

# Turkey battles new tremor

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

While the death toll from last week's quake soared to nearly 18,000 people, there were no reports of casualties or damages from Tuesday's much weaker tremor. The magnitude-4.7 quake was centered near Haymana, 40 miles south of Ankara, the capital. A magnitude-4.2 aftershock followed.

Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, whose government has been under fire for its slow response to the crisis, acknowledged Tuesday 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 magnitude-7.4 quake that struck before dawn on Aug. 17.

"Mistakes have been made," Ecevit said in an interview with CNN, adding that 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 nervous, 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," he said. "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.

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 Tuesday 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 say little has been done to address the problems of shady contractors who don't bother with permits and skimp on materials, or local officials who don't enforce building codes.

Thousands of cheaply-made concrete-and-cinder-block 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 northwestern Turkey.

A few foreign rescue crews, including Americans, continued to search for miracles Tuesday, 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.

# Chinese espionage fears send Washington to work

WASHINGTON (AP) — Box-by-box, sometimes line-by-line, government record keepers have worked the past three years to declassify 600 million pages of documents, opening doors to America's secret past.

Now, because Washington fears that China got its hands on U.S. nuclear secrets, these bleary-eyed declassifiers could face a daunting new task: Doing it again.

Legislation headed for approval in Congress would require all of the documents to be re-examined to make sure sensitive details about the U.S. nuclear arsenal don't slip out of the government's attic.

"This is all part of the frenzy about Chinese espionage that is driving Washington crazy," said Steven Aftergood, who directs The Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists. "The idea that they're going to reread material that's already been declassified is preposterous. It will basically cripple the declassification program by driving it in circles."

Present efforts to lift the veil of government secrecy are driven by an executive order President Clinton signed in 1995. The order instructs federal agencies to open — by April 2000 — classified records that contain historical material and are more than 25 years old. Exceptions are narrowly defined.

In the past three years, more than

600 million pages have been declassified.

Subjects include the Cold War, Vietnam, POWs and UFOs.

The public already can access 400 million pages that have been unsealed. Another 200 million pages are declassified, but are not yet on public shelves. Nearly one billion more pages still must be reviewed.

Declassification was moving at a fast clip until last year when some lawmakers worried that nuclear secrets — still classified under the Atomic Energy Act — weren't being properly protected. Several U.S. senators wrote to National Security Adviser Samuel Berger saying that "in a frenzied attempt" to meet the April 2000 deadline, documents containing sensitive nuclear weapons information may have been released, or were in danger of being released.

Such concerns prompted Congress to pass a law last year requiring declassifiers to come up with a plan to scan documents, page-by-page, looking for nuclear material — unless the records were "highly unlikely" to contain such information.

This year, after a government scientist suspected of giving nuclear secrets to China was fired in March for alleged security violations at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, lawmakers sought even tougher scrutiny.

## Babchuk's dedication is recalled

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Babchuk said. "You have to redefine yourself (after your father dies). I was so close to him, and I'm so proud of everything he's done."

Bianca Babchuk, who is also a sociologist, met her husband in an introductory sociology class at Wayne State University in Detroit.

They married soon after and moved to St. Louis, where they both did graduate work.

"He was an extremely dedicated husband and father," she said. "I still can't believe he's gone."

Bianca Babchuk said her husband was an unselfish man dedicated to the sociology department.

"He would think in terms of the department and not himself," she said, noting that in his years of teaching he never missed a class because of illness.

Wayne Babchuk said his father led an interesting life and had many talents.

Besides the research, teaching and family, Babchuk also served in the World War II Air Corps, played the violin and spoke Ukrainian fluently.

"He was a kind, kind man to everyone," Wayne Babchuk said. "It's hard to believe that someone with such a rich life still has to die."

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