see the sea pick up stones and pelting them on we little village. The sea was like a pack of mad dogs and the big breadfruit-sized stones fall on us like rain." He had a broken shoulder.

9:15 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Conference Nurse

There are several dead fish floating in the hotel's large outdoor aquarium. The pond was once a beautiful pool exquisitely sited beside the bar. Now it's an unsightly stink.

9:01 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Senior Staff Nurse

A patient from Petit Soufriere reports that he saw a massive landslide swallow up three houses and tear away a large piece of the road. He saw no life afterwards.

8:32 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Conference Nurse

As you walk back to the hotel you observe hundreds of people walking about in the dark. There is still some looting; but most people and children are just walking. You overhear a little girl ask her mother "where are we going?"

8:30 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Minister of Health

You have been advised that even after the massive landslides are cleared (and that may take several days) it will remain practically impossible to reach the airport by road because the sea has torn away at least two sections of the road. One is on the west coast just beyond Mahaut and the other is on the east coast north of Marigot. No estimate of the time required to restore those two sections of the road has been made.

7:40 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Ceriban Nurse

Already there have been two cases of dog bites and
one cat bite.

7:15 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

A critical case has reached the hospital. If the patient's life is to be saved he must be moved to another island for treatment.

7:05 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Patron

The surgeon has sent the following note to you:

I know of the incredible burden you are carrying.
I too have been working practically non-stop.
I must ask for some information from you. Please
let me have the following information on Goodwill
Hospital first thing tomorrow morning.

- (i) How many casualties have been treated?
- (ii) How many patients do we have?
- (iii) How many admissions have we made since the hurricane?
- (iv) How many persons have we discharged since Goliath?
- (v) Regarding beds - do we have any vacant?
If so, how many? If we are overcrowded,
please indicate how many we are carrying
in excess of our normal capacity.
- (vi) Let me have a list of your top priority items
which are in short supply.

Please do your best for me.

6:24 p.m.
Thursday
August 30

Minister of Health

There are reports that earlier this morning there were about 20 aircrafts and at least 8 helicopters off-loading medical supplies at Melville Hall airport. The ramp is said to be so full that the helicopters are on the grass beside the ramp. The airport itself is supposed to be jammed with crates.

1:11 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Cariban Nurse

The character of the wounds and injuries seem to have changed. The patients reaching the hospital are more seriously injured. There are an increasing number of fractures. Several ugly wounds have become septic. An increasing number of people from the out-lying villages are reaching the hospital and Police Headquarters.

12:15 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Senior Staff Nurse

You hear that there are large stacks of emergency supplies at the airport. It is said that plastic sheeting and canvas, food and medical supplies of all sorts are there in very large quantities.

12:05 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

A journalist from the Guardian (England) insists that you grant him an exclusive interview. He argues that in fifteen minutes with him you would gain access to millions of people who could send assistance in response to your requests for medical aid. He argues that in the last half an hour you have treated only three patients. He claims you are being irrational and sentimental and that you fail to appreciate the magnitude of the problem that confronts your country.

11:00 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Chief Public Health Inspector

There is a new spate of looting. The Roseau dwellers have heard of the complete devastation of the country's agriculture. There are rumours of famine.

11:00 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

A growing number of persons keep reporting to you and volunteering their services. Most of them tell you that they have no medical knowledge, but that they can see that the hospital is in a terrible state and they would like to help. A few are able-bodied young men, many are young teen-age girls and boys. There are also a few persons in their late 20's and early 30's who offer to help for a few hours.

10:42 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

The following cable from a highly reputable international donor organization has just been put in your hands:

WILLING SEND TWO THOUSAND UNITS BLOOD
ADVISE IMMEDIATELY IF WANTED

The messenger awaits your reply.

10:05 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Conference Nurse

From a discussion you overhear from among patients waiting for care you gather that several villages have been completely destroyed. You are unfamiliar with the names but they sound like Grant's Bay, Cockrand, Wittaber, Trafalgar, Pretty Sanfriere and Bruce's Castle.

9:40 a.m.
Friday
August 31

Senior Staff Nurse

The following handwritten note from the Superintendent of Public Health Nurses is delivered to you:

I note that you have taken to yourself several of the duties which are correctly defined within the formal boundaries of my office. You will please desist immediately.

