



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

file Hurricane Mitch

November 3, 1998

The Administrator

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President
FROM: J. Brian Atwood *J. Brian Atwood*
SUBJECT: Response to Hurricane Mitch

The devastation suffered by the countries of Central America goes well beyond anything experienced in the last half century. The death and destruction it has wrought surpasses the 1972 earthquake in Nicaragua. That tragedy destroyed the city. The hurricane and floods have destroyed the entire Northwest of the country. The latest estimates of casualties exceed 7000 and the true death toll may never be known, as thousands still remain missing. The grimest episode occurred when the volcanic lake in rural Nicaragua collapsed and the ensuing mud slide buried the four villages below. This event may account for the largest single loss of life in this tragedy (610 dead, over 1900 still missing).

Honduras has borne the brunt of this hurricane. From one end of the country to the other, the wind and floods have produced devastation. The coastal towns in the north caught the storm center, with most of the homes destroyed and hundreds of thousands displaced. The capital city of Tegucigalpa and the economic center, San Pedro Sula, have been cut off by the rising floods that have taken out 95 bridges and damaged 75 more. The Ambassador has described it as a "country of islands." The mayor of Tegucigalpa was killed while trying to survey the damage when his helicopter crashed. President Carlos Flores Facusse has said that his country has been "mortally wounded" and has appealed for international assistance.

USAID has brought its resources to bear with immediate food, water and search and rescue teams financed through our Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), but it is clear to me that the level of effort will need to be substantially augmented during the next several weeks. Preliminary assessments are now available from Honduras and Nicaragua, which were the hardest hit, but we expect to have additional requirements from El Salvador and Guatemala. A substantial portion of the economic infrastructure in Nicaragua and Honduras was razed with truly staggering humanitarian, social and political consequences. The close relations that we share with these countries--through ties of people, geography, travel and trade--merit a substantial effort on our part.

Honduras The head of the Central Bank noted that as a result of the heavy losses to agriculture as well as other areas of the economy, the expected growth of GDP this year will plummet from a positive 5% to a negative 2%. Beyond the immediate needs of feeding those displaced, the country's main infrastructure (roads, power, water) will need to be restored. Tegucigalpa is cut off from land resupply for food or other goods. Priority needs to be placed on restoring the principal arteries between Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula and between Tegucigalpa and the southern coast. Getting water and fuel into Tegucigalpa has been a focus of USAID and SOUTHCOM relief efforts thus far.

Nicaragua Agriculture accounts for 30% of this country's GDP and 60% of its exports, employing one-third of the work-force, but a much higher percentage in the areas hit by the hurricane. Some 400,000 people have been displaced by the hurricane and are in need of food and shelter. An estimated 134 communities are totally isolated by the flooding and mud slides. A real concern exists over the threat to public health posed by cholera, dengue and malaria. USAID's proposed response will focus in the areas of food, shelter, agriculture (flood control, crop restoration), public health and infrastructure.

USG and Donor Response

USAID has activated all available mechanisms to respond to this situation, led by our Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. To date, some \$5 million has been programmed with the bilateral USAID missions in each country exploring what existing resources can be channelled for emergency assistance. We will provide substantially more assistance in the immediate future, both disaster relief and food aid. Emergency health funding of \$500,000 has been made to the Pan American Health Organization, and that will grow. OFDA's efforts have received substantial support from the U.S. military, particularly in the deployment of air assets for assessment, delivery of relief supplies and equipment and search and rescue. I hope this will be the precursor to a much larger effort by the military which reflects the level of need and the importance of a response to these close neighbors of the United States.

We met this morning with Ambassador Aguirre of Nicaragua who had just returned from his country to survey the damage. A similar meeting is scheduled tomorrow with the Honduran Ambassador to the U.S. We met this afternoon with representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank and International Monetary Fund who indicated that through reprogramming of the existing and approved loans, some \$100 million could be made available to each country in the next few months. An IDB team leaves for Honduras tomorrow and will be in Nicaragua on Saturday. In addition, the IDB has \$1.2 million for hiring disaster/technical experts. Similar teams will also be dispatched to El Salvador and Guatemala this week. In my discussions with IDB President Enrique Iglesias today, he said that the IDB would be prepared to finance immediate needs, particularly bridges. We are scheduling a meeting on Thursday with Mr. Iglesias to tie that promise down. Planned donor conferences for 1999 for Honduras and Nicaragua will be moved forward and refocused in order to deal with reconstruction needs.

I believe that the U.S. Government will have to pursue significant additional funding as part of an emergency international donor effort to help reconstruct countries which have lost years of development effort in a few short days. I recognize budgetary constraints. However, in past catastrophic disasters in this hemisphere, such as the Managua earthquake and the floods in Peru we sought and obtained from Congress substantial emergency supplemental assistance. This disaster is comparable and hopefully the response of the American people will be as generous.

Mr. President, given the magnitude of this disaster, I view our actions to date as only providing a preliminary response. I am prepared to travel to Honduras and Nicaragua as soon as our embassies believe it would be most useful to further underscore your announced commitment to stand by the people of those countries and help them cope with this tragedy.

cc: The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright
 Mr. Samuel Berger
 The Honorable Jacob Lew
 Mr. Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

File
Hurricane
Mitch

As most Americans now know, two hurricanes ravaged Central America and the Caribbean late last year, wreaking havoc on fragile economies and causing great human suffering. I traveled to Central America in November to witness the destruction. I was deeply affected by its magnitude, and equally moved by the extraordinary response of the U.S. government, the private sector, and charitable organizations in the United States. While it is impossible to identify all organizations and citizens that participated in this effort, I would like everyone to know that each and every donation was badly needed, and deeply appreciated by the people of this region. As you will read in this report, the Central American relief effort has shown how selflessly the United States can reach out to its neighbors in a time of need. I am extremely proud of the support and generosity of the American people in this endeavor.

But our job is not done. The task of reconstructing homes and schools, breathing new life into devastated economies and rebuilding shattered lives is an ongoing effort. In the weeks after the hurricanes struck, images of the disaster played out on our television screens. Full color pictures in the pages of our newspapers gave Americans a first-hand look at the magnitude of the crisis. Now, although the pictures of death and devastation have faded, we must not forget that the destruction caused by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges continues to seriously threaten the region's progress toward political and economic stability. I encourage you to continue your support of efforts in the region.

The Administration's proposed long-term relief measures are a part of this effort. They are designed not merely to aid in the reconstruction of the Central American economies, they are designed to facilitate the transformation of these nations into more stable and productive economies. By assisting the citizens of Central America and the Caribbean to preserve and safeguard the tremendous progress they have already made toward becoming mature stable democracies on solid economic footing, we are helping our neighbors help themselves, and I do not over-speak when I say the world will be a better place for it.

On behalf of every citizen across the region, I thank you for your past generosity, and I urge your support for our future endeavors to aid our closest neighbors in their time of need.

Katy,
This is the paper
on the Commerce
Report Intro... I've
emailed you the
draft too. -ERIC

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY— ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Eric Woodward

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE PHONE ► (Enter area code, if necessary) ☐ DSN

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

#1 needs approval
of letter for
commerce report.

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

11:15

NSN 7540-00-634-4018
50363-111
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OPTIONAL FORM 363 (Rev. 7-94)
General Services Administration

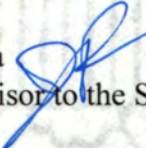
Cheryl -
The first Lady's
office is being
harassed about
this & needs
an answer
soon.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 29, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: James Doyle
Deputy Chief of Staff

FROM: David Festa 
Senior Advisor to the Secretary

SUBJECT: Document on U.S. Role in Central American Relief and Reconstruction

Attached is a report highlighting the efforts of the U.S. public, private and non-profit sectors in the relief and reconstruction of Central America and the Caribbean after Hurricanes Mitch and Georges. The report was undertaken jointly by the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It is not all-inclusive, but is representative of what each of the sectors has done. It will be printed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and unveiled at an event to be sponsored by the Chamber in mid-May.

Jim -
we'd love to get
The First Lady to do the
forward. I've attached
a draft. Any advice
on how to proceed would
be welcomed!
Sandra

Per your request --

C -
edits included

DRAFT STATEMENT FROM FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON:

As most Americans now know, two hurricanes ravaged Central America and the Caribbean late last year, wreaking havoc on fragile economies and causing great human suffering. I traveled to Central America in November to witness the destruction. I was deeply affected by its magnitude, and equally moved by the extraordinary response of the U.S. government, the private sector, and charitable organizations in the United States. While it is impossible to identify all organizations and citizens that participated in this effort, I would like everyone to know that each and every donation was badly needed, and deeply appreciated by the people of this region. As you will read in this report, the Central American relief effort has shown how selflessly the United States can reach out to its neighbors in a time of need. I am extremely proud of the support and generosity of the American people in this endeavor.

But our job is not done. The task of reconstructing homes and schools, breathing new life into devastated economies and rebuilding shattered lives is an ongoing effort. In the weeks after the hurricanes struck, images of the disaster played out on our television screens. Full color pictures in the pages of our newspapers gave Americans a first-hand look at the magnitude of the crisis. Now, although the pictures of death and devastation have faded, we must not forget that the destruction caused by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges continues to seriously threaten the region's progress toward political and economic stability. I encourage you to continue to your
[generously provide donations and] support [for] the region.

of efforts in

The Administration's proposed long-term relief measures are a part of this effort. They are designed not merely to aid in the *reconstruction* of the Central American economies, they are designed to facilitate the *transformation* of these nations into more stable and productive economies. By assisting the citizens of Central America and the Caribbean to preserve and safeguard the tremendous progress they have already made toward becoming mature stable democracies on solid economic footing, we are helping our neighbors help themselves, and I do not overspeak when I say the world will be a better place for it.

On behalf of every citizen across the region, I thank you for your past generosity, and I urge your support for our future endeavors to aid our closest neighbors in their time of need.

• INTRODUCTION

- Intro letter by H.Clinton



Disaster Strikes Central America and the Caribbean

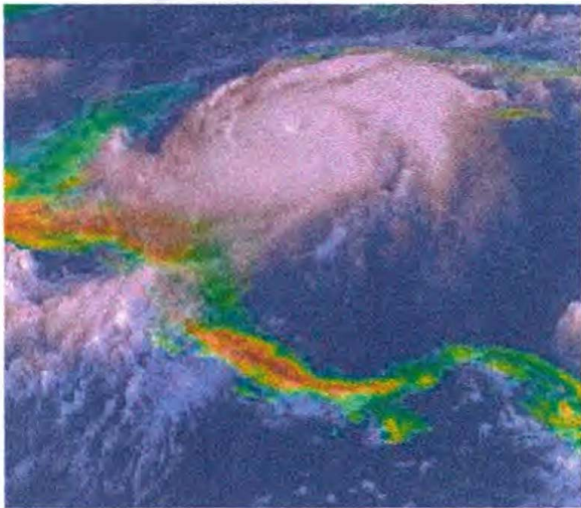
Between October 27 and November 1 of last year, Hurricane Mitch, one of the most powerful Caribbean storms ever recorded, pounded Central America causing thousands of fatalities and billions of dollars in damages. Honduras suffered the brunt of the hurricane's force, followed by Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Country	Dead or Missing	Displaced	Damages
Honduras	9,000	2,100,000	\$2 billion
Nicaragua	3,500	860,000	\$1.5 billion
El Salvador	360	67,000	\$1 billion
Guatemala	380	113,000	\$1 billion

Source: United Nations, USAID reports

The loss of life and damage to the region's infrastructure is staggering. The monetary damages sustained by Honduras and Nicaragua are roughly equal to 40 percent of those countries' GDP. On a scale closer to home, if the United States were to have suffered a disaster on the same scale as Honduras, there would have been over 400,000 deaths, 96 million homeless, and direct damages worth over 4.5 trillion dollars. And Hurricane Mitch was not the region's first disaster of the hurricane season. Just one month earlier, from September 20 to 22, Hurricane Georges struck the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the eastern Caribbean, causing hundreds of deaths, devastating the region's agricultural sector and causing nearly \$2 billion in damages.

