

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
SHORT NATIONAL REPORT

1994

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

*Short national report on participation in the United Nations
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction*

(IDNDR - 1993)

SECTION A. Organizational basis and preconditions for the participation of the Republic of Armenia in the IDNDR

1. Structure of the National Coordination Council of the Republic of Armenia

The National Coordination Council to implement the measures of the IDNDR was established by Decree No. 607 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 3 December 1993 for the coordination of the participation of the territorial units of the Republic, ministries, departments, institutions and organizations in the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

There are 15 representatives of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the National Coordination Council, including:

Prime Minister - Chairman of the National Coordination Council

Deputy Prime Minister - Vice-Chairman of the Council

Minister in charge of the State Emergency - Executive Secretary of the Council

The government ministers (6) responsible for the most important branches of the economy, including: health, transport, energy, social security, education, municipal economy, etc. - Members of the Council

Minister of Finance - Member of the Council

Minister of Higher Education and Science - " "

Minister of Economics - " "

Minister of Material Resources - " "

Minister of Industry - " "

Chairman of the Municipal Executive Committee of the City of Erevan - " "

2. Internal organization of the National Coordination Council

The National Coordination Council is an interdepartmental consultative body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and is responsible to the latter for the results of its activity.

The Council is headed by its Chairman, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia G. Bagratyan. The membership of the Council is approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

In accordance with a government decree, the executive arm of the National Coordination Council is the State Emergency Authority.

In order to accomplish its tasks, the National Coordination Council has set up six committees:

standards and legislation;

natural disaster early warning and information gathering and dissemination systems;

rapid response measures;

preventive measures;

applied scientific research;

basic scientific research.

The activities of the committees are governed by their terms of reference, approved by a decision of the National Coordination Council.

3. Predominant types of risk

Type of risk	Locality	Population affected (in thousands)
Earthquakes	Entire territory	3700
Landslide	Dilizhan, Ekhegnadzorsky raion, Sisiansky raion, Erevan, Tumayansky raion, Vaik, Shirak, Kotaik	3
Waterlogging	Masissky raion	6.2
High winds	Raion: Ani, Ashotsk, Ashtarak, Goris, Talin, Idzhevan, Kamo, Kapan, Krasnoselsk, Martuni, Noemberyan, Stepanavan, Sevan, Tashir, Tavush, Sisian	499
Hail	Raion: Akhuryan, Ani, Ashotsk, Aparan, Aragats, Artashat, Goris, Ekhegnadzor, Echmiadzin, Talin, Idzhevan, Kamo, Megri, Nairi, Spitak, Vardenis, Tashir, Tavush	394

Mud-laden torrents, snow-melt flooding	Raion: Akhuryan, Ashtarak, Goris, Ekhegnadzor, Kamo, Krasnoselsk, Razdan, Megri, Vardenis	31
Heavy snowfalls	Raion: Aparan, Goris, Tashir, Shirak, Sevan	83
Frosts	Raion: Artashat, Ararat, Armavir, Ashtarak, Bagramyan, Ekhegnadzor, Echmiadzin, Talin, Tumanyan, Idzhevan, Kotaik, Masis, Megri, Nairi, Noemberyan, Shaumyan, Tavush, Kapan, Geris, Vaik	917
Forest fires	Raion: Idzhevan, Gugark, Goris, Kapan	-
Inundation	Karnutskoe reservoir	
1. Risk of destruction of reservoir dam	Akhumskoe reservoir Tavushskoe reservoir Sarnakhyurskoe reservoir Mantashskoe reservoir Sovetashenskoe reservoir Karnutskoe reservoir	45
2. Risk of destruction of dam regulating system	Arpilichskoe reservoir Vardakarskoe reservoir Aigedsorskoe reservoir	15

4. Recent natural disasters (1988-1993)

Type	Locality	Population affected	Cost at 1992 prices	
			rouble billion	US \$ million
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Earthquake 1988	30% of north-western Armenia (Spitak)	500,000 (25,000 dead)	1015	4511.00
Landslide 1989-90	Dilizhan, Cinematographers Union Centre	-	0.038	0.169
Landslide 1989-90	Village of Vokhchaber, Kotaik raion	1020	1.580	7.022
Landslide 1993	Dilizhan, railway, Agartsin 69 km	-	0.306	1.359