The SPHN's house was one of the very few structures that was virtually unaffected by the vicious hurricane. Without a moment's hesitation the SPHN has allowed her home to become a place of refuge which provided shelter, solace and medical care to all it could contain. On her own she had worked tirelessly and unselfishly ever since Wednesday evening.

10:30a.m.
Monday
September 3

Chief Medical Officer

The Minister of Health wishes to know what precautionary measures you have established to ensure the bona fides of the overseas medical assistants who have been entering and working in Cariba.

10:48 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Electrical Engineer

You observe that some of the young ladies who volunteered to help with the telephone service have gone irritable. Then you realize that two of them have not returned to their homes since they came to the Police Headquarters on Friday morning. They have bathed in the river and slept (or tried to) on desks or the floor.

11:00 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Chief Public Health Inspector

You hear rumors that some movements in the population have been taking shape. You understand that people seem to be moving closer to the wharf and to the airport.

Your Minister has asked you to advise him on standards for shelters and camps since from his non-professional standpoint several sites seem to be "wretchedly overcrowded". He wants to know what are the standards, what is our situation and what can we do to alleviate it?

11:16 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Minister of Health

A neighbouring Caribbean country offers to supply
100 units of blood immediately.

11:24 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Conference Nurse

Crates are being delivered at the airport and dropped in the mountains. There are alarming rumours concerning the contents of the crates: there is some talk of weapons concealed below thin layers of relief supplies

11:30 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Chief Medical Officer

You understand that the Cabinet is being urged to consider a policy of encouraging the emigration of children and older folks to neighbouring countries for a few months as a means of alleviating the immediate pressures on Cariba's resources. You suspect that your Minister is likely to ask for your advice on that idea.

11:40 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Cariban Nurse

During the course of the morning three young people and one child reported to Goodwill Hospital with high fevers.

11:50 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

You have not yet received a report from the laboratory about the specimens you sent there on Sunday morning concerning three cases of diarrhoea.

12:00 noon
Monday
September 3

Chief Medical Officer

The following cable was delivered to you.

NO REPLY EARLIER OFFER STOP COMMUNICATION
DIFFICULTIES QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE STOP
PEOPLE OF REPUBLIC OF CAMAGUEY WILLING
ASSIST LIFE PRESERVATION ESPECIALLY STOP
PLEASE ADVISE HEALTH MINISTER

JULIO ANTONIO DE GOMEZ
PRESIDENT

12:35 p.m.
Monday
September 3

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

A Cariban District Nurse reports to you that she has spent the entire morning at the Public Works Depot trying to get enough petrol to go out to her community. It seems that there are several lines to get various bits and pieces of paper approved and and signed. She is fed up. She really wants to do her job but feels very frustrated by the "stupid rigma role".

1:27 p.m.
Monday
September 3

Minister of Health

You have just been informed by your colleague in the Ministry of Works that the re-roofing of dwellings is suffering a delay. A huge supply of roofing material provided by a large, wealthy country was carelessly packaged in shipment and has been discoloured as a result of exposure to the sea. In spite of having no roof at all, the people are refusing to take it. They want to wait for the next shipment. The donor agent is amazed and your colleague is thoroughly embarrassed.

Evidently the shippers ignored the packaging instructions, for you understand that a conflict between the donor agency, the shippers and their insurance company is in the making.

1:40 p.m.
Monday
September 3

Senior Staff Nurse

There are reports that a teenager in a village is administering injections. The villagers, fearful of contacting diseases are dutifully queueing for his services. It is believed that he got hold of one of the emergency medical packs that was air-dropped.

2:03 p.m.
Monday
September 3

Minister of Health

A Londish Marine Biologist has come to you in frustration. He has been trying to reach the Minister of Agriculture. He wants to warn you and your colleagues that fish borne food poisoning usually follows when reefs and the seabed have been as extensively damaged and stirred up as those around Cariba. The poisoning may not show itself for about some months. But by then it is too late and too expensive to control. He urges you to allow him to monitor the situation and advise your Government.