The destruction wrought on Central America and the Caribbean by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges galvanized the public and private sectors in the United States, in an unprecedented level of cooperation between them and with non-governmental and private voluntary organizations. In this publication, we have summarized the efforts of the public, private and NGO sectors in the United States to assist in the relief and reconstruction efforts of our neighbors in the region. In doing so, we have attempted to chronicle a representative sample of the outpouring of assistance from all levels of society. The aid effort encompassed from Fortune 500 companies to the students of the Country Day School in Boston, and everything in between. While it is impossible to list here each and every contribution to the relief effort, the citizens of Central America and the Caribbean are grateful for the outpouring of assistance of all.



Satellite photo of Hurricane Mitch over Central America, October 29, 1998

- **THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

- Intro letter by Commerce Secretary William Daley

Hurricane Mitch Relief: A Humanitarian and Strategic Need

The United States Government's response to Hurricane Mitch was immediate. Even before the hurricane had finished wreaking its deadly force on Central America, United States government agencies had sprung into action, delivering immediate humanitarian aid and drawing up plans for longer-term relief and reconstruction. To date, the United States has provided more than \$300 million in immediate humanitarian relief aid for food, medicine, emergency shelter and agricultural assistance, channeled mostly through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and President Clinton has asked Congress for authorization of almost one billion dollars more to address the longer-term recovery and reconstruction needs in Central America.



IDB

Tegucigalpa residents dig out after the disaster

The Immediate Response: Airlift

On November 3, just hours after the hurricane winds subsided, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a \$20 million emergency food aid package to Honduras (\$10 million), Nicaragua (\$7 million) and Guatemala (\$3 million).

USAID initiated airlifts of food aid which began arriving in Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala on November 7. Between November 7 and November 18, the U.S. airlifted 3.7 million pounds of food to these three countries - or enough for 2.5 million meals. In fact, the United States already has airlifted more supplies to Central America than it did during the infamous Berlin Airlift at the start of the Cold War. According to USAID Administrator J. Brian Atwood, the current Mitch relief campaign represents "the largest airlift of food from the continental U.S. in history."



USAID

The unloading operation of the second USAID/OFDA relief supplies flight

A Multi-Agency Effort

In the words of USAID Administrator Brian Atwood, over one dozen U.S. Government agencies are working in concert "to pursue a comprehensive approach that addresses such related issues as trade, debt relief, immigration and reconstruction assistance" for the region. The main roles in the early relief effort were played by the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, and the Agency for International Development.

U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense has already spent nearly \$150 million to support relief and rehabilitation efforts in Central America. At the height of the relief effort, 5,300 military personnel were in Central America, representing the four armed services and their reserve components.

Today, Joint Task Force Commanders in Honduras and El Salvador remain active in the region, coordinating the U.S. military response. U.S. Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard forces will be present in Central America through September 1999 to build schools and clinics, drill wells and repair additional roads and bridges, as part of an engineer and medical field training exercise called New Horizons.

Military personnel rescued more than one thousand people trapped by flood waters and provided medical care and immunizations to over 35,000 people. They cleared major roads and bypasses, and erected prefabricated bridges. Military personnel also repaired medical clinics and schools, and provided communities with safe drinking water by building wells.

Military aircraft - including 53 helicopters - were deployed throughout the region to assist with distribution, delivering more than 3.2 million pounds of food and more than 500,000 gallons of water. In all, the Defense Department transported to the region almost 8 million pounds of food, clothing, medicine and other relief items donated by American citizens.



USAID

A Black Hawk helicopter being reassembled for flight operations after arriving in Guatemala City. The helicopter was used to deliver food aid and other humanitarian assistance.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA has provided food aid and concessional loans valued at \$63 million. USDA is delivering 120,000 metric tons of wheat for Honduras and Nicaragua, 60,000 metric tons of wheat for Guatemala and El Salvador and 50,000 metric tons of corn for the four countries. It will also provide \$20 million in grants to Honduras and Nicaragua for the purchase of beans, vegetable oil, rice, and other basic commodities, and \$10 million in Title I concessional loans for food purchases for El Salvador and Guatemala.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID has already identified an initial \$120 million within its own budget to support reconstruction efforts in Central America by reprogramming existing food and other funding and reallocating recently appropriated fiscal year 1999 assistance. These funds will help rehabilitate transportation infrastructure, restore public utilities, support health care, reestablish crop and livestock production and revitalize the economic sector. Of this, USAID will channel \$66.6 million to programs in Honduras, \$32.4 million for reconstruction in Nicaragua, \$16 million for El Salvador and \$5 million for Guatemala. USAID has also engaged with the private sector and U.S.-based NGOs to leverage contributions and investments toward Central American reconstruction.



USAID

Non-governmental organizations throughout the United States have joined forces with USAID in the relief and reconstruction effort. USAID has transported over 11 million pounds of emergency supplies through its Denton Program since the Mitch disaster. These 11 million pounds of donated goods came from 70 non-governmental and private voluntary organizations around the country, a shining example of public sector-NGO cooperation in the interest of our Central American neighbors.

\$1 Billion Supplemental Assistance Proposed

This effort on the part of the U.S. Government is unparalleled in our recent past: the \$305 million the United States has spent thus far on relief efforts in the region has already surpassed the \$297 million it spent on a combination of Central American natural disasters since 1964. Above and beyond this \$300 million in initial emergency relief efforts, the Clinton Administration has shown a strong commitment to longer term reconstruction after Hurricane Mitch. On February 16, President Clinton proposed \$956 million in additional funding for disaster assistance in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. This additional funding, announced by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House, would bring total U.S. assistance to the affected countries to more than \$1.2 billion.

The President's \$956 million proposal would provide funding for reconstruction and restoration of local economies, prevention efforts to avoid future losses through environmental management and disaster mitigation, and debt relief. It will replenish USAID and Department of Defense funds already spent in immediate response to the hurricanes, and will provide \$80 million to the Department of Justice's Immigration and Naturalization Services to support policies intended to delay deportation to these countries and for other costs related to these disasters. Around \$50 million of the supplemental aid package will go to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Eastern Caribbean countries which collectively suffered more than \$2 billion in damage from Hurricane Georges in September 1998. Key components of the supplemental assistance and the proposed spending breakdown for post-Mitch and Georges reconstruction are as follows:

Economic Reactivation (\$283 million):

An allotment of \$283 million will restart economies by constructing or repairing rural roads; providing 70,000 micro-enterprise loans; providing seeds, tools and fertilizer for almost five million people; and helping 65,000 hillside farmers adopt sustainable production techniques.

Public Health (\$136 million):

An allotment of \$136 million for public health programs will benefit four million people by rebuilding or repairing over 750 health posts and clinics, providing water and sanitation services, and providing medical services for 17 million people.

Debt Relief (\$124 million):

In order to enable Central American nations to concentrate on rebuilding their economies, this proposal would provide for debt relief with a deferral of all bilateral debt service requirements for the next two years (\$54 million); an increase in forgiveness of \$19 million of Nicaragua's bilateral debt (for a total of 90 percent, or \$75 million) and of \$26 million of Honduras' debt (for a total of two-thirds, or \$103 million); and a contribution of \$25 million to a multi-nation fund to cover debt service obligations of Nicaragua and Honduras to international financial institutions during the deferral period. This fund, the Central America Emergency Trust Fund, will be sponsored by the World Bank.



United Nations
San Pedro Sula International Airport (Honduras)

Environmental Management (\$64 million):

The White House proposal would provide \$64 million for technical assistance in environmental management and disaster mitigation; for the replacement of harbor navigation aids in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador; and for a river level monitoring system in Honduras.

Housing and Schools (\$55 million):

An allotment of \$55 million is programmed for the construction of over 6,000 new housing units, 7,700 schools, and school supplies for over 200,000 children.



IDB
Chinandega, Nicaragua: Members of IDB emergency team with children in a temporary shelter
Local Government Accountability (\$22 million):

An allotment of \$12 million will assist local governments in disaster planning and effective and transparent aid distribution, including anti-corruption training for municipal government and NGO employees. An additional \$10 million will go for anti-crime and drug assistance programs.

Other Elements (\$299 million):

\$80 million will go to the INS to cover the cost of our humanitarian decision to slow deportations and to maintain safeguards against illegal migration; \$56 million will go for expanded National Guard and Reserve humanitarian exercises and projects in the region; and \$157 million to partially replenish USAID (\$25 million) and Department of Defense (\$132.5 million) funds used for emergency relief. There will be an allotment of \$6 million for USAID to implement and audit the cost of this assistance.

Additional Assistance

Crisis Corps

In addition to the physical and monetary resources the U.S. Government has pledged to the Central American relief effort, the Clinton Administration has volunteered the time and energy of the immense pool of talent found among our Peace Corps volunteers. In response to the crisis, the Peace Corps has deployed a crew of "Crisis Corps" volunteers to Central America to lend their expertise to organizations addressing water, sanitation, health and small business development needs. The President dispatched several dozen Crisis Corps volunteers to Central America at Tipper Gore's recommendation following her November visit to the region. The volunteers have been supporting housing reconstruction, working with farmers to replant crops, and providing education about disease control and sanitation. Throughout Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, nearly 450 Peace Corps volunteers are currently working in agriculture, health, small business development and environmental awareness.

Demining

As part of the Administration's comprehensive aid package the State Department will provide \$1.8 million to enhance demining efforts in the region. This includes funding to train dogs and handlers, purchase equipment and provide medical evacuation. Flood waters from Hurricane Mitch shifted mines in the region, preventing Honduras from reaching its goal of mine eradication by the year 2000 and hindering ongoing demining activities in Nicaragua, the most heavily mined country in Central America. This new contribution provides additional support to the Organization of American States' InterAmerican Defense Board, which supports expanded demining operations in the region. The U.S. has provided \$6.5 million since 1993 to support these operations.



IDB

Severe flooding has caused land mines to shift, complicating demining efforts



United Nations
High water in La Ceiba, Honduras

Hurricane Georges

Hurricane Georges struck the eastern Caribbean (St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda) on September 20 and 21 and the Dominican Republic and Haiti on September 22. The storm resulted in severe infrastructure damage and loss of life throughout the region, particularly in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Of all eastern Caribbean islands that incurred damage as a result of the hurricane, St. Kitts was the most affected. The extent of damage throughout the region indicates that it could be several months (or years, for the most affected countries) before life returns to a completely normal state.

