Alacrity's support ship provided similar services to Nevis.

Regional response teams under the aegis of CARICOM were also alerted and Barbados Defense Force (BDF) Personnel were able to be landed in Montserrat by September 18 and assist in clearance of roads. A Jamaica Defence Force/Office of Disaster Preparedness Team also arrived within 36 hours.

During the passage of Hugo, through the Leewards extensive damage was done to housing, utilities, communications, infrastructure, agriculture and commercial property. It became clear that though the loss of life was low, extensive damage had been done to property and to economic assets.

The National Authorities began search, rescue and shelter operations, debris clearance, restoration of communications, damage and needs assessment after the impact. In the case of Montserrat, the extensive damage to structures (including the islands hospital, police and government headquarters), the loss of the docking facilities of the deep water pier, destruction of telecommunication towers (and antennae) and total disruption of power and water supplies, created particularly serious problems.

The PCDPPP Team by late Sunday had preliminary reports indicating damages on Nevis and St. Kitts, and restored contact by amateur Radio with Barbados and other outside countries. Within 24 hours a preliminary needs assessment was provided by the Team.

From the track of the hurricane it was clear that Guadeloupe and Montserrat had suffered major damage. Amateur Radio and Marine VHF radio traffic soon confirmed the damage on Montserrat and a recconaisance flight was arranged for Monday 18th by a joint OFDA/PCDPPP/CIDA Team. Information had already been received via the UN Amateur Radio Station (4U1UN) on Sunday indicating French Government action with regard to Guadeloupe.

The main channel communicating official need requests and damage reports was the interisland

emergency frequency (7.850 mhz USB) established by PCDPPP in 1981 and the Amateur Radio Frequencies (7.165 mhz). The extensive use of these systems led to some congestion and it is recognised that better frequency management would be desirable in future events.

Needs lists were generated relatively quickly by National Agencies using guidelines provided in various levels of training by PCDPPP and its collaborating agencies. In several of the affected countries a constraint on the damage/needs assessment was the unavailability of key officials many of whom had suffered personal damage.

The OFDA and PAHO teams arriving within 24 hours of the reopening of the Antigua airport landed mobile earth stations and the OFDA Team deployed UHF and VHF equipment to facilitate coordination among the agencies operating out of Antigua. This was later supplemented by the purchase by UNDRO/PCDPPP of VHF equipment for interisland The British Red Cross through the LRCS also supplied a VHF repeater in Montserrat which has remained in place to facilitate the medium term rehabilitation/reconstruction phase.

Commencing on Monday 18th, emergency measures were undertaken in the countries affected involving mobilization of Police, Security Forces, Public Utility Services, Public Works Departments and all other necessary key agencies.

Immediately after the initial assessments PCDPPP called a meeting of Donor and Resource agencies based in Antigua to exchange information and coordinate response. The meetings of this group were held at the PCDPPP offices daily in the first seven days after the disaster then on alternate days after September 22nd.

The meetings were convened and chaired by the PCDPPP Project Manager for the initial week then handed over to the OECS Secretariat who continued the meetings into the next fortnight when the emergency period came to a close. Government representatives from affected countries were given opportunities to present their disaster situ-

ation reports and list of needs to donors at the meetings. The conclusions of these meetings were then relayed to the UNDP in Barbados who coordinated international donors meetings at the level of Heads of Missions in Barbados.

The Regional Defence Forces under the CARICOM Secretariat sent an assessment team to the affected area within 24 hours of the event and based on their report, a CARICOM Disaster Response Unit (CDRU) made up of elements of the Defence Forces of Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Jamaica were mobilised to provide logistical support, transport, construction and electrical skills to the affected islands. The CDRU established its headquarters with the assistance of the OECS and PCDPPP, at the Vere Bird International Airport (Antigua) by Thursday September 21 and took responsibility for all relief shipments as well as providing emergency repair services for vital services (water, electricity) and essential facilities (hospitals etc).

The CDRU and PCDPPP were the first points of contact for international agencies personnel seeking to get involved in relief in the affected islands.

Because of its direct links and collaboration with the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), it was possible to ensure that most requests from and pledges to stricken countries relayed through PCDPPP were delivered in a timely fashion from the supplies managed by the CDRU.