2:15 p.m.
Monday
September 3

Conference Nurse

A volunteer patient who offered to take drugs back to his community has returned to you. He is furious. "First I came here for treatment. I got it. I offer to carry drugs to the little nurse in my area. You send me to the hospital. I wait forever for the box. Then they tell me I can get gasoline from the depot. There is a hell of a line. I wait and wait. Then some jackass asks me for a certificate! Here are the blasted drugs. You take them to Castle Bruce."

3:54 p.m.
Monday
September 3

Conference Nurse

The Minister of Health visited all the Conference Nurses at the Goodwill Hospital, the National Bank and the Police Headquarters. He thanked you for the enormous service which you gave to the people of Cariba. He expresses the wish that you would continue your gallant effort, but appreciates the strong desire of several nurses to return to the comfort and security of their homes. He advises you that space has been reserved on a boat for you. It leaves at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

5:12 p.m.
Monday
September

Minister of Health

REGRET WEATHER PREVENTED FLIGHT STOP TEAMS ARRIVAL BEING
RESCHEDULED WILL ADVISE

MINISTER OF HEALTH
EUROPA

5:15 p.m.
Monday
September 3

Senior Staff Nurse

One of the Conference Nurses has told you that she has treated three children and two adults for skin infections. All of them have been bathing in the Roseau River since the hurricane.

5:45 p.m.
Monday
September

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

Four men bearing a make-shift shelter carry a man to your office. The man has broken his legs and a collar bone. His story is apocryphal. He felt his little house shudder and saw a window blow away. He went to block the gap with something. Then he looked outside and saw his banana plantation some thirty feet below him. His house was sailing through the air. He panicked and jumped. When he slammed into the ground pain filled his entire body. Then it and everything else disappeared. When he regained his mind his friends told him that they were in charge and instructed him not to move. They told him that he was smart to have jumped; for when his house banged into the mountain it burst like a ripe bread-fruit. "They say it was all splinters, in one blow. Well Doc, that is just like me, all splinters in just one blow." The men had been carrying him for two days. He had not eaten.

9:35 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Electrical Engineer

The volunteer telephone operator has advised you that in a call from Venezuela, that country has offered to send in their team of experts who assisted after the earthquake in Nicaragua. The team has great expertise in disaster management. The offer is for that team to direct the relief exercise in Cariba. The operator explains that her Spanish is rusty but she is fairly certain that she got the message clear.

8:20 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Electrical Engineer

The following cable is handed to you:

LARGE SUPPLY HEAVY ROADBUILDING EQUIPMENT USED FOR
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ST. LUCIA NOW LOADED FOR
RESHIPMENT NORTH WILLING CONTRIBUTE EQUIPMENT AND
PERSONNEL TO CARIBA RECONSTRUCTION PLEASE ADVISE

HIGH COMMISSIONER

8:14 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Latron

The Peace Corps volunteer who is trying to coordinate medical supplies wants an inventory of the hospitals existing resources in drugs - especially those which you think are most important in the present circumstances.

7:50 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Electrical Engineer

REGARDING YOUR REQUEST ANAESTHETIST OUR INFORMATION INDICATES YOU HAVE SOUGHT ANAESTHETISTS FROM FOUR OTHER COUNTRIES STOP WE REMAIN EAGER TO ASSIST BUT WANT YOUR ASSURANCE OF DEFINITE NEEDS STOP PLEASE ADVISE

The cable came from a very helpful nearby Caribbean country.

7:30 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Senior Staff Nurse

You know a Peace Corps volunteer who had given some assistance on a medical programme in South America. On Thursday and Friday he was busy with a gang of volunteers who were clearing the streets. You think he may be a good person to organize your medical supplies. You send a message to him. He returns with your messenger. He is willing to serve. He is obviously tired.

7:15 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Senior Staff Nurse

The Electrical Engineer received the following cable which he very promptly directed to you. It originated in a friendly prosperous country.

ANTICIPATE DRASTIC CHANGES IN ECOSYSTEM
FOLLOWING YOUR COUNTRY'S DEVASTATION
HURRICANE GOLIATH STOP WILLING SEND FIFTY
PORTABLE BACKPACK TYPE SPRAY TANKS ACCESSORIES
AND INSECTICIDES STOP PLEASE ADVISE

The courier awaits your reply.

6:10 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Cariban Nurse

A walk-in patient from Berekua assures you that he knows of only three deaths in that area. He is quite certain that there were no more. Houses were extensively damaged. He knows nothing about injuries.