The damage suffered by the Caribbean countries affected by Hurricane Georges exceeds \$2 billion. Nearly all of the region's food crops were destroyed, and the devastation of homes and shelters left thousands homeless. On September 23, just hours after Hurricane Georges had passed, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Response/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (BHR/OFDA) received disaster declarations from all four affected nations. In response, BHR/OFDA deployed assessment teams throughout the region and followed up with targeted disaster assistance. A summary of damages for each country and of BHR/OFDA assistance to date is provided below:

Dominican Republic

The Dominican State Secretary's Public Health and Welfare Office has reported that Hurricane Georges resulted in over 200 deaths and 134,000 displaced persons in the Dominican Republic. In addition to this loss of life and human suffering, the country sustained direct and indirect damages equal to 14% of its 1997 GDP. Infrastructure damage includes schools, hospitals, health clinics, homes, the main airport, and municipal water systems. Nearly 100% of the road network and 60% of the bridges were damaged, hampering the ability of relief workers to assess damage and carry out relief operations. The storm also curtailed the supply of electricity and availability of phone services throughout the country. Official estimates indicate that total damage to the power system was \$1.2 billion. The Dominican Secretary of Agriculture conservatively estimated \$260 million worth of damage, or 90% destruction to the agricultural sector. This figure includes loss of crops, poultry, small ruminants, and pasture and grain crops for large animals. Future crop production was not expected to resume for four months after the disaster.

USAID Administrator Brian Atwood headed a VIP delegation to the Dominican Republic and Haiti on September 30 to review U.S. Government relief efforts and to survey the extent of hurricane-related damage. While in Santo Domingo, the Administrator announced that the United States would provide a total of \$35 million in humanitarian and food assistance to the Dominican Republic in response to damage sustained by Hurricane Georges. This figure included assistance

already provided, plus an additional \$32 million: \$10 million from USAID for Title II humanitarian food aid, \$10 million from USDA for the purchase of 100,000 metric tons of wheat, and \$12 million for the promotion of economic ties with U.S. agricultural producers. The profits from the USDA wheat sales will be used to advance the U.S. Embassy's long-term recovery plan in the Dominican Republic.

Haiti

The Haitian Civil Protection Directorate reported 147 deaths, 34 serious injuries, 40 missing persons, and 167,500 affected individuals as a result of the Hurricane Georges. As in the Dominican Republic, flash flooding and high storm winds were responsible for most of the destruction and damage to the housing stock. Electricity and phone lines were torn down, three-fourths of the September rice crop was lost due to flooding in the Artibonite Valley, and the October rice-planting season (which accounts for 60% of Haiti's annual rice production) was seriously hindered. The total loss to the agricultural sector was estimated at approximately \$179 million, including crop and livestock loss and damage to the irrigation system.

USAID Administrator Brian Atwood announced in Port Au Prince on September 30 that the United States Government would provide \$12 million in food aid assistance and relief supplies to hurricane victims in Haiti.

Aid Through Freer Trade and Investment: CBI Enhancement

At a March 11 summit with Central American leaders in Antigua, Guatemala, President Clinton left no doubt as to the United States' commitment to allow free trade to play a strong role in the reconstruction of the Central American and Caribbean economies. "Our challenge is to consolidate the remarkable achievements of this region in the last decade, to build on them, and to accelerate them," Clinton said in his opening remarks to the assembled leaders. "I am committed to lowering trade barriers between us, both to speed recovery and to build a free trade area in this region that will benefit the citizens of all the countries."

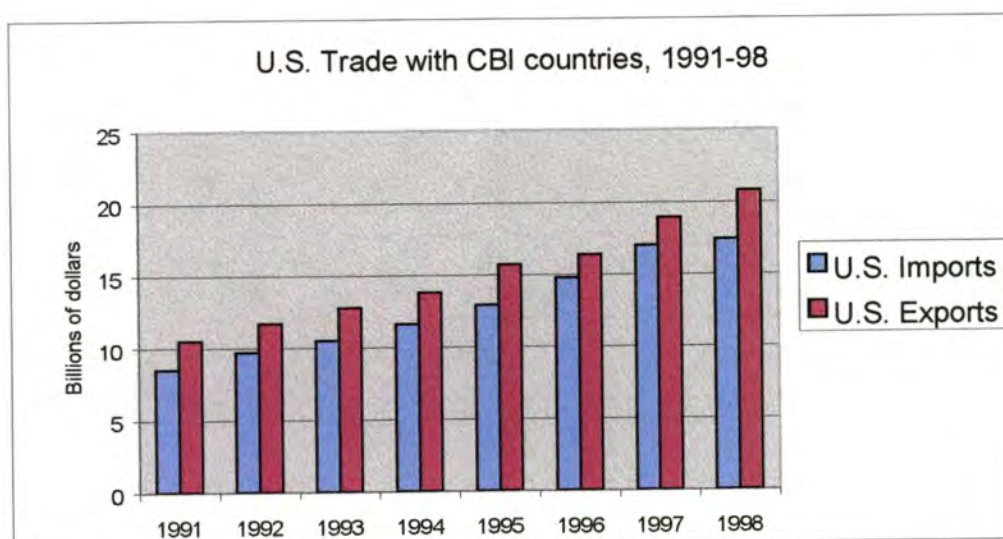
Indeed, the continuation of economic growth and prosperity in Central America and the Caribbean is key to the continued expansion of U.S. exports of goods and services in the hemisphere. Prior to Hurricane Mitch, Central America was one of the fastest-growing subregional markets for U.S. exports in the world. In fact, in 1998 Central America's 30 million people bought more U.S. exports in dollar terms than the 1 billion people of India -- \$10 billion versus just \$3 billion for all of India.

Sponsors of the Central America and Caribbean Relief Act currently being considered in Congress have proposed granting Caribbean Basin nations - which include those affected by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges - so-called CBI parity, meaning that they would receive similar same trade benefits to those afforded to Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Senator Robert Graham (D-Florida), who introduced the new legislation, called CBI parity "the cornerstone" of helping those countries struck by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges earlier this year.

Without CBI parity, he said, "the region's manufacturing base will not have the incentives it needs to grow during this period of reconstruction" in the region. "That could result in massive refugee flows to the United States and a decades-long dependence on U.S. food and medical aid." Graham said that by lowering trade barriers on all sides of the Caribbean Sea, CBI has spurred exports, investments, and employment creation for both the United States and its trading partners.

When Congress passed the first CBI in 1983, the United States had a \$700 million trade deficit with the Caribbean nations. By 1993, that deficit had become a \$2 billion surplus.



Source: Office of Trade and Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Ex-Im Bank Trade Financing Agreement

The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) and Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE) have signed a \$50 million Memorandum of Understanding that will help private businesses and government agencies in Central America obtain critically needed financing to purchase raw materials, spare parts, capital equipment, and other goods and services from the United States.

"Ex-Im Bank is pleased to work with BCIE to help provide affordable financing that will facilitate the purchase and sale of critically needed materials to Central America," said Ex-Im Bank Chairman James Harmon upon making the announcement. "This financing agreement will help member countries to rebuild many of their communities, improve their infrastructure and regain their footing in the international marketplace." The MOU will support export financing requests from BCIE's regional member states for public and private purchases of U.S. goods and services over the next two years. Ex-Im Bank also will provide financing for the development of infrastructure projects in the member states.



IDB

Flooded buildings along the Choluteca River in Tegucigalpa

OPIC Investment Facility

U.S. investment in the Caribbean and Central America has been hampered by the limited availability of medium- to long-term capital, and the impact of the recent disasters has accelerated

the need for long term investment to help rebuild the region. At the urging of Congress and the Clinton Administration, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has teamed with Citibank to create the Central America and Caribbean Investment Facility. This public-private partnership, which is focused on ways to encourage private sector investment in Caribbean and Central American nations, establishes a \$200 million credit facility designed to bring investments and jobs to the region. Under this initiative, Citibank will extend medium and long-term loans ranging from \$500,000 to \$40 million to small and medium size businesses throughout the region.



USAID

A temporary foot bridge set on the pilings of a destroyed bridge located over the Tapacali River

Stemming the Tide of Illegal Immigration

One of the aims of the relief and reconstruction effort is to mitigate an expected upswing in illegal immigration toward the United States. State Department Counselor Wendy Sherman has emphasized that the United States wants "to do everything we can so that Nicaraguans, Hondurans, Guatemalans and El Salvadorans know that they can have a bright and positive future in strong and stable democracies at home." Developing job opportunities is critical, she said, to prevent a "vacuum" that might encourage drug activity and other criminal endeavors.

In a humanitarian gesture, the INS in December announced a temporary amnesty for illegal immigrants from Central America, allowing roughly 150,000 Hondurans and Nicaraguans to extend their U.S. residency while their homelands recover from the hurricane. Hondurans and Nicaraguans living in the U.S. will be eligible for an emergency relief measure known as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) through June 2000. TPS allows immigrants access to temporary residency and work permits, but it does not lead to permanent residency.

INS officials have also temporarily suspended deportations of Guatemalans and Salvadorans. The U.S. government decided not to give people from these countries the same reprieve as Hondurans and Nicaraguans, however, because the hurricane damage in their countries was not as severe.

- **THE PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSE**

- Intro by T. Donohue from the U.S. Chamber and/or Charles Preble from AACCLA

Department of Commerce-led Business Mission

The devastation wrought by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges in Central America and the Caribbean galvanized the public and private sectors and resulted in an unprecedented level of cooperation between the two to work together to help mitigate the effects of the disaster. A symbol of that public-private coordination was the business mission led to the region by Department of Commerce Undersecretary for International Trade David Aaron from March 21 to 28. The mission was comprised of 16 small medium and large-sized U.S. businesses who visited Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. Focusing on reconstruction, the mission worked to expand opportunities for U.S. companies in the areas of general infrastructure, urban construction, power generation and distribution, environment, water, telecommunications, emergency preparedness, light manufacturing and agribusiness. In each country meetings were held with senior government officials, leaders of the local business communities and members of the American Chambers of Commerce.

The goals of the Department of Commerce-led mission were 1) to demonstrate high visibility U.S. support for Central American economies seeking to recover from the destruction of Hurricane Mitch; 2) to enhance the exposure of small and medium-sized U.S. firms to importers and distributors in the target countries through one-on-one meetings with representatives of potential business associates; 3) to provide U.S. firms a high-profile opportunity to achieve further penetration of this market by meeting with host country decision-makers in the government and private sectors; and 4) to provide U.S. Government support of Central America's efforts to achieve greater transparency and even-handedness in procurement.

The business mission served to advance U.S. commercial objectives for these companies and the sectors they represent by promoting the use of U.S. equipment, and engineering and consulting capabilities to facilitate reconstruction efforts while ensuring transparency in the bidding and procurement process. The mission was a successful joint effort of the Department of Commerce and the private sector to fill the needs left by the destruction of billions of dollars in property. In addition to seeking business opportunities in the reconstruction effort by filling the needs left by Mitch's destruction, literally hundreds of U.S. firms have contributed to the emergency relief effort by donating goods and services which proved instrumental in saving lives and helping to ease the burden brought on by Mitch's destruction. We have detailed the contributions of 8 companies below, and then listed just some of the hundreds of U.S. businesses that made important donations to the relief effort.

Corporate America Responds

Chiquita Brands International

Chiquita is committed to rebuilding in Honduras, despite its enormous losses there due to Hurricane Mitch. As Honduras' traditional number one export, bananas will continue to be a significant part of the country's economy, and Chiquita has worked with Honduran citizens and government officials for more than 90 years and will continue this tradition by reinvesting in its operations to do its part in helping to bring the country back from near disaster.

In the meantime, Chiquita has made available to its workers a financial assistance package which may be unprecedented in the history of the industry. The benefits include a lump sum bonus, an up-front payment of all accrued vacations, interest-free loans and full benefits, including free housing, electricity and water. Importantly, the company's hospital and clinics are providing free medical care for employees, retirees and their dependents. To ensure continuing the education of the children who have endured so much trauma due to this storm, the company's 27 primary schools re-opened the first week of February. In addition, the company has set aside land and provided corn and bean seeds for workers to grow food for their own consumption, as well as to sell in local markets to help them financially. Small plots of bananas that are not being exported were given to workers to farm for their own consumption and/or to sell for their own profit.

