

Bégin hit the right note when she addressed one group as *cari amici* (dear friends) and delivered her speech in Italian. Jacques Couture, Quebec's Minister of Immigration, abandoned his formal speech and replied spontaneously to the welcome offered by the Italian officials. Ontario's Health Minister, Dennis Timbrell, remarked on the reconstruction that had taken place since his first visit shortly after the earthquake.

Generous response

Immediately after the disaster, the response in Canada was generous. Canadians, mostly of Italian descent, donated over \$2.5 million; the Federal Government gave \$1.3 million; the government of Ontario, \$500,000; the government of Quebec, \$75,000; British Columbia, \$42,000; and Alberta, \$34,000.

As a rule, CIDA is barred by Canadian law from assisting countries that do not qualify as impoverished, as defined by world *per capita* income scales. By a motion of Parliament, \$1 million was made available through a special fund for relief and reconstruction to deal with this emergency situation. An additional \$300,000 has since been pledged.

The National Congress of Italian Canadians (NCIC) was given the task to administer these funds, as well as those raised by the Italian societies across Canada.

According to NCIC President, Dr. Laureano Leone, "the Friuli project is historic because it marks the first occasion on which all the Italian associations have joined forces to work together".

To the financial contributions, ranging from \$2.73 from a little boy's piggy-bank in Toronto to individual donations in five figures, must be added the services and time given by the members of the organizing committee, who ensured that all conditions set down in the contracts were adhered to.

Another member of the committee, Senator Peter Bosa, who was born in Friuli, explained that after consultations in Canada, fact-finding trips to Friuli and discussions with local authorities, it was decided to replace some of the homes that were destroyed.

To avoid delays and to place control over the houses in the hands of local officials, deeds of gift were signed in Udine in April 1977, by NCIC officials and the mayors of the five towns involved.

This produced what the Italian Min-

ister of Public Works Gaetano Stamatii called a notable example of co-operation and solidarity.

New houses

Contracts were awarded to three Italian-based construction companies. Of Canadian design, the houses resemble bungalows. The basements are of anti-earthquake reinforced concrete. As an added precaution, each house is built on a concrete slab. The walls are of plywood overlaid with a special compound which is moisture-resistant. The finish has a stucco-like appearance, and the houses are painted in a range of shades from pale amber to yellow. Considerable national interest was shown in the timber frame construction process which is unusual in Italy. The Canadian houses are the first permanent dwellings to be completed in the earthquake zone.

In addition to the 30 houses at Pinzano, there are 59 at Forgaria, and 92 at Venzone — where almost all of the original houses were destroyed or damaged by the earthquake.

The Canadian-funded senior citizens' residence at Taipana is now home to 45 elderly victims of the earthquake, and the 40-unit "Social Residence" at Bordano houses both old people and young couples.

Following the disaster, the homeless were quartered in tent cities. These have since been replaced by temporary houses provided by the Italian Government.



Over 1,000 people were killed and 150,000 made homeless in the earthquake.



Rather than a senior citizens' home, Bordano opted for a "Social Residence" housing both old and young people.

Some people are living with relatives. Others are housed in resort areas where hotel space is being used for the emergency.

The \$4.5 million donated by Canadians will provide permanent housing for approximately 1,000 people. Applicants are assessed on their need. One of these, widowed 79-year-old Maria Bira, was overjoyed because she obtained a place in the senior citizens' residence in Taipana. Maria's house was destroyed, and she was left with only her nightclothes and a blanket.

Pietro Collaviz of Pinzano felt doubly fortunate. He was one of 700 villagers given employment when work on the project commenced, and he and his family now occupy what he calls "a real house".

Occupants pay a nominal rent to the municipality which is commensurate with their financial situation. Everyone who lost homes in the earthquake is entitled to compensation from the Italian Government. Therefore, those who opt to live in the Canadian houses may have their compensation awarded to the municipality, where in turn it will be used for further reconstruction.

That the Friuli spirit is well-known was evident when Prime Minister Andreotti's representative at the openings, Under-Secretary Bressani, declared that all Italians needed the famous Friuli spirit.

For further information contact: Mariano de Marinis, The National Congress of Italian Canadians (N.C.I.C.), 141 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 1109, Ottawa, K1P 5J3 Canada.

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