6:05 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Conference Nurse

A mother begs you to adopt her two children. She has not fed them since Wednesday evening. The boy is about two and the girl is three and a half years old.

5:20 p.m.

Friday

August 31

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

You have just been told by a junior technician from the laboratory that the X-ray Department is virtually out of films and processing chemicals. He reminds you that he has been working virtually non-stop since mid-afternoon Thursday when the laboratory was tied into the auxiliary power supply provided for the hospital by the H.M.S. Felicity. He looks haggard.

4:17 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Chief Public Health Inspector

The Minister wishes your advice on the status of the water situation and whether he should accept an offer of mobile water purification plants. The offer had come from a highly industrialized, large country.

4:05 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Matron

The Electrical Engineer tells you that a friendly country has cabled an offer of an unlimited supply of water purification tablets. They will send them at your request and in quantities specified by you. The Electrical Engineer wants you to give him a reply.

3:48 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Chief Medical Officer

You receive the following handwritten note:

TO: C.M.O.

FR: Prime Minister

RE: Offer of Field Hospital

I just received an overseas phone call from the Military Attache of one of our more powerful, friendly countries. He was relaying to us the offer of a service which should be of special value to you - a Field Hospital. He assures me that it is entirely self-contained and that he can deliver one in 24 hours complete with personnel, equipment and drugs. I want to return his call as soon as I have received the benefit of your advice.

8:20 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

You have heard that there was fire in one of the refugee camps and that five tents were destroyed. Two children with minor burns on their hands and arms received treatment at Police Headquarters earlier that evening. You understand that there are dozens of kerosene table lamps in the refugee camps.

9:30 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Medical Officer

The heavy rains associated with Hurricane Ivan caused much flooding in the island and damaged a lot of the relief food supplies which had been deposited at the airport. Following the flooding there were reports of extensive looting of the relief food supplies at the airport.

11:03 p.m.
Saturday
September 1.

Minister of Health

The Senior Staff Nurse reports that there is still an alarming incidence of absenteeism among both staff and student nurses at the Goodwill Hospital. The situation is wearing down those few responsible nurses who do report ~~for~~ duty. It is quite impossible to establish proper roster in such circumstances. Besides, it is damaging the relationship between our nurses and our Caribbean counterparts.

8:40 a.m.
Sunday
September 2

Chief Medical Officer

You have received reports of four cases of dysentery
among visiting nurses.

8:48 a.m.
Sunday
September 2

Chief Public Health Inspector

The Minister of Health is not satisfied with the sanitary arrangements for international technical assistants who have arrived. He has also told you that he is worried about outbreaks in the relief camps which were hurriedly set up on games fields, parks and open spaces that could be captured.

9:15 a.m.
Sunday
September 2

Cariban Nurse

You overhear a man you recognize as a taxi driver speak about looting: "I don't like stealing; but Goliath was a special message. It was saying something to all of us in Cariba. Look, it destroyed the wealth of the rich and opened doors for the poor. Those who had, lost everything and those who had nothing could take whatever they wanted. It was a great equalizer. I worked as a driver for a warehouse for years and couldn't get leave! I had no remorse about breaking the lock on that man's door and allowing people to move in on the place. I don't drink, but I took home two crates of scotch. My friends have been having a good time with that."

You realize that the character of the looting has changed quite distinctly. In the first hours following Goliath the effort was directed at electrical equipment, expensive household gadgets, motor cars, liquor, etc., it soon shifted to building material and tools; then finally to basic food.

9:32 a.m.
Sunday
September 2

Senior Staff Nurse

The Prime Minister has been critical of your lack of preparation for in-coming technical assistance personnel. He has received from them several reports of discourtesy and discomfort. Some are housed on the President's Grounds. Several are in tents. Toilet facilities are virtually non-existent.

10.00 a.m.
Sunday
September 2

Chief Public Health Inspector

You hear that a contingent of nurses from Barbados was almost drowned at the airport last night. There was no transportation to bring them to Roseau. The heavy rains from Hurricane Ian caused flooding of the nearby river and all personnel had to climb to the tower for security.

10:00 a.m.
Sunday
September 2

Cariban Nurse

Several people with illnesses that are quite unrelated to the disaster are beginning to show up and seek treatment.