Landslide 1988-93	Village of Gosh	230	0.180	0.800
Landslide 1993	Village of Dastakert, Sisian raion	117	0.204	0.907
Water- logging 1993	Village of Aintap, Masis raion	6200-6000	not counted	-
Landslide/ cave-in 1993	Sanain railway station (village of Odzun), Tumanyansky raion	-	0.025	0.110
Landslide 1990-92	Erevan, municipal cemetery	-	0.512	2.276
Landslide 1989-90	Village of Kachachkut, Tumanyansky raion	564	0.428	1.902
High winds	Raion: Ani, Ashotsk, Ashtarak, Goris, Talin, Idzhevan, Kamo, Kapan, Krasnosel'sk, Martuni, Noemberyan, Stepanavan, Sevan, Tashir, Tavush	498.6	0.143	0.634
Hail	Raion: Akhuryan, Ani, Ashotsk, Aparan, Aragats, Artashat, Goris, Ekhegnadzor, Echmiadzin, Talin, Idzhevan, Kamo, Megri, Nairi, Spitak, Vardenis, Tashir, Tavush	394.0	0.391	1.738
Mud-laden torrents, snow-melt flooding	Raion: Akhuryan, Ashtarak, Goris, Ekhegnadzor, Kamo, Krasnoselsk, Razdan, Megri, Vardenis	31.0	0.400	1.778
Heavy snowfalls	Raion: Aparan, Goris, Tashir	83.0	0.326	1.448
Frosts	Raion: Artashat, Ararat, Armavir, Ashtarak, Bagramyan, Ekhegnadzor, Echmiadzin, Talin, Idzhevan, Kotaik, Masis, Megri, Nairi, Noemberyan, Shaumyan, Tavush, Kapan, Goris, Vaik	91.6	0.20	0.889
Forest fires	Raion: Idzhevan, Gugark, Goris, Kapan	-	0.0005	0.0002

5. National social and economic data:

		in US\$
- Population	3.7 million	-
- Gross national product	59,068 million roubles	262.5 mill.
- Per capita income	13,851 roubles	61.6

Note: In all the tables the figures in US dollars are average values (1 dollar = 225 roubles in 1992)

6. Assistance to other countries in the field of natural disaster reduction

As a result of the bitter experience of the Spitak earthquake, Armenian doctors acquired invaluable skills in providing effective medical assistance and rehabilitation therapy. Immediately after the earthquake various organizations began and are continuing to work on the technical problems of the medical consequences of disasters. All the case histories of the victims are being studied. There has been a preliminary analysis of various questions relating to the medical assistance provided to the victims at the time of the earthquake. About 1300 case histories of crush syndrome alone are being separately processed. The medical services of the Republic dispose of an enormous amount of practical material in the field of disaster medicine, which might be of use and interest to the medical services of other countries.

The "Spitak" rescue centre operates in the Republic of Armenia. This centre possesses modern technology and professional capabilities in rescue work. The centre can be ready to set out at short notice (1.5-2 hours) for any region to carry out rescue work on a fully independent basis. At present, as regards equipment and training, the centre is unique in the Trans-Caucasian and nearby regions and has demonstrated its high degree of professionalism on a number of occasions: in Iran, Georgia, North Ossetia, etc.

Armenia possesses a large potential of scientific expertise in engineering geology, geological hazards, water resources engineering and other fields.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has set up a National Earthquake Protection Service (NEPS) with a wide network of seismic and geophysical stations. It continuously monitors a series of geophysical, hydrogeodynamic and seismological parameters for the purpose of predicting and assessing the seismic risk on the territory of Armenia and neighbouring regions.

