

OFDA
**Disaster
Case Reports**

Guadeloupe Volcanic Eruption
August 30, 1976

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

This publication does not require CRB approval.

GUADELOUPE - Volcano Eruption

Data

Date: August 30, 1976 (Transitional Quarter)

Location: La Soufriere volcano, near the city of Basse Terre

No. Dead: None

No. Injured: 3

No. Affected: 72,000 - 75,000

Damage: No structural damage, but considerable social dislocation resulted from the evacuation of 72,000 people

The Disaster

At 10:15 a.m. on August 30, 1976, the long-smoldering La Soufriere volcano erupted sending clouds of ash and debris over the mountainside. The eruption also triggered minor fissures of lava at the top of the crater. Since July 1977 there has been a series of earthquake tremors and volcanic activity which resulted in the precautionary evacuation of approximately 72,000 residents of Basse Terre, St. Claude, and Baillif. Latent volcanic activity continued after the August eruption but by November 1977 most of the evacuees had returned to their homes.

Action Taken by the Government of Guadeloupe (GOG)

Guadeloupe, an overseas department of France, was supported by the Government of France which provided 10,000 cots and an unspecified number of tents and other supplies. French authorities did not request international assistance.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

The United States Government provided 100 general purpose medium-size military tents and 400 family-size tents. The tents and transportation costs came to.....\$162,761

Two U.S. Geological Survey geologists spent five days in Guadeloupe assessing the situation at a cost of \$2,500. One Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance technician was sent to

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make a shelter assessment (\$980) and a team from the Scientific Laboratory at Los Alamos spent several weeks on Guadeloupe monitoring the volcanic activity (\$8,000).....\$11,480

TOTAL \$174,241

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

None reported.