The need exists to improve the communication between Barbados and stricken countries in future events by the use of technologies such as packet radio or dedicated high power/high frequency radios. Significant problems were encountered in maintaining communications outside of the regular international communication systems. Nonetheless, the presence of mobile earth stations and the surviving HF links did provide minimal communications.

The Hugo event highlighted the capacity for and a framework for a future regional disaster response

triggering mechanism. The involvement of regional defence forces, under the umbrella of CARICOM, in transportation of first response teams to affected islands is a role that can be expanded. The efficiency of the regionally mounted logistics operations suggests that the CDRU type operations will also have a major role to play in future events.

As with Gilbert in 1988, the Caribbean has demonstrated that in times of emergencies there are many resources which can be unearthed to assist stricken neighbours. The relief offered from this source is generally timely and appropriate. What is needed now is a formalised contingency mechanism, whereby countries can pledge and provide specific emergency resources once they themselves are not affected.

A successful regional disaster response triggering mechanism supported by well organised national emergency systems was mandated by a decision taken at the 1989 (Grenada) Heads of Governments Conference. Caribbean governments and interested funding agencies have ascribed a high priority to this mechanism as its value was well demonstrated by the response following Hugo. (PCDPPP, Antigua)

"CARIBBEAN DISASTER NEWS" is a Newsletter covering the Disaster/Emergency Management Field in the Caribbean. It is published by the PAN-CARIBBEAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION PROJECT (PCDPPP), an Antigua based project managed by the UN DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE (UNDRO), with the technical support and collaboration of the PAN-AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO) and the LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES (LRCS).

The PCDPPP was established in 1981 for the purpose of reducing the negative effects of future disaster events in the region. The PCDPPP is funded by the governments of the Caribbean, Italy, United Kingdom and Canada and the EEC.

Comments, Articles. Information on Disaster Management Activities, Research in Progress etc. would be greatly appreciated. Contact the Editor:

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Hurricane Hugo impacted on Antigua and Barbuda from the evening of Saturday 16th September to Sunday 17th. Hugo uprooted many trees, damaged agricultural crops, uprooted utility poles (bringing electricity and telephone services to a standstill) and damaged many buildings including many designated as emergency shelters. The southern areas of the island were hardest hit as the eye of the hurricane passed 50 miles south of Antigua.

Following the passage of the hurricane the main concern was therefore, housing, and the infrastructure for water, telephone and electricity. A Committee was set up by Cabinet to coordinate all disaster relief activities.

Damage in the agricultural sector, to fisheries, livestock, crops, forestry and infrastructure, was given a preliminary estimate of EC\$11.5 million. In the case of fisheries, 90 percent of fish traps and 30 vessels were damaged. Damage assessments in this and all the other sub-sectors took some time due to the problems encountered at the national level.

The housing sector was damaged with a total of 106 homes totally destroyed and 1,500 damaged. Less than half of the damaged housing was insured. A preliminary estimate of damage to this sector was EC\$12.6 million.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda have mobilised its own internal efforts to respond to the disaster situation. Vigorous efforts were put in place to restore electricity, telephones and water services in order to minimise the impact on both the tourism and other vulnerable sectors of the economy. Approximately EC\$600,000 of government funds were spent to meet the cost of utility poles, line crews, vehicles, generators, and other necessities.

By the end of September water supply was restored to approximately 70% of the population, telephone service about 30% and electricity 80% in St. John's and a lesser % elsewhere. A distribution plan was put in place by the end of Septemberwhere all emergency supplies consigned to government comes under the management of the Emergency Operations Centre located at Police Headquarters.

In terms of Housing, information is being compiled by the Police and being verified by the Defence Force, the Public Works Department and Land Development Control Authority.

The Government of Antigua has indicated that it intends to undertake an in-depth evaluation of its mechanisms for dealing with Disaster Preparedness. Long term rehabilitation efforts will be focussed in the following areas:

AGRICULTURE

- ((a) Improvement in plant propogation facilities.
- (b) Banana Industry: 200 250 acres of bananas have been destroyed. There is need to assist farmers in the rehabilitation of this sector. Inputs will be directed to upgrade their cultivation practices and to introduce new varieties.
- (c) Tree Crops: Rehabilitation and Expansion of mangoes, avocadoes, breadfruit and citrus and the implementation of re-afforestation programmes.
- (d) Cultivation services: Need to upgrade farm machinery and equipment especially for ploughing and secondary cultivation.
- (e) The establishment of storage facilities for agricultural produce.