10:27 a.m.
Sunday
September 2

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

A colleague of yours in a neighbouring country has sent a message to you. He advises that he saw some food-stuff being prepared for shipment and when he expressed reservations about its quality he was harshly dismissed by one volunteer who bluntly stated that "beggars can't be choosers".

11:12 a.m.
Sunday
September 2

Electrical Engineer, Londish Technical Assistance

A Director of the Hemispheric Aid Agency (HAA) has promised \$1.0 mil. in aid to Cariba. He has given a long list of technocrats in agriculture and construction whom his organization is willing to send in. While you are discussing this aid all but one of the Cabinet Ministers are talking in a nearby corridor. Cariba normally receives technical advice and loans for agricultural projects from the Federal Caribbean Agricultural Bank (FAB)

2:30 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Cariban Nurse

A Cariban school-boy who volunteered to help in the Ministry of Health has grown quite sullen. He complains to you that he has not been given any opportunity to do anything to help the people who have suffered. He is being used as a second class tourist guide - to show foreign volunteers various rivers so they can play around with pumps; to lead others to the hospital and some nearby clinics; to show one set the intakes for the water system; and to show some others the blocked outlets of the sewerage system. "I want to help Caribans, not to take a series of visitors on guided tours of my stricken country".

3:15 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Senior Staff Nurse

You had sent your son to the airport with a friend who had promised to fly with him to Barbados and carry him to a relative of yours. Your plan was for your son to spend a few weeks there. You have just learned that your son is back at home and is crying. You were actually on your way to a meeting with Health Sector personnel.

4:20 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Minister of Health

Your colleague responsible for Energy, Communication and Works complains to you that a number of the planes bringing in health supplies are short of fuel and have to be served from the meagre reserves at the airport. "This is a very expensive business".

4:40 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Minister of Health

The Director of an international aid agency is on the telephone: he is disturbed that he has had no reply to his agency's open offer of assistance. He is anxious to learn your needs and guarantees a prompt response to your requests.

5:10 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Chief Public Health Inspector

Evidently word has got out that there is food at the hotel. At 5:40 p.m. on Saturday a young man strolled into the premises and quite calmly took a bottle of coke from the hands of one of the visiting nurses. He explained that his need was greater than hers. Now two fellows one with a machet, are speaking loudly of preferential treatment to an "imported bourgeoisie" while the "suffering masses are expected to starve peacefully."

5:35 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Chief Medical Officer

You learn from your Minister of Health that a cable has just been received from one donor country expressing alarm at a press report describing widespread looting, bordering on rioting over food supplies it donated. In part the cable reads:

WE FEAR UNHAPPY PROSPECT CARIBANS HARMING THEMSELVES THROUGH OUR GIFTS STOP WILL SEND FURTHER SUPPLIES ONLY AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES RE ADEQUATE SECURITY PROVISIONS.

6:35 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Chief Medical Officer

A wealthy, friendly country offers Cariba 40,000 portable toilets to alleviate the sewerage problem.

7:30 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Senior Staff Nurse

You have just learned that the Londish helicopter pilot is quite annoyed. He feels that for the last day or so he has been doing nothing to help the stricken population. Instead he has been used to take "all sorts of foriegn do-gooders who are totelly unfamiliar with the country on joy rides - goddam tourist trips. They are looking, not helping. And they are getting in the way of those of us who have some real work to do".

8:00 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Chief Public Health Inspector

You learn of the offer of 'thousands of portable toilets' to Cariba. You think that is nonsense. "Our problem is one of disposal. Portable toilets merely provide privacy. That is a luxury in the present circumstances. Portable toilets are really of no use to us." You decide to advise the CMO.

8:15 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Minister of Health

Confirmed deaths amount to 40. Someone mentions that it is fortunate that Cariba was unprepared. Otherwise several hundreds of people would have died in shelters. For most churches were shelters and most of them collapsed.

10:32 p.m.
Sunday
September 2

Chief Medical Officer

You learn that a baby who was quite healthy on delivery fell ill and died at the emergency shelter in the National Bank. It is said that swabs from the Baby's nose, throat and rectum were sent to the laboratory. No report has been available.