In order to alleviate the short-term need of its workers and the surrounding communities, Chiquita fully engaged in an extensive relief effort to help in the recovery from the catastrophic disaster created by Hurricane Mitch. As of mid-April, Chiquita had contributed in excess of \$3 million in food, supplies and free ocean transportation, loading and discharge services for its relief effort.

The company has also made sizeable contributions to the San Pedro Sula Chamber of Commerce and the Honduran relief organization COPECO (Committee for Emergency Contingencies), which are coordinating local relief efforts. In addition to these contributions, Carl H. Lindner, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Chiquita, recognizing the incredible need in Honduras, made a personal contribution of \$1.2 million for the relief effort.

Chiquita has been overwhelmed with the outpouring of contributions in emergency supplies from well over 200 organizations, including U.S. and European companies, the Red Cross, religious and other relief groups. Approximately 27 million pounds of goods in over 900 containers have been shipped from the U.S. and Europe, free of charge on Chiquita vessels. The company will continue to use its shipping infrastructure to support the region's relief needs as they evolve.

Caterpillar

Caterpillar responded generously and promptly to the Hurricane Mitch disaster with the donation of electric power generation equipment. A total of ten 3306 and 3406 Cat generator sets were shipped to Nicaragua and Honduras on November 6, less than a week after the hurricane subsided. The Caterpillar dealers in each country, CEMCOL in Honduras and NIMAC in Nicaragua, donated the labor to deliver and set up the units in areas critically needing power such as relief camps, hospitals and orphanages.

As a gesture to aid in reconstruction, Caterpillar has implemented special reduced pricing for purchases by municipalities and contractors operating in the region in order to ensure the availability of crucial equipment during reconstruction and reduce the equipment cost burden in the rebuilding effort.



Tegucigalpa under mud: cleanup and reconstruction will take years

Bank of America

Bank of America made a contribution of \$40,000 to the Catholic Charities of Miami to aid relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Mitch immediately after the disaster. The contribution was evenly divided among the four countries hardest hit by the storm. "We hope this contribution will help the citizens of these countries begin to recover from this catastrophe," said Lynn Drury, president of the Bank of America Foundation, upon making the donation announcement. "Our pledge is on behalf of our associates and the members of our communities whose family and friends were affected by this disaster."

Bank of America associates from throughout the franchise have collected medicine, food and clothing to be delivered to Central America. One associate, Germaine Renner, a Bank of America systems engineer in Concord, California, collected more than 800 boxes of supplies she gathered from associates. "I was overwhelmed by the amount of clothing and food that I received from people wanting to help," Renner said. "My garage filled up within one day of sending the e-mail and 100 more boxes were piled outside."

Millennium 2100

In mid-January Millennium 2100, a Florida-based corporation that manufactures mobile water purification equipment, was asked by the World Food Program to donate the free use of their mobile water purification equipment to San Fernando, a small town in the north of Nicaragua near the Honduran border. San Fernando's water treatment plant was swept away during Hurricane Mitch, leaving the area residents with no safe drinking water. As expected, shortly after the water plant was swept away, a cholera epidemic began.

Upon arriving in San Fernando with the equipment in early February, Millennium 2100 employees immediately started generating pure drinking water directly from the San Fernando River. The river had the appearance of coffee and contained very high levels of harmful bacteria. Shortly afterward, a long line of people formed, all waiting their turn for clean water. In just a week, the cholera epidemic had subsided and the townspeople began to call the purification equipment "la máquina de salvación." Ambulances from throughout Nicaragua began to arrive at the site, filling up jugs with pure drinking water for hospitals lacking access to clean water.

Because of the overwhelmingly positive effect the equipment has had on the overall health of the people in San Fernando, Millennium 2100 donated the water purification equipment to the town, and ENACAL, the Nicaraguan government division in charge of all water projects, has asked

the company to present proposals for additional municipal equipment.

United Parcel Service

In mid-October, just weeks after Hurricane Georges devastated the Caribbean, the United Parcel Service provided a cash donation of \$100,000 to two disaster relief organizations to help victims of the catastrophe. United Way of Puerto Rico used the unrestricted grant to provide emergency medical supplies, food, clothing and shelter to families in need.

This generous cash donation is in addition to the airlift of more than 400,000 pounds of supplies to the battered Caribbean islands that the company provided immediately after the hurricane struck. In the days immediately following the disaster, UPS donated cargo space to ship several hundred thousand pounds of emergency food and supplies to the Dominican Republic. "UPS received many requests from our employees to help," said UPS Foundation associate director Rick Warlick. "Their input, plus the numerous requests from non-profit agencies, enabled UPS to utilize our transportation and logistics expertise to move critically needed items immediately and to follow it up with the cash donation."

Goods donated October 2 by the Sammy Sosa Foundation were expressed from Miami International Airport on a UPS 757 for same-day delivery in Santo Domingo. "When we became aware that the only thing holding back Sammy Sosa's foundation from its mission was the transportation, UPS felt compelled to step up to the plate," said Jim Kelly, chairman and CEO of UPS. Sosa praised the assistance provided by UPS: "With UPS's help and the good work of the people who run the foundation, we were able to ship the badly needed food and water quickly and directly to where it is most essential."

MIOX Corporation

Immediately following the Hurricane Mitch disaster, Chairman and CEO of MIOX Corporation L. Phil Reinig put in motion the donation of over \$70,000 worth of MIOX mixed oxidant disinfectant generators and field engineering support because the need for clean water was so acute. This included three portable units for Amigos Internacionales to hand-carry to Guatemala, Honduras and Belize, and three community water disinfectant generators that treat up to 1 million gallons per day each, two for Honduras and one for Nicaragua. Getting the units to Central America by the end of December required the support of the State Department, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Senator Pete V. Domenici, the military, local U.S. Embassies, Amigos Internacionales, the Honduras Baptist Convention, and the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partnership. The unit for Nicaragua was installed in Matagalpa in December; the two units in Honduras will be installed in San Pedro Sula by the end of May 1999. The Matagalpa site provides treated water for 400,000 people, and is operated and maintained by the community. The San Pedro Sula site was identified in a follow-up visit in March 1999, facilitated by MIOX Corporation's involvement in a U.S. Department of Commerce trade mission to the region, led by Undersecretary David Aaron. Also during the trade mission, MIOX was able to follow up on proposals to USAID to provide additional equipment for rural water treatment in the region, and to initiate development of a distribution agent in Guatemala. MIOX currently has distribution agents in Mexico and Costa Rica as well.

In Matagalpa, Nicaragua, and Cordoba, Mexico, MIOX generators were installed through U.S. government programs and have since been successfully operated by the local population. The

same will be the case in San Pedro Sula. MIOX technicians worked together with the agencies and local engineers to design the water treatment configurations, and facilitated the installation and initial training.



MIOX Corporation donated state-of-the-art water purification equipment

Lockheed Martin Corporation

Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems dedicated its first operational mission for the new Lockheed Martin C-130J to provide relief to storm-ravaged Honduras. The C-130J flew three sorties with 83,000 pounds of supplies for the American Red Cross to assist in relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. The first flight the day before Thanksgiving moved 27,000 pounds of relief supplies from Marietta, Georgia to the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, and the next two flights on December 1 and 2 carried 33,000 and 23,000 pounds of supplies, respectively. The goods carried on the flights to the region included medical supplies, food, water purification chemicals, hygiene material, and blankets donated by Americans. "We were able to help thousands of people with these flights," said Lockheed Martin pilot Arlen Rens, who flew two of the missions. Lockheed Martin is pleased by the performance of the new C-130J, which operates with greater fuel efficiency due to a new propulsion system. Assisting the victims of Hurricane Mitch is a starting point for this aircraft, which according to Rens, "is going to help literally millions of people around the world in the future."



Lockheed Martin

The C130J made its first operational mission to Honduras, carrying 83,000 pounds of relief supplies for the American Red Cross

GTE

GTE responded generously to Hurricanes Mitch and Georges, sending a \$100,000 donation to the American Red Cross in September immediately after Georges ravaged the Caribbean, and contributed an additional \$75,000 after Mitch struck Central America. GTE originally provided \$50,000 each for Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic to ease the crisis after Hurricane Georges swept through the region on September 22 and 23, and then made available another \$75,000 in December, with \$50,000 going to United Way International for rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and \$25,000 going to the American Red Cross for disaster relief in Central America.

"It is impossible to comprehend the magnitude of disaster that these nations face," said Michael T. Masin, Vice Chairman and President-International. "Through this donation, we hope to make a small difference in the life of someone who might otherwise be left without hope."

The funds were used to help provide health services, food and beverages, blankets, personal hygiene items and other supplies. "Our hearts go out to everyone affected by this disaster," Masin said. "GTE and its employees care very much about the communities in which we operate, and we are committed to doing everything possible to ease the effects of these devastating storms."

U.S. Firms Contribute, Here and Abroad

U.S. firms both at home and abroad have contributed vast resources to aid in the relief and reconstruction of their neighbors in Central America and the Caribbean. Here we have summarized the contributions of the members of the American Chambers of Commerce in four affected countries, and then have listed 130 American companies that have generously contributed their time and money to the relief and rebuilding effort.

American Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic

Immediately following the impact of Hurricane Georges, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic formed a task force to define an appropriate role for the Chamber to play in the reconstruction effort. The Chamber established a 501(C)3 foundation, the Humanitarian Relief Foundation of AMCHAM DR, whose mission is to channel contributions and assistance from the U.S. corporate community to the areas most affected by Hurricane Georges in the Dominican Republic. The purpose of the Foundation is not to compete with existing bona fide humanitarian assistance organizations, rather, it is designed to provide the transparency and accountability that the U.S. corporate community expects and requires. AMCHAM DR relies on its ten provincial offices to define the needs on the ground, and to pre-screen and qualify local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are the recipients of grants from the foundation. Each project has a local Chamber member supervising disbursements.

In addition to an immediate \$40,000 donation from the Chamber's operating budget, the foundation has received approximately \$500,000 from Cogentrix Energy Inc., CitiBank, the Peter Alford Foundation, and Scotia Bank. They have targeted reconstruction of housing, schools and daycare facilities as the focus of their efforts.

AMCHAM DR intends to keep the Humanitarian Relief Foundation intact to be able to respond rapidly to any future disaster situations in the Dominican Republic, as well as to provide an ongoing channel for the US corporate community to contribute to the social welfare of the Dominican people.

American Chamber of Commerce in Costa Rica

Upon hearing the extent of the horror and destruction wrought from Hurricane Mitch to our sister countries of Nicaragua and Honduras AMCHAM Costa Rica took immediate action. We realized that AmCham Costa Rica member companies would be more likely to make a contribution directly to the American Chambers of Honduras and Nicaragua than to some of the other relief organizations. As soon as the bank accounts were opened we faxed our membership with all the pertinent information on how they could contribute. Many companies made contributions of \$1,000 or more. Other companies called our offices wanting to send goods such as mattresses, blankets and containers full of basic food products. One AmCham member company, Alunasa, contributed 100 sets of pots and pans and 50 hotel size pots to be used in the centers for feeding the victims of the flood, and DHL made numerous flights to the region carrying the contributed cargo free of charge.

American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala

The members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala (AMCHAM Guatemala) contributed approximately \$1,000,000 worth of goods and money to help the countries of Central America recover from the effects of Hurricane Mitch.

