

BIBLICAL DISASTER

Concern over Greek Student

At least 100 people perished in the strong 6.3 magnitude earthquake that struck near the medieval city of l'Aquila in the mountainous region of Abruzzo about 100 kilometres east of Rome. Dawn revealed extensive damage in the town. The hundreds of injured include four Greek University students, one of which remains trapped in the rubble of the house, where he used to live.



body has been recovered.

Several aftershocks followed the main one, urging the people to spend their night outdoors, while many parked cars were covered with parts of destroyed buildings. Several modern buildings were destroyed, while the hospital was evacuated for the fear of aftershocks.

The part of the national road that connects l'Aquila with Rome has closed, while several areas have been left without electric-power or telephone. An AFP correspondent stated that access to the city is very difficult. Firemen from Rome are heading to the area.

The Italian Political Protection Service has announced that 50,000 people have remained homeless and 10,000 houses suffered extensive damages.

The Head of the Political Protection Service stated that we should be expecting more victims, injured and destroyed buildings, adding that it would take time to restore the damage.

An elderly woman and a small girl



were killed in Fossa near l'Aquila, as per Sky TG24 TV network.

Moreover, several people have been reported missing in San Demetrio ne' Vestini in the same area.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi declared Italy in a state of emergency, postponing his visit to Moscow today and left for l'Aquila.

The quake reminded to the inhabitants the devastating 6.5-magnitude quake of 1980 that killed 2,735 people in the southern part of Italy.

Many countries, including Greece, Russia, Germany, France, Israel and the EU offered to help, but Italy stated that for the time being it will not need any help.

US President Barack Obama, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and the EU have sent their condolences to the victims of the quake.

Concern over the Greek Students

Deputy Foreign Minister Theodoros Kassimis announced that three Greek

students were injured slightly and one remains trapped.

The injured students are Ioanna Giagiou, Giorgos Konstantopoulos and Dionysia Koufolia, who is the sister of Vassilis Koufolias, who remains trapped.

As per the Foreign Ministry the student is continually communicating with his rescuers.

The Greek Embassy in Rome is on standby to offer help to Greek students if necessary or provide them with documents, while a group of diplomats is visiting the city. The telephone number of the Embassy in Rome is +390 6808 2030.

At the same time, the Greek diplomatic authorities are trying to bring back to Greece Greek students, who wish to do so. Aegean Airlines has offered to bring them back for free.

Transport and Communications Minister Evripidis Stylianidis ordered Olympic Airlines flights from Rome to Athens, today at 20:05, on Tuesday at 11.00 and Wednesday at 19:25 to transfer for free the quake-hit Greek students to Athens.

The Greek Emassy is hammering out a relevant list of quake-hit people and will see that they are transferred from the quake-hit area to Rome. The list can include people who will submit to the Embassy a document from the Italian police verifying that they had been hit by the quake.

A group of three trained rescuers is leaving from Thessaloniki in the afternoon to offer its services and locate any survivors with the help of sound-detecting system. Another group of rescuers is ready to leave from Athens, using a C-130 military aircraft.

Meanwhile, Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis has sent his condolences to his Italian counterpart Silvio Berlusconi. The PM is stressing amongst others that having suffered from quakes in the past, Greece is ready to offer its help to combat the tragedy it is facing.

Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, who is in Istanbul (Constantinople), had a telephone contact with her Italian counterpart, assuring him of Greece's willingness to offer help is asked. She also conveyed her condolences to the families with victims and the Italian people in general.

PASOK (Socialists) cadre responsible for Foreign Affairs issue Andreas Loverdos expressed Mr Papandreou's condolences to the Italian Ambassador in Greece on the victims of the strong quake, assuring him that the Greeks can offer their help.

The President of the Hellenic Parliament as well as LAOS (Popular Orthodox Rally) leader George Karatzaferis sent their condolences.

All hail the united nations

"DO YOU like the Easter candles?" asks Steve Kapernaros, pointing to the coloured tapers with their tutus of tulle that Orthodox Greeks light for holy days.

Yes, but what I like even more about these candles is that they are hanging above packets of matzo that he has brought in for his Jewish customers celebrating Passover, bags of Lebanese ma'amoul that have just been delivered from a bakery in Guildford and beribboned boxes of Italian crostoli for present-giving. The ebullient Steve and his wife, Sophie, are old hands at making the various parts of old Europe meet at their meat and cheese counters. At their Pacific Square Gourmet Deli, Moscow salami, Polish cabanossi, German teawurst, Croatian sunarica, Portuguese coppa, South African biltong, Greek feta, Italian pecorino, Australian cheddar and French brie meet in harmony in their long, temperature-controlled counters.

The ethnic, traditional and modern mix is the key to the Kapernaros's approach to retailing. After nearly 30 years in the business, they have a sharp eye for speciality and ethnic culinary products as well as the latest gourmet ingredients.

For those who bake, there are ground almond meal, hazelnut meal, poppyseeds and chilled filo. For those who snack, there is a complete range of antipasto, including French cornichons, Ligurian olives and Greek Thassos olives. For those who cook, there are Calasparra paella rice, caramelised balsamic vinegar, Parma and San Daniele prosciutto, Brancourts farm

cheese, creme fraiche and wild rice. For those who like something new, check out the Jerusalem mint tea from Israel and the L'Abruzzese organic spelt lasagne sheets.

People and products pack the shop . There are jars of polski ogorky (Polish dill pickles) on the floor and kefir (the Russian fermented milk drink) in the fridge. Buffalo mozzarella, pork crackling, duck fat, porcini powder, griotte cherry chocolates and Bushells Turkish-style coffee give an idea of the deli's breadth and range. But don't expect anything east of the steppes - even the rice noodles are from a company that manufactures herrings and horseradish - because their customers are 30 per cent Russian, 30 per cent Greek and 30 per cent from the Balkans, according to Steve. And, as Sophie says, there's a good Asian supermarket nearby.

The couple, who were both born in Greece but met in Australia in the 1960s, have had a following since opening their first deli in Randwick in 1970. In those days, says Steve, the only smallgoods were boiled ham, devon, frankfurters and bacon - all cut by hand.

Over the years, the smallgoods scene has changed and so have they but their philosophy is as relevant and fresh as when they first started: give the customers what they want and don't sell anything you wouldn't eat yourself.

Pacific Square Gourmet Deli: Pacific Square, Shop 25, 747 Anzac Parade, Maroubra, 9344 5540

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