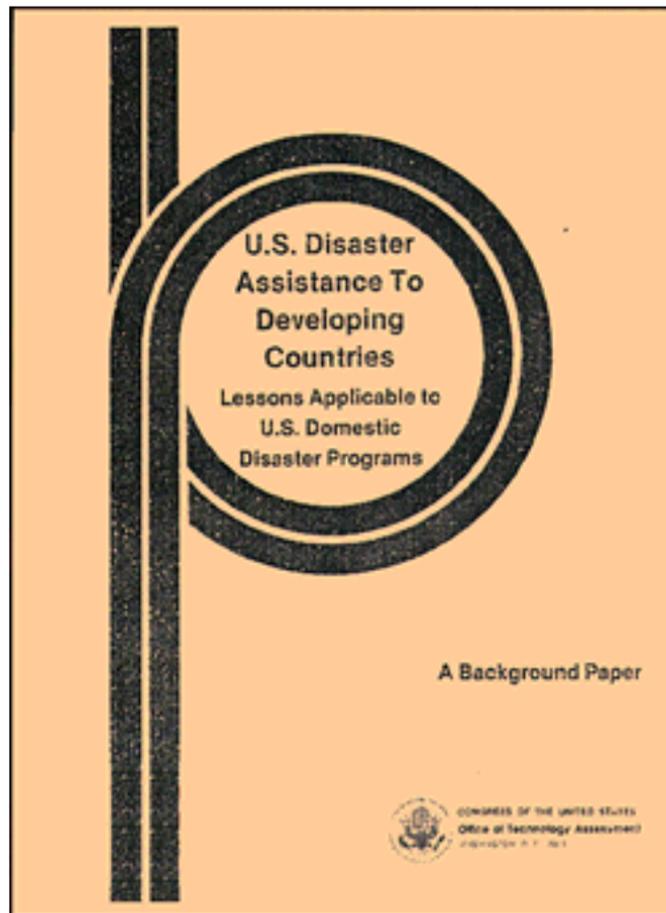


*U.S. Disaster Assistance to Developing
Countries: Lessons Applicable to U.S.
Domestic Disaster Programs*

January 1980

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Preface

Congressman Thomas L. Ashley, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development and Senator William Proxmire, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, requested that the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) undertake a study in the area of natural hazards. In response OTA initiated a preliminary analysis to define what issues are or should be of concern to Congress and where further study could be useful to Congress.

This Background Paper, "U.S. Disaster Assistance To Developing Countries: Lessons Applicable to U.S. Domestic Disaster Preparedness," probes the relationship between disasters in the developing countries and natural hazards in the United States. It does not look into the hazard and disaster situation in the industrialized nations.

For this study, a working paper was prepared as the basis for a workshop, which included a broad sweep of stakeholders in the public and private sectors, scholars concerned with the field, and members of various congressional committee staffs. On the basis of that workshop's recommendations, a revised working paper was prepared and sent to all participants, and to dozens of other experts, for extensive review and comment. This Background Paper is the responsibility of OTA, not of those who so ably advised us on its preparation.



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