American Chamber of Commerce of Nicaragua

The American Chamber of Commerce of Nicaragua collected over \$10,000 in cash donations from businesses and private individuals for the relief effort. The funds were used to purchase emergency foodstuffs and other essentials, such as beans, salt, plastic roofing, and containers for purified water. In addition to the monetary donations received, the Chamber collected thousands of dollars worth of medicines, blankets, bottled fruit juice, candles, hygienic supplies, and clothing

from local businesses seeking to mitigate the effects of the disaster on the Nicaraguan people.

Lending a Hand

The following list represents only a portion of the many American companies that have contributed to ensure the speedy recovery and reconstruction of Central America:

3M

AAA Vacuum Cleaner Service

ABC

Advantec Dental Care

Affiliated Rice Milling, Inc.

Al Copeland's Investments

Alianza Enterprises

Allegiance Medical

American Airlines

American Apparel

American Apparel Manufacturers Association

American Uniform

Angelica Image Apparel

Avirex

Avondale Industries, Inc.

Bank One

Bank of America

Bart McLendon Companies

BASF

Bayer Corporation

Bechtel

BellSouth Corporation

Black Mountain Spring Water

Bluebell Creameries

Bob's Office Cleaning Service

Bodywise International

Budweiser

Building Consultants Ltd.

Burrows Corporation

Callahan Chiropractic Clinic

California Pacific Medical Center

Cargill Communities

Carole Hochman Designs, Inc.

Caterpillar

CBS

Charles Schwab

CHAT Communication Services

Chiquita Banana

Concorde Shipping
Continental Airlines Inc.
Continental Grain Company
Corbin, Ltd.
Cormier Rice Milling Company, Inc.
Copeland/Popeye
Cox Cable
Crescent City Fitness Foundation
Delta Airlines
Dole Fresh Fruit Company
Dothan Apparel
DHL
Eileen Fisher, Inc.
Eli Lilley
Enron Corp.
Ernst & Young
Esso Standard Oil
Eveready Battery Company
Falcon Rice Mill, Inc.
FOX
Francisco International Forwarding
Gap Foundation
General Electric Company
Gerber Children's Wear
Ghost Rider Pictures
Great White Fleet
Heavenly Packaging Co.
Hertz
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco
Heinz Corporation
Home Depot
International Hospital for Children
JC Penney
Jockey International, Inc.
Jones NY
Kellwood Company
Kentwood Spring Water Company
Kemberly Clark
Kinko's
KLOK Radio
Kmart
Lakeside Toyota
La Prensa Newspaper
Law Office of Tom Leahy
Levi Strauss

Lockheed Martin
Lucent Technologies
M & M Body Inc.
Maidbess
Magnolia Forwarding
McKenna Properties
Mia's Health Foods
Mike and B Sales, Inc.
Mission Life Insurance Company
Motorola, Inc.
Mylan Pharmaceuticals
National Bancorp Data Systems, LLC
NationsBank
NBC
Orec Corp.
Ochsner Foundation
Old Metairie Shell
Osh Kosh B'Gosh
Owens and Minor
Pacific Commodities
Parmalat
Petrotec
Pfizer, Inc.
Philip Morris
Pool Off Shore
Port of Oakland
Radio Ambiente
Radio La Fabulosa
Radio Unica
Radio Tropical
Rally Tree Farm
Raychem Corp.
Riviana Foods
Reed Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Reheis Corporation
Remax Real Estate
Rice Tec, Inc.
Rives Apparel International
Robinson Manufacturing
Royal Caribbean International/Celebrity Cruises
Russell Corporation
Russell-Newman Inc.
S&S Manufacturing
Sandler, Travis and Rosenberg
Sara Lee

Schein Pharmaceuticals
Seaboard Marine
Sea Land Service
Second Nature
Segrets, Inc.
Sequoia Hospital
Slim Fast Corporation
Southwire
Schwab Company, Inc.
Starbucks
Sunshine Tours and Travel
Supreme Rice Mill
Teva Corporation
The Brinson Company
The Coca-Cola Company
The Flying Hospital, Inc.
The Lunada Bay Corp.
The Miami Herald
Tire Kingdom
Todd Construction
Trans Express International Courier
Triple E Transports
Tropical Sportswear
Union Supermarket
UPS
Val d'Or
Valley Drug, Inc.
Vaughns Heating & Air Conditioning
VF Corp.
Walmart
Whitney National Bank
Williamson-Dickie Manufacturing Company
World Trade Center, New Orleans
Xerox
York Barbell

and many more ...

• THE NGO/PVO RESPONSE

A letter from Jim Moody, President of InterAction



InterAction is a coalition of over 160 American non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating abroad in three areas: (1) economic and social development, (2) refugee assistance and (3) disaster response. Both secular and faith-based NGOs have a long history of involvement in Central America, many for decades. These organizations typically work in close collaboration with local NGOs, often at the grassroots.

When Hurricane Mitch struck, American NGOs which were engaged in development activities in the affected countries quickly shifted their personnel and other resources – often from other countries – to disaster relief to provide food, clothing, emergency shelter and medical care to the displaced and distressed.

The American NGOs that did not have staff in place when Mitch hit worked through local church and civic groups, sending money and material assistance to their affiliate organizations in the region, which enabled them to expand the scope of their emergency assistance activities. Other U.S. NGOs without established relations in the region but experienced in disaster relief, quickly deployed teams and individual experts to furnish critically needed help. Those U.S. NGOs which specialize in shipping commodities to partners conducting field operations solicited medical supplies and other appropriate forms of in-kind assistance for rapid shipment to both local and international operational agencies. A number of American corporations donated food, clothing, transport and airline tickets to NGOs to assist their efforts.

In churches, schools, on television and in the press throughout the United States, American NGOs called on the American people to come to the assistance of their stricken neighbors to the South. Publicity materials prepared by NGOs focused attention on what Americans could do to help. The response of the American public through NGOs was deeply appreciated by the families and communities devastated by Mitch and was extremely gratifying. Americans dug deep into their pockets to assist those whose plight was brought right into their homes with the evening news.

NGOs also called on the U.S. government to increase its assistance, to provide debt relief to governments in the four hardest hit countries, and to allow citizens of these countries to extend

their stays in the United States where they can earn money to send back home to assist relatives in relief and reconstruction.

In the pages which follow readers of this report will learn much more about the Central American activities of four large American NGOs who are members of InterAction, and see summaries of the assistance activities of the many other InterAction members engaged in relief and recovery in the wake of Mitch. The severity and incredible damage of this 200-year storm means that recovery will be prolonged and expensive, so we must remain seriously engaged for the long term. Most American NGOs recognize this reality. Hopefully, those who read about their activities in the following pages will be inspired to assist the NGOs achieve these longer term essential objectives. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Moody
President & CEO, InterAction

U.S. NGOs and PVOs: An Extraordinary Response

The response of U.S. Non-Governmental and Private Voluntary Organizations (NGOs and PVOs) to the disaster brought on by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges has been extraordinary.

Organizations large and small, from the American Red Cross to small town churches and charitable groups across the country, have contributed their time and money to the relief and reconstruction effort. Literally hundreds of websites and telephone hotlines have been set up around the country to inform the public, receive donations and coordinate relief efforts.

While it is impossible to describe in detail all or even most of the efforts undertaken by the various charitable groups involved in the Mitch and Georges relief efforts, below we have highlighted the efforts of several of the larger groups and then have listed some of the NGOs and PVOs that have pitched in to aid our neighbors in Central America and the Caribbean in their time of need.

American Red Cross

International Response Fund

PO BOX 37243

Washington, D.C. 20013

Telephone: 1-800-HELP-NOW

Spanish: 1-800-257-7575

The American Red Cross, in partnership with the four affected Red Cross Societies, immediately committed to assisting in the emergency and long-term relief efforts for Central America after Hurricane Mitch. Immediately after the disaster an initial \$100,000 was sent to the International Federation of Red Cross Societies to jump-start operations in the region.

Working with the Red Cross National Societies of Central America, the American Red Cross (ARC) initially responded to Hurricane Mitch by opening a pipeline of emergency assistance that continues to date. While the transportation infrastructure remained fragile, alternative traffic routes were established where necessary to circumvent damaged or destroyed bridges and roadways so that much needed relief supplies could reach as many people as possible, while eliminating waste and spoilage of critically needed supplies.

American Red Cross Assistance: Emergency Relief

ARC initially promised \$6 million to the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, but as Americans learned of the magnitude of the devastation they responded with an outpouring of contributions to ARC's International Relief Fund. This generosity allowed the ARC to commit an additional \$1.5 million in emergency relief, and more than \$32 million for recovery projects to the victims of the hurricane's destruction.

Long-Term Recovery

While emergency distributions continue, the American Red Cross is developing transitional activities with the Red Cross National Societies of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala in cooperation with other Federation societies and voluntary agencies.

To meet longer-term disaster related needs currently identified by the local and international relief community, the Red Cross will assist by enhancing food security as a result of extensive crop loss; providing potable water and sanitation at the household level; improving access to primary health care services for those who face barriers to care; and enhancing disaster preparedness among the

people most vulnerable to disasters in the future.

For the long-term reconstruction effort, the ARC has allocated \$20.5 million for clean water access, installation of water sanitation systems, creation of local health posts throughout the region, and warehousing of medical supplies, to be committed by May 2000. \$1 million was allocated for four years of funding to build enhanced International Response Teams in Central America and the Caribbean to allow ARC to move quickly and responsibly in future disaster situations, and an additional \$1 million has been allocated for four years of funding to build an enhanced Emergency Response Unit to assist with capacity building in disaster preparedness and planning in Central America and the Caribbean.



American Red Cross President Steve Bullock visiting with some of Honduras's youngest citizens

Acting ARC President Steve Bullock traveled to the affected area the first week in March to confirm the organization's long-term commitment to the region's recovery. "The overwhelming outpouring of support of our generous donors from the United States for the Hurricane Mitch victims has enabled the American Red Cross to increase emergency and relief contributions to \$38 million," said Bullock. "The tremendous response shows how much affection there is in the United States for the people of Central America." The \$38 million for Hurricane Mitch is the largest international disaster relief campaign ever mounted by the American Red Cross, far surpassing the \$14 million raised in the wake of the 1985 Mexico City earthquake.

Catholic Relief Services

PO Box 17090

Baltimore, MD 21203-7090

Telephone: 1-800-736-3467

With more than 30 years of experience in the region, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was able to quickly launch one of its largest emergency responses ever. The tremendous outpouring of

concern and support of the U.S. public has made it possible for Catholic Relief Services to reach 600,000 needy people with food, essential household items, and medicines. A rehabilitation plan for the region is now being developed that will ensure that both the immediate and long-term needs of the people of Central America are met.

CRS has made an investment to date of \$26 million; the organization's long-term plan is to make an investment of \$80 - 90 million over the next three years. CRS has channeled aid to all four countries affected by Hurricane Mitch. The organization's priorities have been laid out in the following three stages: 1) Saving lives, 2) Sustaining livelihoods, and 3) Rebuilding civil society. During the first crucial life-saving stage, assistance centered the immediate provision of food, medicine, and shelter materials. The secondary stage, focused on sustaining livelihoods, consisted mainly of money doled out in the form of grants to micro lenders intended to get small farmers and businesses back on their feet. Accompanying this was funding for the reconstruction of community infrastructure, including road repair and the provision of money, equipment, and technical expertise. During the third phase, designed to address the rebuilding civil society, CRS



CRS / Dominican Republic

Country Representative, Murray Luft, and Civil Society/Human Rights Manager, Manuel Dandre with children of Batey Euscarduna in San Pedro de Macoris.

is looking "not simply to rebuild the poverty," but rather to address the circumstances which have created the situation. CRS will be looking not only at physical reconstruction but at larger issues of debt and migration, finding ways to educate people in the United States about the development needs of the region and developing mechanisms for getting people in the U.S. involved in Central American reconstruction on a more long-term basis, as opposed to operating out of a crisis-response mode.