HOUSING

(a) Rehabilitation of the Housing sector.

Government intends to utilise the facilities of the Development Bank to mobilise funds for the housing rehabilitation efforts in the event that funding from other sources are not forthcoming.

MONTSERRAT

Hurricane Hugo reserved its biggest blow for the tiny island of Montserrat. The damage has been estimated at EC\$645 million and it is expected to take decades to totally rehabilitate the island and return it to its pre-Hugo state.

The eye of hurricane Hugo passed over the southern end of the island of Montserrat and totally devastated the island leaving 10 dead and at least 98 percent of the housing damaged. The Blackburne airport buildings were severely damaged. The concrete jetty at the Port was totally demolished and a large amount of debris was deposited in the main shipping channel. Debris also littered all roads on the island and a massive effort had to be made to clear the roadways and in particular the road between Plymouth, the capital, and Blackburne airport, where relief supplies were being flown in.

Hugo began to hit Montserrat on Saturday evening of 16th September with the eye passing around 7.25 am. on Sunday. It is difficult to obtain exact wind speeds for Hugo on Montserrat as all weather instruments in the island were destroyed by the hurricane winds. However it was estimated that winds were in excess of 140 miles per hour with gusts of over 180 mph. These winds continued strongly until noon on Sunday 17th September. The lowest barometric pressure recorded was 28.25 inches.

All three radio stations in Montserrat suffered severe damage particularly to their transmitting equipment and only GEM Radio was able to resume a limited service within 10 days of the passage of the hurricane.

Damage to Montserrat's three main hotels was extensive and one of the priorities of the rebuilding programme is getting the vital tourist industry going again. The hotel managers are hoping that rehabilitation work will go quickly enough for them to benefit from at least part of the winter season which is high season for tourism in the Caribbean. They are hoping to be able to accommodate tourists possibly from some-

time in January.

Of the estimated 98 percent of housing which was damaged by the storm, some 50 percent was severely damaged and 20 percent was totally destroyed. The southwest side of the island was hardest hit and 2500 people were left homeless.

Damage to Montserrat's fisheries sector is being assessed but the Agriculture Department is estimating damage to this sector alone at \$5.1 million including damage to boats, buildings and fish pots.

Montserrat after Hurricane Hugo was described by many as a desolate land with whole villages wiped out and all vegetation removed. Not one building escaped some form of damage with the entire hospital roof being removed. The small number of fatalities and few injuries which resulted from the disaster, was attributed to the advanced warning of the storm's presence received by Montserrat and the massive preparedness efforts which were carried out by the Government and citizens of Montserrat.

ECONOMIC STUDY TO ASSESS MONTSERRAT'S NEEDS

The Barbados-based British Development Division (BDD) has started a comprehensive study to fully assess the islands long term infrastructural and economic needs following the island's devastation by Hurricane Hugo.

The division has drafted economic expert David Marlow from the U.K. to head the evaluation team. The evaluation team which included other experts from the Division met with officials of Montserrat's Development Division to produce a blueprint for the island's economic reconstruction.

The team's aim specifically was to:

* Assess the impact of the hurricane and the reconstruction effort on the economy and on Government's recurrent budget.

- * Draw up a working plan on how to plan and manage the reconstruction effort.
- * Collect information and formulate programmes for assistance targeted to vulnerable groups, such as low income groups.

The team is also hoping to review the institutions featuring prominently in the island's reconstruction programme so that staff can be efficiently deployed and good working systems can be put in place.

Mr. Marlow had previously left the island in August after spending more than two years as economic adviser to the Government. He was specially asked to return to Montserrat to put together the BDD study because of his knowledge of the island's ongoing projects. During the period of study he will be working in close consultation with the Montserrat Development Unit under the Directorship of Mr. Reuben Meade. It is expected that the team will have its report ready for the Officials of BDD in Barbados before the end of October and present it to the British Commonwealth Office soon after that.

Also working along with Mr. Marlow will be Mr. Eric Riley as an architectural adviser. He will be assessing damage to government buildings.