7. International assistance needed for natural disaster reduction

As far as natural disaster reduction is concerned, Armenia's principal requirement is for financial and material resources. At present, in the north of Armenia, in the region of Dilizhan, a landslide with a volume of about 1 million cubic metres is moving in the direction of the village. As a result, the railway, the only artery linking the northern districts of the Spitak earthquake zone

with other districts, has been closed and there is a serious threat to the channel of the River Agstev and the main road. Armenian experts have been quick to prepare plans for engineering measures consistent with the proposals of the French experts who visited the landslide area under the auspices of the Council of Europe. However, because of fuel shortages the work is not being carried out and the threat of disaster is increasing. Armenia possesses the necessary scientific and engineering potential and technology but as a result of the permanent transport and energy blockade of the Republic and the difficult social and economic situation there is no possibility of implementing natural disaster reduction measures. As is well known, in such circumstances there is an increased threat to the population from secondary effects, derived from natural disasters. For example, in the districts which suffered from the Spitak earthquake and are experiencing social and economic difficulties, there is a greater risk of landslides, flash floods and other hazards.

The principal disaster reduction projects in need of international assistance are as follows:

1. The project to set up a Regional Disaster Medicine Centre based on Armenian medical institutions.
2. The project to set up a Regional Operational Rescue Training Centre based on the "Spitak" rescue centre.
3. The project for the engineering protection of the Spitak earthquake disaster zone from dangerous geological processes.
4. The project for the protection of the population of the Spitak earthquake disaster zone from the secondary effects of the earthquake.

SECTION B. Strategy and tactics

2. The existing natural disaster reduction plan

The Government has and is developing action plans to deal with the threat or occurrence of the following natural disasters:

1. Powerful earthquakes.
 2. Landslides and other geological hazards.
 3. Mud-laden torrents.
 4. Inundations and snow-melt flooding.
 5. Heavy snowfalls and avalanches.
- a. Response time: On average, 1-1.5 hours after receiving the information;
 - b. Agencies, institutes and organizations involved: State Emergency Authority of the Republic of Armenia, Ministries of Health,

Transport and Internal Affairs, Hydrometeorological Service, National Seismic Protection Service, Armenian National Academy of Sciences, local authorities and other organizations as required.

- c. Executive bodies: civil defence services, regional civil defence staff, rescue detachments, subdivisions of the Ministries of Health, Internal Affairs and Transport, and others as required.
- d. Funding: Government Reserve Fund for use in emergencies.

(b) Monitoring, prediction and prevention

Name of project: Programme of the National Seismic Protection Service (NSPS)

Status: National Science Application Programme

Participating organizations, domestic and/or international:
National Seismic Protection Service

Project cost: 50 million roubles

Sources of financing: State budget

Executive bodies: NSPS

Address (telephone and fax numbers) of the organization concerned:

375054, Erevan, Davidashen - Massiv IV, NSPS

Tel.: 282811, 286813

Fax: 7 (8852) 286813

(e) Land use and risk assessment

Name of project: Programme of the National Seismic Protection Service (NSPS)

Status: National Science Application Programme

Participating organizations, domestic and/or international:
National Seismic Protection Service

Project cost: 500 million roubles

Sources of financing: State budget

Executive bodies: NSPS

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SECTION D. Evaluation

1. General evaluation of national disaster reduction programmes

The State Emergency Authority of the Republic of Armenia, the executive body of the National Coordination Council for the IDNDR, is developing a draft programme for the participation of the Republic in the International Decade.

The basis of the draft programme is the creation of a unified state system ("Areg") for giving warning of and cleaning up after emergencies of natural and technological origin.

As a result of the implementation of the "Areg" programme by the year 2000, it is expected that a unified state system for giving warning of and cleaning up after natural and other disasters will be in place and that concrete measures will have been taken to protect the population from natural, technological and ecological disasters and to reduce their effects.

The main thrust of the "Areg" programme is as follows:

1. Creation of a permanent rapid-response force, subdivisions of the civil defence and other accident and rescue services to operate in emergencies, their organization and equipment.

2. Education of the people and senior government officials and specialists and training of the accident and rescue services to deal with disaster situations.