CARE

151 Ellis Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303-2426
Telephone: 1-800-422-7385

Since Hurricane Mitch struck, CARE has raised nearly \$15 million to respond to the emergency and is seeking an additional \$15.5 million for short to medium-term recovery programs over the next 10 months. CARE's emergency reconstruction phase focused on supplies of food, potable drinking water, cooking utensils and supplies, temporary living shelters and latrines, while longer-

term efforts are going toward agricultural rehabilitation and the repair of vital communications and transportation infrastructure.

Peter D. Bell, president of CARE USA, visited Nicaragua and Honduras January 31 through February 6, 1999 to assess progress in recovery from Hurricane Mitch. Bell visited CARE's reconstruction projects and promoted local community participation in the rebuilding of the poorest areas in both countries. His trip marked a transition in CARE's Hurricane Mitch programs from emergency response to longer-term recovery and rebuilding of communities.

CARE has begun efforts to assist those left homeless by the hurricane, by providing land and materials for construction of new homes, rehabilitating damaged water systems and roads and revitalizing farm lands. CARE helped the Emergency Committee in Nicaragua organize shelters, and provided food and other relief materials. In addition, CARE is rebuilding damaged roads in Nicaragua through Food for Work programs and has begun efforts to restore farmlands in Nicaragua by distributing seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural equipment. In Guatemala, CARE provided food to beneficiaries through mid-January, and in El Salvador CARE will be distributing food and implementing a Water and Sanitation Emergency Program until June.



IDB

World Vision

PO Box 9716

Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

Telephone: 1-888-511-6565

World Vision has responded to the devastation and suffering caused by Hurricane Mitch with extensive relief and rehabilitation work in five Central American countries. World Vision Honduras is carrying out a reconstruction and rehabilitation program in several areas of the country with activities in ensuring food security and productive capacity through agricultural recovery, reducing the incidence of sickness and deaths resulting from the hurricane, repairing houses and other community infrastructure, rehabilitating water systems, and providing necessary capitalization for small business owners. All of these activities are centered around meeting basic food needs of over 66,000 people through a Food-for-Work program. World Vision Honduras projects a \$12.5 million rehabilitation effort in the country. In the emergency phase of the disaster, World Vision provided over one million pounds of food, 8,000 blankets, 6,000 water containers and \$1.3 million worth of emergency supplies.

World Vision Nicaragua is working up a \$2.6 million proposal that would expand efforts beyond

the immediate area in which it is working. In a coordinated effort with ADRA, World Vision and other NGOs, World Vision Nicaragua is seeking to address the emergency and rehabilitation needs of some 39,000 families in the northern region.

World Vision El Salvador is providing emergency food, clothes and medicine to at least 1,100 families in the 10 area development projects most affected by Hurricane Mitch, and World Vision Guatemala has committed \$70,000 to assist the 27 area development projects in the eastern part of the country.



IDB

U.S. NGOs have been instrumental in food supply and distribution

Other InterAction members and their activities

InterAction is a coalition of more than 160 non-profit relief, development and refugee organizations working worldwide to help those in need. A list of InterAction members and their responses to Hurricane Mitch follows (through March 16, 1999):

Academy for Educational Development
1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (202) 884-8000

The Academy for Educational Development is contributing financial support to local organizations in Honduras and Nicaragua. Among those receiving donations were local organizations throughout Honduras providing medical and food supplies, shelter, and potable water. In Nicaragua AED gave school supplies and funds to replant crops, replace housing, and meet emergency food needs for AED project-related families and communities.

ACCION International
120 Beacon Street
Somerville, MA 02143
Telephone: 617-492-4930

ACCION is providing funds to help four affiliate organizations in Central America rebuild client businesses, provide emergency food and other supplies, and repair damaged program offices and equipment.

Action Against Hunger/USA

875 6th Avenue, #1905

New York, NY 10001

Telephone: (212) 967-7800

AAH/USA is collecting funds to support the activities of its affiliates providing food, medical supplies and clean water.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring, MD 20904

Telephone: 1-800-424-2372

ADRA's international network and its Central Office have concentrated their activities in the region on the distribution of food, water, clothing, medicine and shelter. Volunteers are manning shelters and providing medical supplies to health care centers.

American Friends Service Committee

Hurricane Relief Fund

1501 Cherry Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Telephone: 1-888-588-2372

AFSC is supporting local recovery efforts through its programs and program partnerships which are supplying food, clothing and medicine.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

711 Third Avenue, 10th Floor

New York, NY 10017

Telephone: (212) 885-0832 or (212) 885-0889

To date, JDC and the Jewish Coalition's 17 member agencies have raised over \$800,000 for relief and reconstruction efforts. Funds will be used on a non-sectarian basis for both immediate and longer-term assistance.

American Jewish World Service

989 Avenue of the Americas, 10th Floor

New York, NY 10018

Telephone: 212-736-2597 or 1-800-889-7146

American Jewish World Service is bringing the support of the American Jewish community directly to the people of Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. AJWS has raised over \$530,000 and is working on the ground with local grassroots organizations providing emergency food, shelter and medical relief as well as reconstructing the basic infrastructure of their communities.

American Refugee Committee
2344 Nicollet Avenue South, Suite 350
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Telephone: (612) 872-7060

With ARC Regional Representative Steven Voyer positioned in Honduras since December 1998, ARC will provide expertise and assistance in reconstruction, rehabilitation, and public health after completing an assessment to determine the areas of greatest need.

Amurt: Nicaragua Relief Fund
7627 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012
Telephone: 202-829-8676

Amurt has distributed rice, cornmeal, beans, sugar, plantains, pasta and clothing to over 40,000 people, and continues to aid in providing community organization and constructing houses, latrines and wash basins.

Baptist World Aid
6733 Curran Street
McLean, VA 22101-3804
Telephone: (703) 790-8980

Baptist World Aid has collected monetary contributions in the United States which will be used to purchase relief supplies to be shipped to Baptist conventions in the affected region.

Brother's Brother Foundation
1501 Reedsdale
Street, Suite 3005
Pittsburgh, PA 15233-2341
Telephone: (412) 321-3160

To date, the Brother's Brother Foundation has provided 30 shipments of donated medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and food, along with clothing, shoes, personal hygiene items and toys to victims of Hurricane Mitch. The total value of donations exceeds \$12.3 million to date. BBF has funds available for additional shipments and continues to work closely with our partner organizations in Nicaragua and Honduras to meet requested needs.

Catholic Medical Mission Board, Inc.
10 West 17 Street
New York, NY 10011
Telephone: 1-800-678-5659
CMMB is providing medical supplies through affiliated organizations.

Childreach

155 Plan Way

Warwich, RI 02886-1099

Telephone: 1-800-556-7918

\$8 million was allocated for immediate relief and long-term recovery for 190,000 beneficiary families in established Central American and Caribbean program areas, as well as coordinated efforts for broader community populations of almost 2 million.

Christian Children's Fund

2821 Emerywood Parkway

PO Box 26484

Richmond, VA 23261-6484

Telephone: 1-800-776-6767

Thus far, CCF has distributed 300,000 energy bars, 96,120 quarts of long life milk, more than 6,300 blankets, 90,000 water purification tablets, and more than \$25,000 worth of essential medicines. CCF has also provided locally procured food, clothes, safe drinking water and medical assistance to 1,520 families and 7,083 children served by its projects. A \$638,500 long-term reconstruction effort focusing on housing, food security, and communication systems (footpaths, suspensions bridges) is underway.

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

2850 Kalamazoo Avenue, SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49560-0600

Telephone: 616-224-0740

CCWRC has been shipping commodities, making cash grants, building emergency shelters and organizing food for work programs.

Church World Service

28606 Phillips Street

PO Box 968

Elkhart, IN 46515

Since the onset of the disaster Church World Services has provided more than \$1,457,000 in bulk food, CWS Gift of the Heart Health and Baby Kits, medicines, blankets, tools, and funds for the purchase of blankets and other emergency supplies to partners in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. CWS has also sent ten medical teams to work with its partner organizations in Central America. Future work will target long-term needs as well as continuing emergency needs for food, shelter, and health-care. CWS and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will soon be sending volunteer construction crews to Honduras and Nicaragua.

Concern America

2024 North Broadway

Suite 104

Santa Ana, CA 92702-1790

Telephone: 714-953-8575

A team of five engineers and medical personnel is helping provide safe water and medicines to one of the most seriously hit areas.

Direct Relief International
27 South La Patera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93117-3251
Telephone: 1-800-676-1638

Direct Relief is sending shipments of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to aid hurricane victims.

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
6 East 39th Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Telephone: 1-888-392-0392

Immediately following the hurricane, Doctors Without Borders distributed food, basic drugs and medical supplies, blankets, jerry cans, fresh drinking water, water chlorination systems, and plastic sheeting throughout the affected regions. Doctors Without Borders continues to work with local health authorities to monitor and control infectious diseases, assess and meet nutritional needs, repair damaged water and sanitation systems, and rehabilitate health structures.

Enersol Associates, Inc.
55 Middlesex Street, Suite 221
Chelmsford, MA 01863
Telephone: 978-251-1828

Enersol is sending water purification systems to a local partner for use in three communities.

Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop's Fund
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
Telephone: (212) 867-8400

The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief is collecting funds, clothing, medicine and commodities and shipping them to the various Anglican partners in support of the relief programs undertaken by their local representatives.

Enterprise Development International
10395 Democracy Lane, Suite B
Fairfax, VA 22030
Telephone: 703-277-3360

EDI is providing small loans to enable squatters and others to purchase commodities to sell at vendor stands.

Food for the Hungry
7729 East Greenway Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Telephone: 1-800-2-HUNGER

Food for the Hungry is distributing medical supplies, food, sorghum seed, vegetable seeds and clothing in Nicaragua and Honduras.

Heifer Project International
1015 Louisiana Street
Little Rock, AR 72202
Telephone: 1-800-422-0474

Heifer Project will focus on the rehabilitation of the productive capacity of small farmers.

Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc.
College Avenue, Box 429
New Windsor, MD 21776
Telephone: (410) 635-8720

Donations of medicines and medical supplies for hurricane response provided by American companies through IMA total \$10.75 million. IMA and its member agencies have augmented this response effort by delivering to the region 250 IMA Medicine Boxes®, with an AWP of \$500,000. Each Medicine Box is a specifically designed unit of medicines deemed essential by the World Health Organization to respond to common illnesses in a population of 1,000 children and adults for three months. IMA Medicine Boxes are prepared with contributions from member churches and donated products from American manufacturers.

International Medical Corps
11500 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 506
Los Angeles, CA 90064-1052
Telephone: (301) 826-7800

The IMC has distributed large amounts of medical supplies and drugs in Honduras. IMC has a public health team in Honduras and is taking the lead in addressing contamination caused by the flooding. Large amounts of pesticides and other hazardous chemical and biological agents have been spilled into Honduran rivers, and IMC is assessing the contamination situation and will implement programs to diminish their effects.

International Orthodox Christian Charities
711 W. 40th St., Suite 306
Baltimore, MD. 21211
Telephone: 410-243-9820

IOCC is collecting funds to send medical teams and deliver emergency supplies to the affected region.