(Hugo News: Official Newsletter of the Montserrat Hurricane Relief Effort. Contact Government Information Unit, Plymouth, Montserrat)

HURRICANE HUGO IN GUADELOUPE

It was Hugo's violence and duration that made it a real nightmare which began at 7:00pm on Saturday 16th September and lasted thirteen hours. The communities most affected by the hurricane were Desiderade, Saint Francois, Moule and Sainte Anne while those affected to a lesser extent were Basse-Terre, Sainte Claude, Gourbeyre... those protected by the La Soufriere range.

The hurricane warnings which were issued through all the different media and preparedness measures taken by the general populace was seen as the prime reason for the loss of only 6 lives and 87 wounded. Nine (9) additional fatalities were recorded when a military helicopter returning from a rescue mission to La Desiderade crashed at sea.

At least 20,000 people were displaced by the hurricane and although family and neighbourhood solidarity played a major role, many had to find refuge in school buildings, some of which were in poor state.

Damage to the island was extensive. Trees lost all their foliage, the banana crop was completely lost and thousands of heads of cattle had to be buried. Electricity was knocked out and the sugar industry buildings suffered heavy destruction. The tourist industry also was significantly damaged with less than two months to rehabilitate if the winter season, which begins in December, is not to be lost.

The banana industry represents one third of the agricultural production of Guadeloupe and losses from hurricane damage have been estimated at 450 million french francs. The hurricane also hit at a time when a considerable modernization process was in progress. The disaster is even greater when one considers that 333,000 people earn their living from the banana industry.

The antiquated equipment of the meteorological service proved its mefficiency as soon as "Hugo" hit the island, just as its staff had predicted for some time. The radar tower collapsed and the anemometers did not measure the wind speeds.

The electricity power plants did not lose their production capacity but the distribution network was shattered with 2250 poles and 150 pylons destroyed. The underground network was able to supply electricity only to those in Pointe-a-Pitre and parts of Basse-Terre. To reestablish the electricity network, 400 linesmen were brought in with 44 special lorries and 170 other vehicles.

After three weeks, 60 percent of the population had their electricity restored. The replacement of poles and pylons will cost over 300 million FF but they will be better able to withstand strong winds up to 200 km/hour. The underground system is not being retained except in some urban areas because of its high costs, difficulties in finding anomalies and sensitivity to earthquakes.

With 2500 telephone poles broken and 2800 leaning, some 6,000 subscribers were left without telephone service. The telephone company described the damage as "the loss of ten years work." The workforce was strengthened with an additional 160 workers to effect repairs.

Thousands of cubic meters of rubbish and debris have been removed by the army to guarantee public health and improve the depressing landscape. The clean-up operation cost the state 5 million FF and the territory 2 million FF

A high level inter-ministerial mission met on 12th October to discuss damage assessments and indemnities for a report to the Council of Ministers Meeting in Paris on 18th October. Indemnities are to be calculated by local authorities on a caseby-case basis, by sector and damage suffered and the government will establish the rates.

On the 18th October, the Council of Ministers Meeting in Paris decided that a new Prefet Mr. Jean Paul Proust would replace Mr. Bernard Sarazin and an inter-ministerial organ would be organized to accelerate the decision-making process during the rehabilitation period.

The organ would be under the direct control of the Prime Minister.

The official estimate of damage has been put at 4 billion FF with environment and the productive sector being given priority for assistance. One thousand housing units are to be delivered by Christmas to the most needy and a longer term hurricane and earthquake resistant housing plan has been proposed.

Based on the sector and the damage suffered, indemnities have been established at 20 percent - 80 percent with 80 percent for agriculture, 50 percent for structures, 40 percent for crops, 60 percent for the fishing fleet and 35 percent for family fishing enterprises, the rest will benefit from 20 percent for reconstruction of damage to non-insured assets.

Employers who are unable to maintain their staff either partially or totally due to hurricane damage will be given financial assistance to re-establish their enterprises and to continue paying employees a minimum wage during the rehabilitation period. This indemnity will be paid for a period of 4-7 months at a cost to the state of 5 million FF with a similar amount coming from ASSEDIC. The banana industry is also requesting 58 million FF to pay banana workers for the next eight months when no crops will be available and estimated losses to the industry have been put at 540 million FF.

(Editor's Note: The above information was provided by Pierre Fertin from the Guadeloupe publication titled "Information Caraibe". For more information, contact Pierre Fertin, I.CAR, B.P.958, 97176 Pointe-a-Pitre Cedex, Guadeloupe.)

OOPS!!!

