



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

TURKEY - Oil Spill/Fire

Date: November 15-17, 1979 (FY 80)

Location: Bosphorus Strait, 300 meters south of the breakwater of the Haydarpasor port area of Istanbul

No. Dead: 50

No. Injured: 3

Damage: Destruction of oil tanker; damage to cargo ship; windows broken in approximately 100 buildings; water pollution

The Disaster

On November 15, 1979, a collision occurred between a 150,000-ton Romanian tanker loaded with crude oil and a 7,600-ton Greek freighter carrying steel coils. The impact sparked a series of explosions aboard the Romanian tanker causing over 90,000 tons of burning oil to spill into the water. The explosions also caused windows to break in about 100 buildings along the coast. Oil pollution destroyed some fishing beds in the Sea of Marmara.

Action Taken by the Government of Turkey

The Government of Turkey initiated preventive measures including the suspension of ferry services across the Bosphorus, closing tourist sites near the coast, and blocking access roads to major landing stations on both sides of the Bosphorus. The Turkish Environmental Agency, through the Prime Minister's Office, requested technical assistance from the United States.

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Assistance Provided by the United States Government

A U.S. Coast Guard strike force team of two officers was dispatched to the scene to make an assessment and assist Turkish authorities in control measures.....\$1,382

TOTAL \$1,382

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

A consortium of oil tanker owners provided a barrier from Great Britain to contain the oil spill.