Katalysis Partnership
1331 N. Commerce St.
Stockton, CA 95202
Telephone: 209-943-6165

Katalysis Partnership has supported two NGO partners in Honduras and two in Nicaragua by forwarding contributions for emergency relief supplies to the NGO staffs and clients and supplying strategic direct support and technical assistance in rebuilding their microcredit programs (from planning to additional credit money). These partner NGOs, in turn, have created short- and medium-term plans for working with their more than 17,000 clients to assess the viability of their microbusinesses, restructure loans and plan for their individual recovery. Katalysis has directed over \$179,000 in contributions toward these Partners.

Latter-day Saint Charities
50 E. North Temple Street Seventh Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-6890
Telephone: 1-800-453-3860 x 1201

Latter-day Saint Charities distributed aid valued at \$2.5 million to victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua. In-kind donations included family food boxes, clothing, medical supplies, hygiene kits, and temporary housing supplies. Latter-day Saint Charities volunteers have and continue to assist with the clean up and reconstruction of homes, along with job training and placement programs.

Lutheran World Relief
Church Street Station
PO Box 6186
New York, NY 10277-1738
Telephone: 1-800-597-5972

Working with longtime Central American partners, LWR has mobilized grassroots recovery efforts, procured food and relief items on the spot, deployed teams for trauma and pastoral care, and sent five shipments of health kits, quilts, clothing and medicines. LWR has initiated a "Millions for Mitch" campaign to raise additional funds.

Mercy Corps International
Hurricane Relief Fund
P.O. Box 9
Portland, OR 97207
Telephone: 1-800-292-3355 x223

Mercy Corps has evacuated children and families from flooded areas, delivered medicines and medical supplies, plastic sheeting for temporary housing, provided food, water purification tablets, clothing, blankets and soaps. Mercy Corps is in the process of repairing water supply systems in 19 communities as well as roads to ensure access to relief supplies, and has provided computers to help with tracking systems.

Operation USA

8320 Melrose Ave, Suite 200

Los Angeles, CA 90069

Telephone: 1-800-678-7255

Operation USA is shipping contributed commodities and expects to spend additional cash donations on its relief activities. Operation USA also plans to provide airlifts, procurement and small grants to fill gaps in local relief organization resources.

Opportunity International

2122 York Road Suite 340

Oak Brook, IL 60523

Telephone: 1-800-7WE-WILL

Opportunity International is a microcredit provider working among the poorest of the working poor to provide credit so they can establish their own businesses. Opportunity is working with clients to help them rebuild their businesses and homes and is also raising funds to help other hurricane victims through the microcredit program.

Oxfam America

Central America Relief Fund

26 West Street

Boston, MA 02111

Telephone: 1-800-77Oxfam

Oxfam America responded during the 2 months following Mitch with emergency assistance including food, cooking supplies, medicine, bedding and housing materials and is now working through partner organizations on rehabilitation and longer-term development efforts. Oxfam is advocating with its counterparts and other Oxfam International members for debt relief, increased aid and the involvement of civil society in the formulation of national reconstruction plans.

Partners of the Americas

1424 K Street NW

Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: (202) 628-3300

Partners is collecting funds to locally purchase food, medical supplies, as well as equipment and materials to shelter families displaced by the hurricane.

Relief International

11965 Venice Blvd. Suite 405

Los Angeles, CA 90066

Telephone: 310-572-7770

Toll-Free: 1-888-778-7452

E-mail: rihq@ri.org

RI is working with national NGOs to establish an NGO coordinating body to enhance these

organizations' relations with the government, donors, and international NGOs as well as to enhance disaster response and mitigation. Particular emphasis is on capacity building within NGOs representing indigenous groups.

Salvation Army
World Service Office
615 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, VA 22313
Telephone: (703) 684-5528

The Salvation Army provided lodging, hot meals, food stocks of rice, beans, corn, water, diapers and clothing. The Salvation Army is also providing public and mental health services, food distribution reflecting a "food for work" approach along with a community-based recovery support system, and is digging new wells and sanitary facilities.

Save the Children
Hurricane Mitch Emergency Appeal
PO BOX 975-M
54 Wilton Road
Westport, CT 06880
Telephone: 1-800-243-5075

Save the Children is helping children and their families in over 430 communities in Honduras and Nicaragua. Working with community members and local government offices, Save the Children is distributing food aid, organizing the reconstruction of schools and homes, rehabilitating wells and sources of water, organizing community medical teams, and rebuilding children's centers to provide children with a safe and emotionally secure environment during the recovery process.

SHARE Foundation
PO Box 192825
San Francisco, CA 94119
Telephone: (415) 882-1530

SHARE's first objective was to provide shelter to families by equipping temporary refugee sites, relocating affected families and providing immediate food, water, clothing and medical supplies. Their second objective has been to establish the conditions for families to return to their home sites, support their efforts to rebuild their homes and provide basic infrastructure for continued development.

TechnoServe
49 Day Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
Telephone: 1-800-999-6757

In the Sebaco valley TechnoServe is administrating a credit fund through which 400 farmers will be able to purchase seeds and fertilizers to restart their production on about 2,000 acres. In the Jinotega, León and Chinandega regions, TechnoServe is distributing vegetable seeds to 530

farmers. The seeds, including tomatoes, carrots and onions will cover 1,100 acres of farmland. TechnoServe is also helping 1,900 people whose farms were damaged to purchase equipment for rehabilitating their land.

Trickle Up Program

121 West 27th Street

Suite 504

New York, NY 10001

Telephone: 212-362-7958

Trickle Up is working with local NGOs in the areas of León, Esteli, and Ocotál to help families start microenterprises in the wake of the hurricane. Trickle Up's partners have credit programs which are available for expansion once the entrepreneurs have established their businesses.

United Methodist Committee on Relief

475 Riverside Drive Room 330

New York, NY 10115

Telephone: 1-800-554-8583

As of the end of 1998, UMOCR Emergency Services had provided \$40,000 in financial support and six million pounds of relief goods to Honduras.

US Committee for UNICEF

333 East 38th Street

New York, NY 10016

Telephone: 1-800-FOR-KIDS

In Nicaragua, UNICEF distributed Oral Rehydration Salts and provided medicine, health services, and basic supplies such as cooking utensils and generators to an estimated 400,000 homeless people. They are in the process of setting up a mass-scale psycho-social program for up to 200,000 children. In Honduras, UNICEF responded with emergency assistance, provided food, essential drugs, and clean water and blankets, as well as logistical support for the delivery of supplies to people in shelters. UNICEF is providing training to the affected communities on temporary means to secure the supply of drinking water. In Guatemala, UNICEF is working as part of the UN and NGO teams doing rescue and rehabilitation work, and is in charge of the water and sanitation sector including the treatment and prevention of respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases.

World Concern Development Organization

19303 Fremont Avenue North, Box 33000

Seattle, WA 98313

Telephone: 1-800-755-5022

World Concern is providing medicine donated by a U.S. foundation, as well as clothing and food. They are collecting cash donations for relief activities and are organizing a Food for Work program to assist in reconstruction of roads and housing.

World Neighbors, Inc.
4127 NW 122 St
Oklahoma City, OK 73120-8669
Telephone: 1-800-242-6387

World Neighbors is providing health and agriculture support, along with commodities distribution during the emergency phase of the crisis. Relief efforts include supplying food, water, medicines, and short duration vegetable and bean seeds, as well as identifying sources of epidemic problems and informing the general population about the dangers of potential diseases and how to avoid them.

World Relief
PO Box WRC
Dept. 3
Wheaton, IL 60189
Telephone: 1-800-535-5433

World Relief has coordinated and distributed emergency aid and medical supplies from the U.S. to victims of Hurricane Mitch. They are helping families rebuild homes in Honduras and feeding over 4,000 families in Nicaragua.

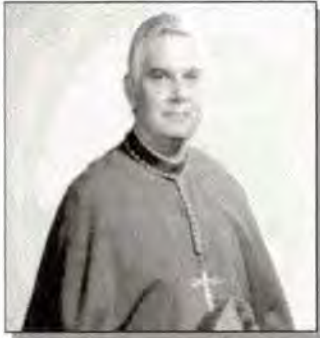
World SHARE
6950 Friars Road
San Diego, CA 92108-1137
Telephone: (619) 686-5818

World SHARE provided funds to purchase medicines immediately following the hurricane and is about to begin a rebuilding project in the regions hardest hit by Mitch. They will provide tools and building materials that will allow several hundred Guatemalans to rebuild their homes.

World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1175
Telephone: 202-293-4800

WWF is distributing food, clothing and medical supplies to hurricane victims in Honduras and Nicaragua.

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM *THE PILOT*, BOSTON'S CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER



Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law

By MSGR. PETER V. CONLEY

There was just a golden sliver of dawn over Boston Harbor as the small jet lifted off from the airport in Bedford. Wrapped in a warm cocoon of speed and safety, we were on our way to Honduras and Nicaragua, where normal life stood still and safety was something to search for and cling to. Hurricane Mitch had cruelly robbed two nations of both.

Thanks to Raytheon's president, Dennis Picard, and vice-president of operations, Robert Skelly, a small Hawk 1000 jet was offered to Cardinal Law so that the Archdiocese of Boston could be among the first Americans to ask the simple question that springs from a sense of Christian solidarity: "How can we help?"

Accompanying the cardinal were Dr. Joseph Doolin, Archdiocesan Secretary for Social Services, and head of Catholic Charities, Dr. Michael Collins, Secretary for Health Care Services and C.E.O. of Caritas Christi, two camera-laden colleagues from Boston Catholic Television, Jay Fadden and Kevin Nelson - and myself as editor of *The Pilot*.

In little more than six hours of smooth flying, we were descending into the mountain ringed valley which is the capital of Honduras, Tegucigalpa. In our approach to the airport we could see the wide swath of river banks that had expanded and eaten up whole neighborhoods, crushing bridges, roads and homes - swallowing their residents.

Proud to be an American

Archbishop Oscar Rodriguez, U.S. Ambassador James Creagan and his deputy, Robert Luaces, were there to greet us on the tarmac. There, also, were two U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopters and a huge C130 transport, that had recently arrived with supplies of food and medicine.

We chatted briefly with Sgt. Steve McDonough from Arkansas, whose face was so young that you knew your own was old. He told of their successful adventure of the day before - rescuing 500 isolated Hondurans in distant valleys whose homes were wiped away I was proud to be an American.

Ambassador Creagan ushered us onto the two helicopters, and from a few thousand feet we stared incredulously at the unremitting power of nature and its destructive course through rivers that had left thousands buried anonymously in graves of mud and debris.

Although the helicopters provided perspective, our hovering high above the city also sanitized the catastrophe. One would have to be on land to see the stoic faces of those who grieved, to smell death, to witness Hondurans lined up patiently for hours for a small amount of drinkable water sparingly served from a government truck.

"Your visit is very comforting"

On our way to an unsolicited invitation from President Carlos Flores, we toured the city of Tegucigalpa - a city so hilly that it makes San Francisco look like Kansas. It was then that we began to realize how the Honduran infrastructure that makes social life possible had been crushed in a matter of six days of howling wind and torrential rain.

The roads, bridges, water supply, and sewerage; access to one's family, food, and health services were all swept away. The crops, vital to feed the nation and essential for the national economy as exports, lay beaten and drowned in mire.

It will take decades before the nation is restored. President Flores, tall, gracious, and fluent in English from his engineering studies at Louisiana State University, gave more than an hour of his time to Cardinal Law, Ambassador Creagan and our small entourage.

