

OFDA
**Disaster
Case Reports**

Liberia Civil Strife

April 1980

**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523**

LIBERIA - Civil Strife

Data

Date: April 1980 (FY 80)

Location: Monrovia, Liberia

No. Dead: 40

No. Injured: Approximately 400 wounded

Damage: Widespread looting reported in Monrovia; damage to stores and merchandise; shortages of staple goods also reported.

The Disaster

In the aftermath of the coup d'etat that overthrew the government of former President Tolbert, injuries to approximately 400 occurred while the police tried to maintain civil order and control looting. The subsequent increase in the number of admissions to the JFK Hospital in Monrovia, especially for emergency surgery, created a serious shortage of disposable surgical material as well as other medicines.

Action Taken by the Government of Liberia (GOL)

On April 14, 1981, two days after the coup, Foreign Minister Matthews asked the U.S. Charge for support in furnishing emergency surgical and medical supplies to the GOL in order to alleviate the shortage at Monrovia's principal hospital, JFK.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

After consulting with Dr. Brumskine, the Director of Medical Services at the JFK Hospital in Monrovia, the U.S. Charge declared a state of disaster in Liberia on April 24, 1980. A list of emergency medical and surgical supplies was drawn up based upon previous experience in similar situations. The cost of the supplies was \$56,409 while the shipping costs came to \$16,247.....\$72,656

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

None reported

This publication does not require CRB approval.