In our March 1989 issue, on page 2, under the item "Volcanic Activity in St. Kitts" the depth of the earthquake was given as 305km when it should have been 15km. We apologise for this grave error







Caribbean Disaster News - September 1989

- 3. Better provisions need to be made to achieve a state of readiness and safety during the hurricane by the records, pharmacy and the kitchen departments in particular.
- 4. Arrangements should be made to secure high quality theatre equipment.
- 5. Consultants should have a clearly detailed plan as to their responsibilities to patients etc., and that this should be outlined in the new manual for 1990.
- 6. Ward sisters should also have their activities and responsibilities detailed in the next manual.
- 7. A definite plan for making radio announcements should be drawn up.
- 8. The identified control room should be fully stocked in advance, including a radio etc.

A draft of the new revised edition of the manual should be ready for circulation by January 1990, and the final version should be circulated by April 1990. In the next edition, the above comments will be used as a guide for modifications/additions. Comments arising after the circulation of the draft version, will be included in the final version.

An assessment of emergency procedures activated indicated that there was need for Radios at the main health centres and mobilization of Ham radio operators. The main health centres also need to be equipped with generators.

Coordination among key response sectors was lacking. There is need for functioning of District Disaster Committees and coordination among key response sectors during all phases of disaster.

It has been suggested that a helicopter landing should be located in each district. A list of basic drugs need to be identified including injectables, I.V. fluids, trauma supplies, and approval sought for supplying clinics.

It was also recommended that medical/nursing protocols for treatment of trauma be developed.

Dominica's electricity, water, communication and other essential services were maintained. Electricity was restored within 12-24 hours in Roseau and other districts. The use of a microwave system and underground cables contributed to maintenance of telephone communication.

Following the severe impact of Hurricane Hugo on its sister islands Montserrat and St. Kitts, Dominica sent medical teams to assist in the relief/recovery efforts.

(G. Noel, Consultant to Pan American Health Organisation)

UNITY IN ADVERSITY

(Editor's Note: In September 1988, Jamaica had suffered extensive damage when Hurricane Gilbert impacted on that island. The following editorial is reprinted from the edition of the 'Jamaican Record' Newspaper published two days after the passage of Hurricane Hugo through the Leeward Islands.)

Hurricane Hugo has left a trail of devastation in the wake of its passage through the Leeward Islands. Our sympathy and concern go to the victims.

With the painful memory of hurricane Gilbert still fresh in our minds, we held our breath and prayed that those small and beautiful "islands of the sea", would be spared the full impact of the hurricane, but this was not to be. Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua, St. Kitts/Nevis have all been hit and have suffered varying degrees of damage.

We understand that the government has organized a consignment of relief supplies which is ready to be flown to the strickened islands as soon as the weather permits. We heartily applaud this quick response.

When we were hit by Gilbert last year the people and governments of those islands responded generously to our appeals for emergency supplies and continued to provide material and financial assistance to our rebuilding efforts. We can do no less for them.

But we should not leave it up to the government alone to send relief supplies; individuals who can afford to give money and businesses which can donate emergency supplies and equipment should immediately contact the Red Cross, the Caribbean Council of Churches or the CARI-COM Secretariat. We appeal to those people with the kinds of technical expertise (doctors, nurses, power engineers, water and sanitation technicians) which from our recent experience we know are needed in the aftermath of such a disaster, to offer their services to our brothers and sisters in the Eastern Caribbean in their hour of need.

Previous hurricanes have tended to hit individual islands. When this happens it has hitherto been relatively easy to channel relief to the afflicted territory.

This time, the scale and logistics of the relief effort will be extremely difficult given that the devastation is spread over so many islands which themselves are separated by miles of ocean.

Such a multiple catastrophe highlights the need for a Pan-Caribbean disaster emergency response organization.

There are all sorts of regional organizations with all kinds of grandiose aims and purposes but none to deal with the annual threat to life and property which storms and hurricanes represent in the Caribbean. Here's a practical way for the governments of Caricom to demonstrate the "unity" and "solidarity" they prattle on about at their frequent meetings.

Our leaders should not need persuading that an organisation to deliver relief and assistance in times of disaster would be heartily supported by the Caribbean people. This is one expenditure from which they'll loose no votes.

