

Weak tremors plague Turkey's survivors

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Homeless earthquake survivors battled to keep their cardboard and blanket tents from collapsing in a downpour yesterday and a new tremor 200 miles away sent residents of Ankara running to the streets in panic.

While the death toll from last week's quake reached nearly 18,000 people, there were no reports of casualties or damages from Yesterdays much weaker tremor.

The 4.7-magnitude quake was centered near Haymana, 40 miles south of Ankara, the capital. A 4.2-magnitude aftershock followed.

Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, whose government has been under fire for its slow response to the crisis, acknowledged yesterday that there were delays in the rescue efforts.

But he said past governments bear some responsibility for allowing the shoddy construction that contributed to the high death toll.

And he insisted some of the delays were unavoidable due to severe damage to telephones and roads from the 7.4-magnitude quake that struck before dawn on Aug. 17.

"Mistakes have been made," Ecevit said in an interview with CNN, adding the government is already working on stricter measures to solve the problem.

Despite the criticisms, Ecevit said he has no intention of resigning.

"Of course the people have the right to be furious, have the right to complain, but this is a natural disaster," he said.

"We will certainly derive lessons from the experience of this last disaster. We will certainly benefit from the experiences and knowledge of foreign experts."

The relief efforts have overwhelmed Turkey, which has appealed for aid, including

disinfectants, tetanus vaccines, tents, flashlights, blankets, garbage trucks and heavy machinery for clearing rubble.

It has also asked the United Nations to help get 45,000 body bags.

Turkey's National Security Council estimated that 200,000 people have been left homeless and are staying in tents and makeshift shelters.

The death toll rose to 17,997 yesterday as more bodies were uncovered from the wreckage. Some officials estimate the final death toll could reach 40,000.

Although the region has suffered numerous quakes over the past decade, experts said little has been done to address the problems of shady contractors who do not bother with permits and skimp on materials or local officials who do not enforce building codes.

Thousands of cheaply-made concrete-and-cinderblock apartment blocks collapsed during the quake, crushing thousands as they slept.

Tens of thousands of homeless are now camped out on streets, in parks and on vacant lots. Many are growing angrier with the new misery of heavy rains and are waiting to see if and when the government will help them.

Memduh Oguz, governor of hard-hit Izmit province, urged those whose houses were not seriously damaged to return home to ease the demand for emergency shelter.

A Dutch group said it would send 30,000 prefabricated shelters designed to withstand quakes and winter cold, and the United States plans to send 3,500 all-weather tents.

Emergency housing, however, may not reach all the needy until late November — when heavy rains traditionally lash north-

western Turkey.

A few foreign rescue crews, including Americans, continued to search for miracles yesterday, saying some people have been found alive more than a week after other quakes.

But in general, the search for survivors was winding down and efforts were shifting to helping refugees — including taking measures to prevent disease.

Dr. Michel Thieren of the World Health Organization said the largest threat to survivors comes from poor sanitation, contaminated water and the interruption of routine medical care, not the presence of the large numbers of unburied corpses.

"The relationship between dead bodies and illness on the part of living persons is incorrect — the risk of disease is actually low," he said in a telephone interview from Geneva.

Dr. Stephen Ostroff of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agreed that contaminated water and poor sanitation are the greater risks but said removing dead bodies would also help ease health concerns.

"For a variety of sanitary and hygiene reasons, it's not good to have a lot of decomposing corpses sitting around," he said.

Doctors have warned that diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery could spread in the tent camps and shacks where survivors now live.

Ostroff said there is also a risk of diarrheal diseases sweeping through water in disaster areas.

He added that in crowded, squalid conditions, normally routine diseases like measles or tuberculosis — a particular problem in Turkey — can turn into a large outbreak.

Ford cars used at Auschwitz

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Auschwitz historians have proven that Ford vehicles were used at the Nazi death camp but have found no evidence that the company used inmates as slave laborers, a museum official said yesterday.

Ford Motor Co. is among about 100 companies mentioned in Nazi documents the Auschwitz museum recently received from Russia.

Barbara Jarosz, head of the Auschwitz museum archives, said Ford is cited once in a report from a meeting of the camp's transportation section in August 1942.

Most of the documents still have to be reviewed, Jarosz said, but according to those seen so far, it is not true that Ford used slave

labor or inmates' labor," she said in a telephone interview.

Ford's U.S. headquarters has acknowledged that slave labor was used at its Cologne plant during World War II, but says it lost control of its German operations during the war.

Apart from Ford's German subsidiary, German industrial giants such as Krupp, Siemens, IG Farben and M.A.N. also are named in the newly available documents.

The documents include construction plans, orders for raw materials or services, invoices and reports from work on the death camp that the Nazis set up in 1940. They also include lists of workers, including camp inmates, used by some companies.

U.S. denies attacking Iraq

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The U.S. military denied yesterday attacking civilian sites in Iraq, saying the Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery which fired at U.S. planes also killed two Iraqi civilians.

Iraq's armed forces on Monday claimed that American and British planes killed two people in an attack on the town of Ba'shequa, 280 miles north of Baghdad.

Lt. Col. Mike Waters, a spokesman for Incirlik air base in southern Turkey, said the civilians had most probably died from falling Iraqi anti-aircraft rounds, and not bombs fired by allied planes patrolling a no-fly over northern Iraq.

"Saddam Hussein is killing his own people by firing at us," Waters said. "If the artillery doesn't

explode when it's fired up, it will come down and explode on the ground."

He said U.S. planes Monday struck radar sites 35 miles west of Ba'shequa and could not have killed any civilians at the town itself.

British and U.S. planes in Incirlik patrol the skies over northern Iraq to protect the Kurdish minority from Iraqi forces. Another no-fly zone over southern Iraq protects a Shiite minority there.

Baghdad regards the patrols as a violation of its sovereignty and since late December has regularly challenged the allied planes. The United States and Britain have responded by firing on radar and other military sites.

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