Considering that almost any of the possible natural disasters could occur on the territory of Armenia in their typical and non-standard forms and also the existence of the Spitak earthquake zone, in recent years the Government of the Republic has taken a series of organizational measures to prevent natural disasters and improve preparedness to deal with them:

1. Creation of the State Emergency Authority (1991).

2. Creation of the National Seismic Protection Service (1991).

3. Inclusion of Republican civil defence staff in the State Emergency Authority system (1992).

4. Rehabilitation programme for the zone stricken by the Spitak earthquake (1993).

The Republic of Armenia joined in the work of the IDNDR at the end of 1993. Consequently, the National Coordination Council has not yet formulated any proposals.

However, Armenia intends to take an active part in the IDNDR programme, considering that its bitter experience with natural disasters and the programmes based on it may be of interest to many

countries. In particular:

- the secondary effects of major natural disasters over the long term under conditions of total permanent blockade;
- the medical aspects of large-scale natural disasters.

2. Review of the IDNDR

While welcoming and much appreciating the IDNDR activity in past years, the National Coordination Council of the Republic of Armenia would wish the measures in the countries needing assistance to be more effective and more concrete.

In recent years the following events have taken place in the Republic of Armenia within the context of the IDNDR:

1. International Conference on "Seismology of the continental collision zones and seismic risk reduction", on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Spitak earthquake with 25 countries participating (Erevan-Sevan, 1-6 October 1993).
2. International Natural Disaster Reduction Day was celebrated on 13 October 1993. Booklets were prepared in advance and handed out to secondary school teachers and medical workers responsible for organizing international day events in schools and hospitals. In the further training institute of the State Emergency Authority lectures on natural disasters were arranged for 256 school teachers, medical workers and journalists. On 13 October special lectures, practicals and demonstrations by rescuers were organized in the primary schools and hospitals. The measures relating to the international day were reported in 14 newspaper articles and 7 radio and television broadcasts.

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Deputy Prime Minister - Vice-Chairman of the Council

Minister in charge of the State Emergency

Authority - Executive Secretary of the Council

The government ministers (6) responsible for the most important branches of the economy, including:

health, transport, energy, social security, education, municipal economy, etc.

- | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Minister of Finance | - Member of the Council | |
| 2 | Minister of Higher Education and Science | - " | " |
| 3 | Minister of Economics | - " | " |
| 4 | Minister of Material Resources | - " | " |
| 5 | Minister of Industry | - " | " |
| | Chairman of the Municipal Executive Committee of the City of Erevan | - " | " |

2. Internal organization of the National Coordination Council

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In accordance with a government decree, the executive arm of the National Coordination Council is the State Emergency Administration. *Администрация*

In order to accomplish its tasks, the National Coordination Council has set up six committees:

- > standards and legislation;
- natural disaster early warning and information gathering and dissemination systems;
- rapid response measures;
- preventive measures;
- applied scientific research;
- basic scientific research.

...was of importance > The activities of the committees are governed by their regulations, approved by a decision of the National Coordination Council.

3. Predominant types of risk

Type of risk	← Locality	Population affected (in thousands)
← 1.	← 2.	3.
Earthquakes	Entire territory	3700
Landslides	Dilizhan, Ekhegnadzorshii raion, Sisianskii raion, Erevan, Tumayanskii raion, Vaik, Shirak, Kotaik	3
Waterlogging	Masisskii raion	6.2
High winds	Raions: Ani, Ashotsk, Ashtarak, Goris, Talin, Idzhevan, Kamo, Kapan, Krasnosel'sk, Martuni, Noemberyan, Stepanavan, Sevan, Tashir, Tavush, Sisian	499
Hail	Raions: Akhuryan, Ani, Ashotsk, Aparan, Aragats, Artashat, Goris, Ekhegnadzor, Echmiadzin, Talin, Idzhevan, Kamo, Megri, Nairi, Spitak, Vardenis, Tashir, Tavush	394
Mud-laden torrents, and snow-melt flooding	Raions: Akhuryan, Ashtarak, Goris, Ekhegnadzor, Kamo, Krasnosel'sk, Razdan, Megri, Vardenis	31
Heavy snowfalls	Raions: Aparan, Goris, Tashir, Shirak, Sevan	83