(Jamaican Record, Sept. 19, 1989)

RED CROSS AND HURRICANE HUGO

Hurricane Hugo left a trail of devastation and death; human anguish and suffering; and a repair bill that will eventually run into several million dollars. But something positive has emerged from the ruins of the September tropical disaster.

Caribbean Red Cross representatives, operating from the staging post in Antigua, are now better prepared to deal with regional catastrophes. They have gained invaluable experience setting up distribution systems, gathering logistic information related to relief supplies, and surveying the needs of hurricane victims.

Red Cross relief workers from the Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago worked together with veteran Red Cross personnel from Canada, England, the United States and West Germany.

They helped to set up distribution centers in Montserrat and Nevis, supervised the actual distribution of relief supplies in Antigua, Montserrat and Nevis, and the collection of logistic data concerning Red Cross supplies entering and leaving Antigua.

They also conducted a survey of the damage done to Antigua's fishing fleet and the reconnection of water supplies in the rural areas of St. Kitts, in addition to observing how a situation report is compiled after the field work has been completed.

For members of the Jamaican contingent it was a matter of further honing skills developed following the devastation by Hurricane Gilbert last year. Franklyn Smith, a full-time member of the Jamaican Red Cross, referring to relief operations after hurricane Gilbert, put it this way: I learned in one year more than I did in five years".

The West Indian Red Cross delegates were requested by LRCS Sub-Regional Delegate Audrey Mullings, who is responsible for the Caribbean, designated Sub-Region 11 by the Geneva headquarters of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Ms. Mullings, a Jamaican na-

tional, is based at the PCDPPP in Antigua.

Mullings, chief delegate for Hugo Red Cross relief operations, used the opportunity provided by the hurricane to test the skills of Red Cross workers and to offer them practical experience in dealing with regional disasters.

It is the first time Caribbean Red Cross personnel have come together in an international relief effort, especially in this region. But Franklyn Smith believes the regional Red Cross Societies should be equipped to respond to disasters in this part of the world and beyond in the same manner delegates from metropolitan countries respond to disasters worldwide. This would also help, the Jamaican says, to forge regional societies closer together and sharpen their responses to disaster situations.

Descima Alexander of St. Vincent and the Grenadines agrees that disasters such as Hurricane Hugo help to strengthen small Red Cross societies such as those in the Caribbean. She recalled events following the eruption of the Soufriere Volcano in 1979 and reported that the Red Cross Society in St Vincent has experienced tremendous growth since then.

Montserrations, who have suffered most from Hurricane Hugo, have already started enquiries about joining the international relief organization.

(Wayne Lewis, EC News Correspondent, Barbados)

HURRICANE HUGO: MORE CASH NEEDED

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has appealed for CHF one million to help victims of Hurricane Hugo on the Caribbean islands of Antigua and St. Kitts and Nevis. The call for funds follows on a preliminary appeal made immediately after the disaster for CHF 500,000, now covered by contributions from 12 societies and governments.

On Antigua the new appeal will finance the last stage of relief aid—a one month dry ration distribution to 50 families—and the rehabilitation phase of the operation. This will entail rebuilding a part of the 300 homes destroyed by the storm. On St. Kitts and Nevis the money will provide dry food rations for 1,000 families for 60 days and enable the Red Cross to distribute bedding and kitchen utensils to 1,000 disaster victims.

In the immediate emergency phase the Red Cross of Antigua provided food and clothing to 474 homeless, plus blankets and rolls of plastic. The Red Cross on St. Kitts and Nevis conducted a damage survey, served hot meals to victims, and distributed clothing, food and bedding.

(Weekly News, October 1989)

SALVATION ARMY BUILDS HOUSES

The internationally renowned charitable organization, the Salvation Army is assisting in the building of 400 homes for Montserrat's homeless.

Building contractor and Salvation Army "soldier" John Pickering is heading a team from Canada which is helping to build the new 16x12 homes. They come complete with roof strapping and internal partitioning. No cost has been given for the individual units.

Mr. Pickering told the Hugo News his team is providing the labour courtesy of the Salvation Army while the Public Works Department will be providing the materials for the 400 pre-fabricated homes.

The workmen have been making use of local building materials but they are afraid these will soon dry up. A model of the new homes was constructed at a factory site in Plymouth and exhibited for viewing.

The houses will be given to residents in different parts of the country on a needs basis.
(Hugo News, Montserrat)