

## Reconstruction in Guatemala

Canada will spend nearly \$13 million in grants and loans in the next four years helping Guatemala rebuild homes, schools and water systems which were devastated by an earthquake, the External Affairs Department announced recently.

The funds are in addition to \$4.2 million provided by the Canadian International Development Agency in cash, food, blankets, orthopedic equipment and construction materials since the earthquake struck last February.

Private Canadian relief organizations raised \$4 million in public subscription campaigns to assist the Central American country.

The special program includes \$7.7 million in grants for construction materials for schools, health centres and homes over two years. A \$3.5-million 50-year loan free of interest will finance the rebuilding of rural water systems destroyed or damaged by the 'quake, and \$1.8 million in grants will help the Government of Guatemala draw up a national plan for rural water systems.

This further assistance is in line with Canada's strategy for international development co-operation 1975-1980, which calls for more help for the rural poor, as well as with the aim, stated at the Habitat conference in Vancouver, of assisting developing countries to provide clean water and homes for their people.

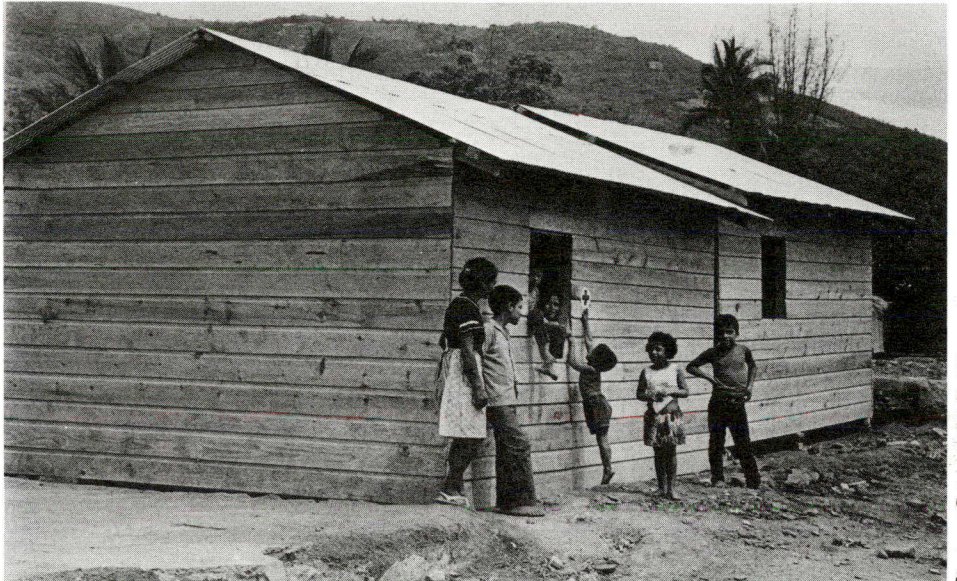
### Extent of damage

Some 23,000 died and 80,000 were injured in the earthquake which left 28 per cent of the population without shelter. The lives of another 2.5 million were affected either directly or indirectly. While social costs of the disaster cannot be estimated, material losses were placed at \$748 million, 63 per cent of this in the housing sector. The Inter-American Development Bank has estimated that it will cost \$1,100 million to rebuild the social and economic infrastructure of the country.

Forty per cent of the \$3.5-million loan for rural water systems equipment and material will be untied while the \$7-million grant will be for Canadian construction materials, which will be

*Canadian Red Cross funds will be used over the coming months to complete 10,000 homes for victims of the devastating earthquake in Guatemala in the towns of El Progreso, El Rosario, Jalapa, Salama, Chimaltenango, Guatemala City and Sante Maria Chiqimula. The photos show houses of Canadian construction materials built by volunteers, which are transported to sites and assembled in less than 90 minutes. Armando Amado Chacon, President of*

*the Guatemalan Red Cross said: "My country has been very good to me. But material things are not enough, a man also has the need to share with his fellow men what he has. I believe in the Red Cross principles and the work Red Cross does all over the world and so I have been a volunteer here for 21 years. I would also like to say a special thank you to the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian people for their concern and support."*



Photos: Crombie McNeill



channelled through co-operatives and community organizations working with the Guatemalan Government in the rebuilding of homes and schools affected by the 'quake.

Under the \$1.8-million grant, a Canadian team will assist the Guatemalan

Government to establish a national plan for rural water works and 250 Guatemalans will be trained to operate and maintain the system.

Before the earthquake, there were 539 systems serving 8 per cent of the rural population. Canada's assistance will help rehabilitate 250 systems destroyed or damaged by the 'quake.

## Cancer of the liver – a new method of detection

An immunological method for early detection of cancer of the liver among workers in contact with polyvinyl chloride\* (PVC) has been developed by Dr. M. Pagé and his group at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec hospital in Québec City. Dr. Pagé's work has aroused a great deal of interest in the scienti-

\* PVC is a petroleum product that has been used in industry for more than 40 years. In 1937, scientists in the Soviet Union discovered that PVC had caused burns and bone deformation.