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# 1,700 killed in Taiwan earthquake

Foreign crews, U.N. damage-assessment team sent to assist in rescue effort

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Rescuers scrambled through the night Tuesday to unearth thousands of people trapped under debris from Taiwan's second-deadliest earthquake, which killed more than 1,700 people and left hundreds reported missing.

More than 100,000 Taiwanese were homeless after the 7.6-magnitude quake toppled houses and high-rise apartment complexes across central Taiwan. Roads buckled, chunks of land rose up to create new hills and a bridge was left dangling in the air.

By early Wednesday, officials said 1,712 people were dead, more than 4,000 were injured and almost 3,000 were believed trapped in the rubble. Some 216 were missing, according to the Interior Ministry's disaster management center.

About 4 million households were still without power early Wednesday, utility officials said.

Taiwan is hit by dozens of quakes each year, but most are centered in the Pacific Ocean east of the island and cause no damage. The island's deadliest quake, with a 7.4 magnitude, killed 3,276 people in 1935.

"We're pulling the dead out one by one, but it's hard to get an overall picture of the number of fatalities," Chen Wen-hsien, a rescue official in the central city of Fengyuan, about 30 miles from the epicenter, said. He had to cover his nose with tissue after part of a building began shifting from an aftershock, releasing the stench of a corpse still inside.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau listed the quake as a 7.3 magnitude, a little less than the U.S. Geological Survey's estimate. The bureau said the quake's epicenter was in Nantou County, 120 miles south of the capital Taipei, where most of the deaths occurred.

Morgues filled up with bodies, and officials appealed for donations of bulldozers, cars, quilts and food. Rescue crews from the United States, Singapore, Japan, Switzerland and Russia were on their way to provide assistance, as was a U.N. disaster assessment team.

Taiwan's political nemesis, the communist regime in Beijing, offered aid with a subtle dig.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin said the disaster "hurt the hearts of people on the mainland, as the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are as closely linked as flesh and blood."

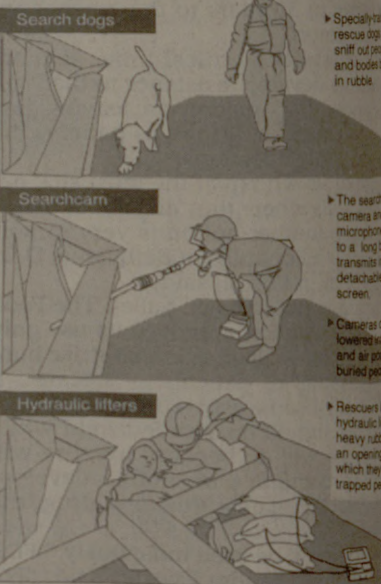
China's Red Cross said it would provide the equivalent of \$100,000 in disaster aid and \$60,000 worth of relief supplies. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue said Beijing will provide "all assistance within our capability."

The Taipei government expressed cautious gratitude for the assistance.

"This would be a good beginning to improving ties," Su Chi, chair of the government Mainland Affairs Council, which is responsible for Taiwan's relations with China, said. "I hope we can work on this basis and make efforts together to build up stable and peaceful relations."

## Looking for survivors in Taiwan

Less than a month after returning from the devastation of the earthquake-ravaged Taiwan, the team's 15th flight from an Air Force base in Dover, Del., on a 22-hour flight is a look at some rescue methods.



Specialized rescue dogs, searchcams and hydraulic lifters are used to find survivors.

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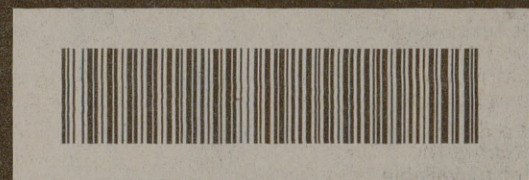
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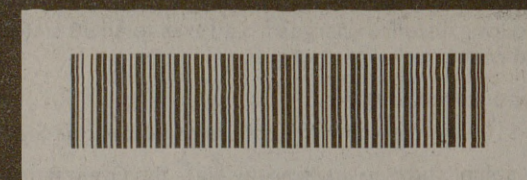
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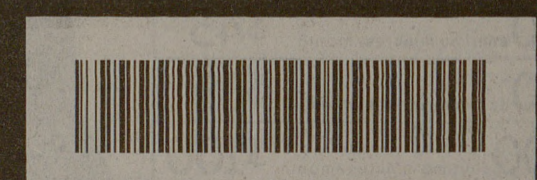
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## Clinton calls for U.N. aid

President: Nations must stop killings

UNITED NATIONS — President Clinton challenged nations and countries elsewhere yesterday to stop killings like those in Kosovo and in East Timor.

The United States "cannot respond to every humanitarian catastrophe in the world," he told the General Assembly. "We cannot do everything everywhere."

Clinton also urged the body to engage in an all-out effort against poverty for the 21st century and to "assure that weapons mass destruction will not be used on our children."

"Let us resolve in the dawn of this new millennium to bring an era in which our children will not be overwhelmed by the threat of mass destruction," Clinton told the member body.

Clinton suggested the U.S. play an expanded role in preventing mass slaughter and displacement.

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