

DISASTER
RELIEF

CASE REPORT
Jamaica—Civil Strife
January 1976

Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

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JAMAICA

Civil Strife—January 1976

Civil disorder erupted on January 7 in the James Town/Trench Town area in Kingston among rival political factions who set fire to a large number of homes, private business establishments, and public buildings. The conflict caused an estimated property loss of over one million dollars.

VALUE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE \$45,253

VALUE OF ASSISTANCE BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES \$12,500

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

The disaster was confined primarily to Western Kingston in a densely populated slum area of 13 or 14 city blocks. More than 60,000 people were affected.

The Government of Jamaica's (GOJ) main thrust was to contain fires, maintain security measures in the area, and provide shelter for some 1,300 persons who fled their homes.

The GOJ's relief efforts were coordinated by the Central Relief Committee headed by a former participant of one of the A.I.D. sponsored International Disaster Preparedness Seminars. Tents donated by the U.S. Government, Canada, and Mexico were erected by the Jamaica Defense Force to provide temporary shelter to the homeless. However, many of the victims had to live in the tents for several months while others received rent subsidies from the GOJ. The Government also provided numerous rehabilitation grants to many displaced families.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

In response to the Jamaican Prime Minister's request for U.S. Government emergency assistance, U.S. Ambassador Sumner Gerard exercised his disaster relief authority on Jan-

uary 24 and requested tents and other relief supplies be sent to Jamaica to augment the GOJ's efforts in caring for the homeless.

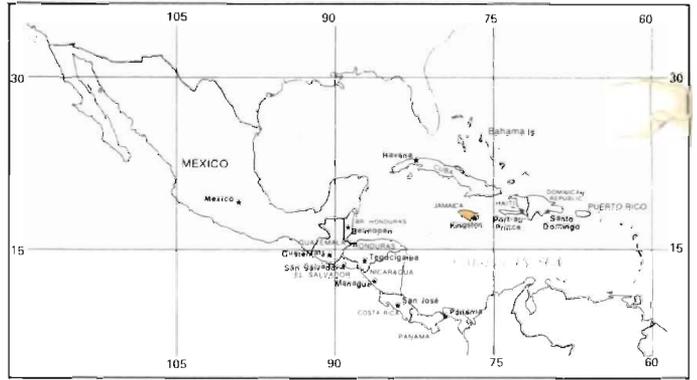
A.I.D.'s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance arranged for the release of supplies from A.I.D.'s disaster relief stockpile at the Panama Canal Zone. On January 25, a U.S. Air Force C-130 loaded with 120 tents, 488 cots, 20 field kitchens, and 20 5-gallon fuel cans departed Howard Air Force Base and upon arrival at Kingston, the same day, was unloaded by 50 members of the Jamaica Defense Forces. The supplies were transported by truck convoy to the stricken area. Total value of U.S. Government assistance including cost of the airlift was \$45,253.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

The Salvation Army (SA) took initial steps to provide temporary shelter and accommodations for 1,800 victims. Some 4,000 individuals received clothing and 8,000 males were served by the SA. Operational costs were \$12,500.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Governments of Canada and Mexico sent tents to Jamaica, but the value of assistance was not reported.



JAMAICA

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