Frosts Raions: Artashat, Ararat, 917
 Armavir, Ashtarak, Bagramyan,
 Ekhegnadzor, Echmiadzin,
 Talin, Tumanyan, Idzhevan,
 Kotaik, Masis, Megri, Nairi,
 Noemberyan, Shaumyan, Tavush,
 Kapan, Geris, Vaik

Forest fires Raions: Idzhevan, Gugark, -
 Goris, Kapan

Inundation Karnutskoe reservoir

1. Risk of destruction of reservoir dam Akhumsko reservoir 45
 of reservoir dam Tavushskoe reservoir
 Sarnakhyurskoe reservoir
 Mantashskoe reservoir
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 Karnutskoe reservoir
2. Risk of destruction of dam regulating system Arpilichskoe reservoir 15
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4. Recent natural disasters (1988-1993)

Type	Locality	Population affected	Cost at 1992 prices	
			rouble billion	US \$ million
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Frost	Raions: Artashat, Ararat, Armavir, Ashtarak, Bagramyan, Ekhegnadzor, Echmiadzin, Talin, Idzhevan, Kotaik, Masis, Megri, Nairi, Noemberyan, Shaumyan, Tavush, Kapan, Goris, Vaik	91.6	0.20	0.889
Forest fires	Raions: Idzhevan, Gugark, Goris, Kapan	-	0.0005	0.0002

5. National social and economic data:

- Population	3.7 million	← in US\$
- Gross national product	59,068 million roubles	-
- Per capita income	13,851 roubles	262.5 mill.
		61.6

Note: In all the tables the figures in US dollars are average values (1 dollar = 225 roubles in 1992)

6. Assistance to other countries in the field of natural disaster reduction

As a result of the bitter experience of the Spitak earthquake, Armenian doctors acquired invaluable skills in providing effective medical assistance and rehabilitation therapy. Immediately after the earthquake various organizations began and are continuing to work on the technical problems of the medical consequences of disasters. All the case histories of the victims are being studied. There has been a preliminary analysis of various questions relating to the medical assistance provided to the victims at the time of the earthquake. About 1300 case histories of crush syndrome alone are being separately processed. The medical services of the

Republic dispose of an enormous amount of practical material in the field of disaster medicine, which might be of use and interest to the medical services of other countries.

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7. International assistance ^{necessary for} needed ~~to reduce the risk of natural disasters~~ _{reduction}

As far as natural disaster reduction is concerned, Armenia's principal requirement is for financial and material resources. At present, in the north of Armenia, in the region of Dilizhan, a landslide with a volume of about 1 million cubic metres is moving in the direction of the village. As a result, the railway, the only artery linking the northern districts of the Spitak earthquake zone and the other districts, has been closed and there is a serious threat to the channel of the River Agstev and the main road. Armenian experts have been quick to prepare plans for engineering measures consistent with the proposals of the French experts who visited the landslide area under the auspices of the Council of Europe. However, because of fuel shortages the work is not being carried out and the threat of disaster is increasing. Armenia possesses the necessary scientific and engineering potential and technology but as a result of the permanent transport and energy blockade of the Republic and the difficult social and economic situation there is no possibility of implementing natural disaster reduction measures. As is well known, in such circumstances there is an increased risk of secondary effects, derived from natural disasters, threatening the population. For example, in the districts which suffered from the Spitak earthquake and are in social and economic difficulties, there is a heightened risk of landslides, flash floods and other hazards.

The disaster reduction projects in need of international assistance are, first and foremost, as follows:

1. The project to set up a Regional Disaster Medicine Centre based on Armenian medical institutions.
2. The project to set up a Regional Operational Rescue Training Centre based on the "Spitak" rescue centre.
3. The project for the engineering protection of the Spitak earthquake disaster zone from dangerous geological processes.
4. The project for the protection of the population of the Spitak earthquake disaster zone from the secondary effects of the earthquake.

