



# DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for  
International  
Development

Washington D.C.  
20523

## BOLIVIA - Air Crash

### Data

Date: October 13, 1976 (FY 77)

Location: Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

No. Dead: 112 dead, 110 injured

Damage: One house, one school, and one kerosene pump station were destroyed; in addition, one Boeing 707 aircraft valued at \$2.2 million was completely destroyed

### The Disaster

An empty Boeing 707 cargo jet crashed on takeoff from El Trompillo International Airport in Santa Cruz into an adjacent residential area. After striking a concrete utility pole beyond the end of the runway, the plane's left wing (at a 35' angle to the ground) struck some trees, the roof of a house, a school, and a kerosene pump station where people were standing in line to purchase kerosene. The plane hit the ground upside down and exploded, coming to rest at the base of a wall surrounding a soccer field where a game was in progress.

The American crew of three was killed as were people in the street who walked along what became the plane's principal crash path. Children playing in the soccer game were also killed.

### Action Taken by the Government of Bolivia (GOB)

The President of Bolivia, his wife, and the entire Bolivian Cabinet rushed to the scene of the crash while Bolivian doctors were mobilized to aid the injured. The Governor of Santa Cruz was designated Chief of Bolivian Disaster Relief Operations and was responsible for overseeing the distribution of incoming medical supplies from neighboring countries to local hospitals. The GOB also requested the assistance of U.S. doctors who specialize in burns to advise Bolivian doctors on advanced methods of burn treatment for many of the victims.

### Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On the day of the crash, the U.S. Ambassador determined that a disaster had occurred and authorized \$25,000 for use in purcha-

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sing 5,000 lbs. of medical supplies and equipment. Six members of a U.S. Military Burn Team (three physicians and three medical corpsmen), along with two FAA and four National Transportation Safety Board representatives, were sent from the U.S. to Bolivia to assist the disaster victims.....\$78,307

TOTAL \$78,307

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community \*

Argentina - evacuated 20 of the most seriously burned patients to a hospital in Buenos Aires

Brazil - sent medical personnel

Mexico - sent nurses, doctors, and medicine

PAHO - medicine valued at \$6,000

Paraguay - sent medical personnel

UNDRO - \$12,000 worth of medicines, bedsheets, one sterilizer heater, two autoclaves, and one freezer

W. Germany - \$60,000 in cash

TOTAL \$78,000

\* Please Note: the figure for total international assistance is an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.