

from page 2

Five others of the world's significant earthquakes during 1989 occurred in the US or nearby waters. An Aug. 8 magnitude 5.3 tremor near Los Gatos, Calif., caused one death. Five people were slightly injured, five homes were destroyed and another 100 structures were damaged when a magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck the island of Hawaii June 26. In southern California, several people were slightly injured and some property damage occurred from a magnitude 5.2 tremor in west

Los Angeles Jan. 19. In southern Alaska, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake Sept. 4, centered offshore in the Pacific Ocean, was felt by residents of coastal areas, but caused no damage. On Oct. 7, a magnitude 6.7 tremor occurred in the Andreanof Islands of the Aleutians.

The most deadly earthquake of 1989 was a magnitude 5.3 tremor that shook the Tajik region of the Soviet Union Jan. 22, triggering landslides that buried several villages and killed an estimated 274 persons.

Philippine Earthquake February 8, 1990



Feb. 8, 1990. Bohol Earthquake. A 2-story reinforced concrete building at Guindulman, Bohol collapsed during the 2nd shock. A column punched through the slab.

A damaging earthquake of magnitude 6 killed three persons and caused estimated damage of \$7 million dollars in a region with a population of 400,000 in the Philippines. The instrumentally determined epicenter was at 124.1' east, 9.68' north which is near the town of Loboc, 18 km west of Tagbilaran City, 640 km (400 m) southeast of Manila. The main shock was followed one-half hour later by a strong aftershock that caused many

damaged structures to collapse. Brick and reinforced concrete buildings collapsed, bridges and churches were heavily damaged, liquefaction was observed, and the ocean first receded from the shore and then returned.

--Abstracted from an account sent to G. Housner by J. B. Tirol, College of Technology, University of Bohol, Tagbilaran City 6300, Philippines.

The second most deadly seismic event of 1989 was a magnitude 5.7 earthquake in Iran Aug. 1 that is believed to have killed at least 90 people and injured 15, when their villages were struck by earthquake-induced landslides.

The strongest tremor and the only "great" earthquake (magnitude 8 or higher) recorded during 1989 was an 8.3-magnitude earthquake May 23 in the South Pacific near the Macquarie Islands about midway between Australia and Antarctica. The island region is sparsely populated and there were no reports of injuries or damage.

Prior to the May 23 tremor in the South Pacific, the world had gone 31 months without a great earthquake. The last previous one was an 8.1 earthquake that shook the Kermadec Islands of the South Pacific Oct. 20, 1986, causing no damage in that sparsely inhabited area.

Person said the USGS, using data from seismograph stations throughout the world, normally locates from 10,000 to 12,000 earthquakes each year having magnitudes of about 1.0 up to 8.0 or more.

"Probably several million earthquakes occur each year," he said, "but most are so small or occur in such remote areas that they are undetected by even the most sensitive instruments in the world."

Earthquake data gathered by the USGS is used to report on occurrences of earthquakes worldwide and to provide information used by governments and industry to study causes of earthquakes, when and where they may occur and how the hazards of earthquakes might be reduced.