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BOLIVIA : FLOODS

Serious flooding which has affected wide areas of Santa Cruz, Beni, Cochabamba, La Paz, Oruro and Pando Departments of Bolivia since late January has resulted in over 100,000 victims and most recent reports indicate that heavy rains still continue.

Civil Defence, which is responsible for coordination of the relief operation, requested the Bolivian Red Cross to participate and the Society appealed to the League for a relief delegate to assist them. Accordingly, the League's Regional Relief Delegate, Mr. Alejandro James, went immediately to Bolivia and accompanied the President of the Society, Dr. Hugo Palazzi, and Mr. Beno Glauser, delegate of the Swiss Red Cross, to Santa Cruz from where they made an aerial survey of some of the worst affected areas in the east of the country. Their first report to the League indicated that the most urgent needs were:

- a) Light weight clothing for tropical climate
- b) 6,000 light weight blankets
- c) 6,000 hammocks with mosquito nets (tents are not advisable in this region because of intense heat up to 40 degrees centigrade)
- d) 2 SSB radio communication units for 40 and 20 metres
- e) Cooking utensils (local purchase)
- f) 4 technical personnel to run camps (for installation of camps and radio operators) who would work with victims and Bolivian Red Cross personnel duly coordinated with health unit.

On this basis a limited appeal was made by the League on 3 February and the League's Chief Delegate in Latin America, Mr. Ricardo Bermudez arranged for the following personnel to assist the Bolivian Red Cross:

Mr. Eduardo Espinoza	Nicaraguan Red Cross
Mr. Bernardo Munoz	Red Cross Society of Panama
Mr. Daniel Martinez	Colombian Red Cross
Mr. Hector Ramirez	Colombian Red Cross

They arrived in La Paz in early February, bringing the requested radio