

Haiti; Desolation and Death

PUERTO PRÍNCIPE, January 14.— Haiti's Prime Minister, Jean Max-Berllevive, said that one of the reasons that led to the huge amount of fatal victims caused by the January 12 earthquake is the high level of poverty, which forces people to live in very precarious houses and severe overcrowding.

Prensa Latina reports that the population in the Haitian Capital was experiencing another painful day marked by the chaos and the desolation left by the collapse of the majority of the city.

The magnitude of the tragedy, even without precise evaluation, exceeds the authorities' capacity, said the Haitian Prime Minister in statements to the press.

"We have no answer for events like this. We are dependent on the international assistance to face this disaster."

Since last Tuesday, surrounding countries and others from different parts of the world, as well as international organizations have announced the mobilization of emergency resources to provide the victims with some aid.

The Cuban Joel Melo Torres, who was being treated by Cuban doctors in Puerto Principe and has been reported as seriously injured, was transported to the eastern Cuban province of Santiago de Cuba to be treated in the Juan Bruno Zayas Clinical-Surgical Hospital. The two Cubans with minor injuries, Head of the Cuban Education Brigade Alberto Bravo Carbonel and Alina Almeida Rivera, member of this same brigade were also brought back to Cuba.

Cuban doctors in Haiti have been working constantly, almost without rest. So far they have treated 1,987 patients and have carried out 111 major operations and 60 minor ones in the improvised field hospital.