7:20 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Chief Public Health Inspector

The Chief Medical Officer has explained that the Health Sector often enjoys only a very short-lived period of priority following a disaster. "We need to capitalize on that period. Think ahead of your medium and long-term public health rehabilitation programmes and let me know what equipment, supplies and personnel you will require. Then I will be able to submit a reasoned request. I need whatsoever data and argument you can put together in the next few hours.

8:00 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Minister of Health

The following cable from a large, industrial country
in the hemisphere is delivered to you:

RESPONDING CATASTROPHIC NEWS HOSPITAL STOP
HAVE THREE SURGICAL TABLES AND AUTOCLAVES
AVAILABLE ADVISE IF WANTED STOP WILLING SEND
OTHER EQUIPMENT TO BE SPECIFIED BY YOU

8:05 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Minister of Health

The Prime Minister has emphasized that you must ensure that any necessary 'health considerations' for the selection of hurricane shelters are promptly advanced to the National Disaster Committee. You know that almost every one of the previously designated shelters collapsed during the fury of Goliath. They would have been death traps to hundreds of Caribans had they been occupied.

9:25 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Electrical Engineer

A visiting senior colleague from the area head office in Barbados congratulates you on the enormous service you have given to Cariba. Then he asks "Are you aware that while you have been cocooned in here working your butt off hundreds of little flags from that powerful gift-giving country have found their way into homes (or what's left of them) all over Roseau?"

9:30 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Chief Medical Officer

The Directors and their top technical assistants from a number of international agencies wish to meet with the Minister of Health for a deliberative examination of the Health Sector's needs. Each is willing to attend for bi-lateral discussions at the Minister's convenience.

9:38 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Minister of Health

There is to be a special Cabinet meeting on Tuesday September 4th. You are expected to present a report and assessment of the status of the country's health services following the havoc of Hurricane Goliath. The Prime Minister wants to know your plans and schedule for the return to normalcy. However, the real purpose of the meeting is to receive views from each ministry (based on recent experience) regarding the preparation of a National Disaster Plan and the designation of appropriate members.

10:05 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Chief Medical Officer

You hear that residents in a village that never had electricity pilfered quite a lot of electrical equipment. There were rumours that the police was going to raid the area on Sunday. The residents spent Saturday afternoon smashing the appliances and throwing them into the streets.

10:18 a.m.
Monday
September 3

Cariban Nurse

You hear that Makaja, a sister Commonwealth Caribbean country, has offered to send a small military unit to assist Cariba. The unit and officers had developed much expertise in disaster management from their experience in field administration following that country's massive floods a few months earlier.

8:50 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

You succeeded in getting an anaesthetist from Barbados. He arrived at the Hospital at 8:17 a.m. on Saturday. He has made it patently clear to you that his Government asked him to visit Cariba and his promise was to assist for that morning only. He demands your assurance that he will be transported to his home that evening.

8:45 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Electrical Engineer

You receive a wad of cables and handwritten notes of telephone messages from countries all over the world and just about every international agency: Antigua, Barbados, U.S., Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Grenada, Guadelope, Germany, Venezuela, Uganda, New Zealand etc.etc. There were offers of all kinds of building, medical and food supplies and a wide range of technical assistance. Tents, zinc, lumber plastic sheeting, prefabricated units, pipes, electrical fittings ... drugs of all sorts and medical equipment ... all kinds of tinned food and some large supplies of flour, rice, cornmeal, dried fish ... clothing all sizes ... All sorts of international organizations had responded UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, Red Cross, UNIPA, USAID, CIDA, CDB, CARICOM, WHO/PAHO, Salvation Army. St. John's Ambulance, etc... The range of technical assistants varied from policemen to surgeons and included psychiatric nurses, social workers, carpenters, agronomists, quantity surveyors, medical nurses, engineers, sanitary engineers, specialists in public health and various communicable diseases, economists...

You realize that several of the persons and much of the supplies would already have arrived at Melville Hall airport. The donors are awaiting replies before dispatching further assistance.