Section B. Strategy and tactics

- (or) 2. The ^{existing} present natural disaster reduction plan *numeration?*

The Government has and is developing action plans to deal with the threat or occurrence of the following natural disasters:

1. Powerful earthquakes.
2. Landslides and other geological hazards.
3. Mud-laden torrents.
4. Inundations and snow-melt flooding.
5. Heavy snowfalls and avalanches.

- a. *Response* time: On average, 1-1.5 hours after receiving the information;
- b. Agencies, institutes and organizations involved: State *Emergency Disaster Authority* of the Republic of Armenia, Ministries of Health, Transport and Internal Affairs, Hydrometeorological Service, National Seismic Protection Service, Armenian National Academy of Sciences, local authorities and other organizations as required.
- c. Executive bodies: civil defence services, regional civil defence staff, rescue detachments, subdivisions of the Ministries of Health, Internal Affairs and Transport, and others as required.
- d. Funding: Government Reserve Fund for use in emergencies.

- (b) Monitoring, prediction and prevention

Name of project: Programme of the National Seismic Protection Service (NSPS)

Status: National Science Application Programme

Participating organizations, domestic and/or international:
National Seismic Protection Service

Project cost: 50 million roubles

Sources of financing: State budget

Executive bodies: NSPS

Address (telephone and fax numbers) of the organization concerned:

Dividashen?
375054, Erevan, Davidashen - Massiv IV, NSPS

Tel.: 282811, 286813

c? Fax: 7 (8852) 286813

- (e) Land use and risk assessment

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Project cost: 500 million roubles

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Section D. Evaluation

1. General evaluation of national disaster reduction programmes

The State Emergency Authority of the Republic of Armenia, the executive body of the National Coordination Council for the IDNDR, is developing a draft programme for the participation of the Republic in the International Decade.

giving
The basis of the draft programme is the creation of a unified state system ("Areg") for ~~warning~~ warning of and cleaning up after emergencies of natural and technological origin.

giving
in place
As a result of the implementation of the "Areg" programme by the year 2000, it is expected that a unified state system for warning of and cleaning up after natural and other disasters will be up and running and that concrete measures will have been taken to protect the population from natural, technological and ecological disasters and to reduce their effects.

The main thrust of the "Areg" programme is as follows:

1. Creation of a permanent rapid-response force, subdivisions of the civil defence and other accident and rescue services to operate in emergencies, their organization and equipment.
2. Education of the people and senior government officials and specialists and training of the accident and rescue services to deal with disaster situations. *of emergency* *see the*

A
Considering the ~~probability~~ *probability* of almost every possible natural disasters on the territory of Armenia in their typical and non-standard forms and also the existence of the Spitak earthquake zone, in recent years the Government of the Republic has taken a series of organizational measures to prevent natural disasters and improve preparedness to deal with them:

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However, Armenia intends to take an active part in the IDNDR programme, considering that its bitter experience with natural disasters and the programmes based on it may be of interest to many countries. In particular:

➤ - the secondary effects of major natural disasters over the long term under conditions of total permanent blockade;

➤ - the medical aspects of large-scale natural disasters.

➤ 2. Review of the IDNDR

While welcoming and much appreciating the IDNDR activity in past years, the National Coordination Council of the Republic of Armenia would wish the measures in the countries needing assistance to be more effective and more concrete.

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- 1. International Conference on "Seismology of the continental collision zones and seismic risk reduction", on the occasion of the

5th anniversary of the Spitak earthquake with 25 countries participating (Erevan-Sevan, 1-6 October 1993).

2. International Natural Disaster Reduction Day was celebrated on 13 October 1993. Booklets were prepared in advance and handed out to secondary school teachers and medical workers responsible for organizing international day events in schools and hospitals. In the further training institute of the State Emergency Authority lectures on natural disasters were arranged for 256 school teachers, medical workers and journalists. On 13 October special lectures, practicals and demonstrations by rescuers were organized in the primary schools and hospitals. The measures relating to the international day were reported in 14 newspaper articles and 7 radio and television broadcasts.