What Honduras desperately needs, he insisted, were more helicopters, water, food and basic medicines which would be absolutely essential to limit the fatal diseases which will surely develop in the next few weeks - especially cholera, typhoid, pneumonia, scabies, fungus and conjunctivitis.

Cardinal Law promised to convey these requests through appropriate U.S. government channels and Doctors Doolin and Collins committed our archdiocesan resources of social service and medical supplies to the Honduran people as quickly as possible.

Because there is a parish in almost every village and town in Honduras, President Flores plans to use the well-respected social agencies of the local Church to deliver these vital services wherever possible.

Tegucigalpa's Archbishop Rodriguez agreed to pursue this with the assistance of the priests, sisters and the hundreds of parish lay leaders in the seven Honduran dioceses. When departing, I was the last to shake President Flores' hand. With a smile he said: "Your visit is very comforting. Now others will come to see how desperately the Honduran people need our neighbors' help." an observation that proved true.

Caritas and Hospital Escuela

It was now getting dark, but the Boston contingent, led by Archbishop Rodriguez, then paid a visit to Father Herman Calis and Mr. Eduardo Jeff, who together head up Caritas, an agency similar to our own Catholic Charities.

They were grateful for our visit and cited their specific needs. Dr. Doolin wrote down each item and promised to do everything humanly possible to get them to Tegucigalpa as soon as he could. We were predictably running late, but a visit to the Hospital Escuela - a teaching hospital - brought us the most dreaded news. Health Ministry officials were worried less about the natural disaster of a few days earlier and more frightened of a new and inevitable disaster that would face them in the days and weeks ahead:

The city's blood supply was washed away. Basic (and rather inexpensive) medicines were in short supply. Local and even regional epidemics were unavoidable if medicine didn't arrive and medical

stations weren't set up immediately to counter the diseases which always accompany a loss of potable water, open sewerage in the cities and refugee settlements where men, women and children huddle together in primitive lean-tos on an open field.

It was Dr. Collins who took the notes from that meeting. Hospital officials told an encouraging story of neighborhood assistance a few days earlier after the neighbors were told the hospital had no running water at all.

From side streets and alleys, those who had drinking water carried cups, bottle, jars and pails of it to the hospital, trudge ' with it up four flights of stairs and poured it into a sanitary cistern.

Though severely wounded, the determined spirit of the Honduran people is not dead.

Up after curfew

Ambassador James Creagan and his wife, Gwyn, invited us for a late supper. Because embassy residences are also experiencing rationed food, the meal was simple - but its presentation was elegant. Creagan, a career diplomat, could not have been more gracious and accommodating. Our conversation before dinner was constantly being interrupted by phone calls with promises of assistance and tasks for him and his staff to do the next day.

But the ambassador was most proud of his wife who opened the residence during the height of the hurricane to neighboring families with children who could not stay in their own homes because of the danger of impending collapse.

After Grace, but before we ate, Ambassador Creagan toasted Cardinal Law with words similar to those I had heard earlier from President Flores: " You have been the first American leader to visit the people of Honduras. Now I can assure you, there will be many more. God bless you."

At 10 p.m. it was time to leave.

Thanks to the license plates which were marked "Diplomatic Corps," we were allowed to pass through checkpoints that guaranteed the city's curfew. The only citizens of Tegucigalpa who were still up, were those who were waiting quietly in line for water. When we arrived at our hotel, we retired for the night immediately. None of us felt like chatting.

Friday, November 6

At an early outdoor breakfast in a rose garden the next morning, I put together the notes from which this is being written because a van was waiting for us at 7:15. Next on the agenda was Mass at Archbishop Rodriguez's residence and then an hour flight to Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

Despite Dr. Collins' insistence that the jet engine sounded like a lawnmower running out of gas, we arrived safely and were greeted by Cardinal Obando y Bravo - a friend of Cardinal Law's since May of 1985 when both were given red hats by Pope John Paul II. U.S. Ambassador Lino Gutierrez, another career diplomat, was also on hand.

The local and international media were also present, unceremoniously pushing aside BCTV's Jay Fadden and his camera. "We're pushy in Boston, but not that pushy," was Jay's only lament. After a lengthy press conference, Cardinals Obando y Bravo and Law climbed into a red jeep-like vehicle and led a small convoy of vans to the Pan-American Highway - which is now neither Pan-American nor a highway.

On the road to Tipitapa

At a village crossroads en route to witness first hand how the rains had devastated Nicaragua, we met President Amoldo Aleman who was assuring his people that help and assistance would soon be coming. The two cardinals got out of their vehicle and spoke with the president for five or ten minutes as a crowd gathered around the three of them. When departing, the president asked both of them to visit him at his residence later in the afternoon.

At a place known by the euphonious name of Tipitapa, where the river of that same name once flowed placidly between the two great lakes outside of Managua, we saw the a mile of water that inundated the Pan-American Highway. Hugh truck, full of goods, frozen there for days, were waiting for the water to recede.

“Nueva Vida”

Next, through tiny villages and tinier hamlets, we drove to the outskirts of Mateare to a new settlement camp stretched out over about 30 acres of flat land far from the flooded lake. The settlers had lost everything but what they carried with them to the site. Eight hundred families had arrived already, all were busy using USAID sheetings of black plastic to construct some sort of temporary protection from the elements. More came while we were there, standing in the back of a truck with all their worldly good in plastic bags. Even more would come later.

I took no photographs of this scene. To do so seemed to me a violation of privacy. Patiently, they lined up for water and food. An other group lined up before a medical station - made up of four poles and 20 square yards of the same black plastic. As yet, there were no latrines. Dr. Collins remarked: “If this is the alternative safer site, imagine what they left.” The settlement's name was, ironically, 'Nueva Vida' or 'New Life.'

Where did the song come from?

Working our way back to the capital, we stopped briefly at the town of Mateare from which these homeless settlers had come. In the little parish church of Our Lady of Mercy, a couple hundred adult parishioners waited for the arrival of Cardinal Obando y Bravo and “the Cardinal from America.” Children lingered in the little plaza in front of the church fascinated with Kevin Nelson's and Jay Fadden's TV camera.

Each cardinal spoke briefly and were warmly greeted with applause. But then they all broke into song - full throated song - in praise of God. Where did the song come from? From what depth of faith and hope could such a melody rise? What was its mysterious source? Without romanticizing the poor, here was a people who have always known want; whose expectations in life have always been modest.

They live close to the earth, to the crops, to the easiness, and find contentment in the little things faith, family, work, food and their tiny community. Their hymn of praise was a remarkable collective defiance to defeat and despair.

Another presidential welcome

President Arnaldo Aleman, a large man with an easy smile and an avuncular personality, welcomed Cardinal Obando y Bravo, the Boston delegation and a few members of the U.S. Embassy to his office in mid-afternoon.

The Nicaraguan head of state grew serious as he repeated the same list of needs that his counterpart in Honduras did the day before: clean water, canned or dried foods, preventive medicines and any assistance in persuading the U.S. government to offer long-range help to correct the infrastructural destruction that Hurricane Mitch wrought with such effective thoroughness.

Neither 'plush' nor 'overly ostentatious'

After a quick sandwich at Managua's new and simple cathedral (the old cathedral lies half in ruin from the earthquake of 1972), we were driven about ten miles outside the city and given quarters at the archdiocesan seminary, La Piissima.

To play on the familiar words of the late radio personality, Norm Nathan, our accommodations were neither "plush nor overly ostentatious." But when we thought of the hundreds of families now protected from the rain at "Nueva Vida" by wide sheets of black plastic, we knew we were most fortunate.

We then ate a late supper at the family home of Roberto Rivas, who directs the social outreach arm of the Catholic Church in Nicaragua, and returned to the seminary close to ten o'clock. If the night before in Tegucigalpa we were in no mood to sit up and chat, our last night in Nicaragua was filled with almost inappropriate hilarity. We told stories as if we had been pals since childhood, as if we had known each other all our lives. When the lights were suddenly doused by a power beyond our control, we groped our way to our cots and slept soundly.

The next morning it dawned on me. What we had experienced the night before was "The M*A*S*H Syndrome," - an internal human mechanism that unconsciously kicks in after witnessing the overwhelming reality of so much death and even more devastation. It was nature's way of saying: "Keep it in perspective. There's still hope."

Returning home to Boston

It was only 48 hours since we left Hanscom Field and the return flight was uneventful, except for a beautiful aerial view of Cuba over which we passed with permission. Jay Fadden and Kevin Nelson were plotting on how, when they landed, they would quickly edit their TV footage at the studio in Newton and have it available for local stations *in less than an hour!* They accomplished it though. How, I don't know.

Cardinal Law led the discussion on what should be said at the 4 p.m. press conference at his Brighton residence, assigning different topics to each. When that was done, he turned to us all with a smile and remarked: "You know what fellas? I think we've done some good in the last two days."

*file Hurricane
mitch* P. 2



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Theology Department

November 3, 1998

William Jefferson Clinton
Office of the President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

I write with an urgent request. I make two suggestions, and provide my rationale for them. After that, I will give some personal background to explain my motivation.

Two suggestions: (1) try to pry more aid from the Congress for Nicaragua and Honduras; (2) visit Nicaragua.

Melanne Verveer suggested that a presidential visit can be troublesome and even cause for a backlash from the people visited because of the resources required to make the visit possible. That I appreciate. But I wonder if a simple (so to speak) flight over the devastated areas, coupled with a statement of the good reasons for not landing at all, might make sense.

My rationale. The record of our consistent involvement in Central America through generations is appalling. Whatever one's ideological persuasion, the fact is, in Nicaragua we supported a civil war (the most recent of our interventions there); we bear some responsibility for its rebuilding.

Nicaragua and Honduras deserve more of the kind of attention that we devote primarily to the Middle East and Eastern Europe (though I do not regret that attention). Conservatives here could hardly complain, given any compassion, and given that Nicaragua is now a democracy with a popularly elected conservative president.

Now, some background to explain why I write on what has to be one of the busiest days of your ever-busy year.

I have quite self-consciously never bothered to write you about matters for which you have responsibility as President (with one exception, a recommendation of a potential candidate for the

embassy to the Vatican). In part, because I did not want to presume on friendship. In part, because I do not have expertise even on matters about which I might have a layman's special concern. But mostly because I trust your informed intelligence, yes, but more importantly your instinctive concern for those in need and the common good generally. "He understands and feels with the common man; he has at heart's center a feel for, a commitment to, the common good" -- that, as many witnesses could confirm, is my consistent response when I am asked for comment about you or your presidency.

Last night I could not think of anything but the plight of the people of Honduras and Nicaragua. I sat in my room weeping and finally left a message for Melanne Verveer that I wanted to talk to the President. This morning I regretted my call to Melanne, knowing how busy she is, how busy you are, and trusting that you would do all that you could manage to help these devastated people. But Melanne, with the kindness and concern you know well, took the trouble to call me and suggest that I write you a note. I am glad she did.

For fifteen years I ran a program in which Hoyas would give the year after graduation to live with, and do voluntary service work for, the poor of Nicaragua and Peru. Eight of those year we had groups in Nicaragua, under the sponsorship of the Jesuits at our university in Managua. I visited every Christmas season, and spent one summer there working with the volunteers. I have a feel for the country; it is dear to my heart.

To hear the amount of money we plan to send in aid: well, I was disappointed beyond telling. I do not blame you. I know the Congress has been miserly.

Thanks for listening, Mr. President.

With very best wishes,



Otto Hentz, S.J.