10:25 p.m.
Friday
August 31

Minister of Health

REGRET DISASTER TO COUNTRY AND HOSPITAL PREPARING
TWO SURGICAL TABLES FOR DISPATCH ON YOUR INSTRUCT
-IONS STOP AWAIT YOUR PRIORITY REQUEST

MINISTER OF CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS
MAYARO

9:12 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Medical Officer

You hear that a medical team from a friendly country has established a base in Marigot and is providing health service. The source of your report on Marigot is beyond reproach: there is no questioning its authenticity. You have an unconfirmed report that a team of medical volunteers from a church in a large country in the hemisphere is doing the same thing in Morne Raquette.

9:15 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Cariban Nurse

Somebody said that the Public Health Nurse who lived in Boetica had been operating an emergency clinic and had run out of supplies.

10:50 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Minister of Health

A great deal of help, much of it unsolicited continues to arrive in your country. It comes from a variety of sources and in a variety of forms. Friendly governments are sending both packages and technicians. Voluntary organizations in neighbouring countries are autonomously collecting food and clothes as well as sending their own representatives to visit Cariba. Thousands of Caribans studying and working in the Caribbean and North America have mobilized their communities to make donations of "anything that can help a destitute people". Volunteers from churches and Caribans with relatives at home are returning in growing numbers. They all want to help. You understand that there are considerable numbers of them in neighbouring islands waiting for the first available form of transportation to Cariba.

10;22 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Minister of Health

One of your Public Health Nurses and your Chief Public Health Inspector advise you to inoculate against typhoid. They advise mass immunization. However your newly appointed CMO advises otherwise. "Medicine is so well equipped to deal with a typhoid outbreak that there is no need to trouble to inoculate. Further the inoculation does not always work, anyhow. The decision is a purely political one."

10:03 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Senior Staff Nurse

A farmer from Geneva reports that he has lost everything but his life and his family. Everything. He himself knows of no deaths. He is certain that no landslide has covered Dubuc: his brother visited a cousin who lives there on Friday. They too have lost property but not life. He understands that there was a terrible landslide about a quarter mile from Dubuc.

9:55 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Matron

The Peace Corps volunteer has advised you that he needs some space to store the crates which are now arriving (by helicopter to Roseau and by truck to the Hospital) in bulk. He needs manpower to move the crates to a secure sheltered place. And he says he will need assistance in uncrating and packing the supplies. You cannot contact the hospital's pharmacist.

9:45 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Medical Officer

There is still no news whatsoever from the villages in the northern end of the island.

8.10 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Matron

Caribbean nurses from St. Lucia, Barbados and Jamaica have commented on the sparse attendance of Cariban nurses. "As soon as we turn up, they seem to vanish. Where are all the others? Where are the rest of the student nurses?"

7:12 p.m.
Saturday
Septemoer 1

Senior Staff Nurse

A friend tries to get you to relax by telling you the following story:

A man pilfered a large box from a store which sold electrical appliances. He laboured to carry the heavy package home. Later that day a visitor asked him what he wanted with that thing. The man explained that he wanted it to keep his water cool and make ice. The visitor explained, pointing to the big red letters on the box that the man had stolen a machine for washing clothes. The irate man vented his anger on the machine. He destroyed it. Your friend swears that story is true.

7:08 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Minister of Health

The following cable, originating from a European country,
is delivered to you.

RECEIVED REPORTS YOUR CHRONIC WATER PROBLEM
WILLING OFFER IDEAL ASSISTANCE OF COLLAPSIBLE
WATER TANKS KINDLY SPECIFY QUANTITY WANTED
WILL DELIVER PROMPTLY

8:20 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Medical Officer

There is still no news whatsoever from the villages in the northern end of the island.

8.10 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Minister of Health

The Prime Minister wishes an up-to-date report on the technical assistance which Cariba has received in Health. He would like to know how that help has been deployed and to be assured that it is being used optimally. He advises that you have a meeting of the vital officials with a view to developing a systematic disaster plan for your sector in the present circumstances. The Prime Minister would like to review that plan with you and your committee at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday September 2nd.

5:35 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Public Health Inspector

A young cadet who has been doing voluntary service at the Police Headquarters rushes to you with the following cable. He explains that he was told to get it to the Minister, Chief Medical Officer or the Surgeon; but he has been unable to locate any of them in the last 1½ hours. It reads:

TWO PACKAGED DISASTER HOSPITALS IDEAL FOR YOUR
SITUATION READY FOR SHIPMENT ADVISE PROMPTLY
IF WANTED

The cable came from a powerful affluent country in the Hemisphere which was well known for its extensive aid to poor countries, especially in times of disaster.

