

GUATEMALA CITY; Guatemala (AP)

— Helicopter relief teams took supplies to towns and villages isolated by the Guatemalan earthquake and returned with reports that raised the official toll today to more than 15,000 dead, an estimated 40,000 injured and 200,000 homeless.

The death toll jumped repeatedly as the national emergency relief committee got more information from outlying areas cut off until the first relief helicopters reached them late Sunday.

Engineers worked to open more roads blocked by landslides and to repair broken bridges. Relief officials put survivors to work, promising them extra food according to the hours they worked clearing roads or burying the dead.

Spot checks by reporters in several sections hit by the devastating quake last

Wednesday and more than 525 aftershocks showed aid was getting through.

In some places it was only a trickle. But that was welcome for people who had had nothing but bits of stale bread and brackish water for five days.

At Pitzicia, survivors lined up alongside a pickup truck to get tamales cooked for them by persons living in a neighboring village.

"We need serum and syringes to control a serious typhoid outbreak," said Hector Napoleon Alfaro, director of the national community development program. "We need salt, sugar and lime for making corn meal."

Gen. Fernando Romeo Lucas, the national defense minister, threatened to withhold food from the little town of San Martin Jilotepeque because survivors

refused to continue burying the dead unless they were paid.

Lucas said 2,904 of the town's 3,760 people were killed when the earthquake dropped a large area about 24 feet.

"There is immediate danger of an epidemic unless the bodies are buried or burned," he said. But he said orders to burn the bodies might cause a riot.

Two looters were shot in Guatemala City, and scattered shots were heard through the night.

President Kjel Eugenio Laugerud ordered thieves shot on sight.

Hundreds of thousands still slept under makeshift tents in streets and parks of Guatemala City's heavily damaged El Gallito district. Many portable latrines were installed in the district. A double amount of chlorine was added to the water supply as service was restored in most parts of the capital.

About 40 American students studying Spanish while living with Guatemalan families in the old capital of Antigua were stranded by the earthquake. There were no reports of injuries to the Americans.

One of them, Cathleen Chandler, 20, daughter of Los Angeles Times publisher Otis Chandler, said several children in the family with which she was living were injured in the quake as a patio wall collapsed.