4:55 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Conference Nurse

Announcements to boil water and obtain typhoid injections have scared people. There is a large crowd outside Police Headquarters. People are anxious to be inoculated. They are jostling each other. Some men are forcing their way past children and women. You attempt to speak to them. They are insistent: they fear that you will soon run out of vaccines.

4:05 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Public Health Inspector

A man whom you recognize as a taxi driver hands you a note. It is from a friend of yours who is a senior customs officer:

What is the legal situation regarding all the nurses, doctors and other health workers who arrive here in response to your Ministry's request but with no travel papers and some (non-Commonwealth ones) without visas? I know this is understandable and I want to help, but what am I to do?

3:40 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

The volunteer who is trying to sort out the incoming medical supplies and to prepare the basic packages for rural areas, wants to know what drugs and supplies he should put in those packages.

3:35 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Public Health Inspector

You have confirmed that sewage is piling up all along the waterfront. The stench is stifling. You suspect that the outlets are blocked.

3.05 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Minister of Health

KINDLY ARRANGE TO MEET MEDICAL TEAM FOUR SURGEONS
FIVE NURSES ARRIVING MONDAY REGULAR MORNING LIAT
FLIGHT AFTER OVERNIGHTING BARBADOS

MINISTER OF HEALTH
EUROPA

2:08 p.m.
Saturday
September 2

Matron

The Minister of Health wants you to advise him by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 1st of the special disaster plan which he expects you have developed for the hospital. The Minister will be coming to your office and expects a conducted tour of the hospital and any ancillary locations.

1:24 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Surgeon, Goodwill Hospital

The Electrical Engineer who agreed to assist with communications at the Prime Minister's request, complains to you that the whole world seems to have learned that there are two or three telephone lines functioning in Cariba and that Cable and Wireless is again operational. The lines are virtually jammed with persons calling in for information about their relatives.

1:00 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Minister of Health

You went to visit the Peace Corps volunteer who is working feverishly to put some order into the chaos of medical supplies that have flooded into the island. He greets you with the sad news that "a helluva lot of this stuff is just pure garbage. Some of it expired before I was born. And as for the rest of it, Jesus, it looks like somebody opened a crate and threw in whatsoever was nearby. It will take me a month just to find out what's in them. It's all madness. There is one exception: the packages from Hiroona are perfect. They are neat outside and neat inside. They are properly, thoughtfully and carefully packed. The labels on the outside correspond perfectly with the contents. We can just put them right on the shelves. Oh, that is another thing. We'll need to build some rough shelves. I'll need a lot of lumber very soon. Just give me lumber, I'll do the rest."

12:56 p.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Public Health Inspector

You have just inspected the intakes for the water supply to Roseau. You cannot believe what you have seen. Several tons of mud and debris blocked the intakes. It is the very first time that any blockage of this magnitude has occurred.

11:30 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Electrical Engineer

You receive the following cable:

RESPONDING TELEPHONE REQUEST OF EARLIER TODAY
SEEKING HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR ROADCLEARING STOP
WILLING TO SEND BUT INTERNATIONAL AGENCY HERE
ADVISES YOU HAVE ON SITE THERE FOUR UNITS
IDENTICAL TO THE THREE YOU REQUESTED TODAY
STOP WHERE ARE THOSE ARE THEY FUNCTIONAL STOP
WILL DISPATCH EQUIPMENT ONLY AFTER DEFINITE
ASSURANCE OF NEED STOP PLEASE ADVISE

The cable originated in a nearby friendly country
which had consistently been supportive of its
neighbours.

11:25 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Chief Public Health Inspector

You advise the acting Chief Medical Officer that the water situation is critical. There are dead animals in the rivers. The people are using the water for every purpose

The CMD asks for your immediate recommendations.

11:15 a.m.
Saturday
September 1

Matron

Four persons have come to you. They say they have been directed to you by the Senior Staff Nurse at Police Headquarters. You are to give them the packages of medical supplies for their village so that they can pass them to the Public Health Nurses when they return to their villages that afternoon. The four persons are from Point Michelle, Soufriere, Grand Bay and Giroudelle.

11:05 a.m.
Saturday
September 1