

After the quake, his newspaper distributed leaflets to temporary shelters with information in English on temporary housing and free public telephone and medical services.

He urged other members of the relief group to translate the list into other languages.

The group has also made efforts to confirm the safety of compatriots living in the Hanshin region.

Jiang Feng, of the editorial staff of the Chinese/Japanese-language bimonthly Ryugakusei Shimbun, visited the Hanshin area in late January.

During his visit, he saw 12 bodies still unidentified at a temple in Kobe's Suma Ward 10 days after the quake.

"It is possible they were Chinese who had overstayed (their visas) and who had lived in the area. I don't know how we can cope with that," he said.

In hospitals, many seriously injured foreigners remained unidentified for weeks, said Lan Shu-Jen, president of New Com Co., which publishes newspapers in Chinese, Thai and Malay.

"At six hospitals I visited, about 40 people who were believed to be foreigners were hospitalized with serious injuries," she said. "Judging from their conditions, such as their inability to talk, I'm not sure how long it will take until they are identified."

In a park in Kobe's Nagata Ward, about 90 Vietnamese were taking refuge in several tents, Lan said, adding that half of them appear to be minors.

"They said they want to stay together even if they cannot get enough food, because they can help each other," she said.

"Quake survivors of minority groups have solid connections with each other," said Masakazu Shoji, president of Journal Tudo Bem, a Portuguese weekly magazine.

Shoji said he went to Kobe the day after the earthquake and helped identify some Brazilian victims.

"What we, the ethnic media, should do now is carry accurate reports and provide information for foreign survivors," he said.

Seigo Yamanaka, a professor of communications at Tokyo's Seijo University and adviser to the relief group, said that one of the most important roles of the ethnic media is to give psychological support to for-

eigners in the devastated area.

"As Japanese sufferers feel a sense of security through relief goods brought over by their relatives and friends, it is important for foreign residents to know that their fellow countrymen do care," he said.

The Muslim Way

By CAMERON HAY

Some 100 Muslims who sought refuge in the Kobe Mosque and Muslim Cultural Center in Kitano Ward after the Jan. 17 earthquake survived without outside food or other provisions for nearly four days, according to some in the group.

"We had a little food, and what we had we shared between all of us. That is the Muslim way," Egyptian Mohamad Salama, imam at the mosque, said.

Harum Narrassid, a Bangladeshi who works at a company in Japan, said the Muslim tradition of fasting meant the food shortage caused little hardship for those at the mosque.

"I have been training to fast since I was a boy. Compared to Ramadan (the ninth month of the Muslim year, a period of daily fasting from sunrise to sunset), having little food for a couple of days is not a problem," he said.

The group, which also included Pakistanis, Malaysians, Sri Lankans and Indonesians, drew water from the nearby well of a Japanese family, Narrassid said.

On the evening of the first Friday after the quake, two teams of Egyptian students brought in food from Osaka, including "halal"

food specially prepared for Muslims.

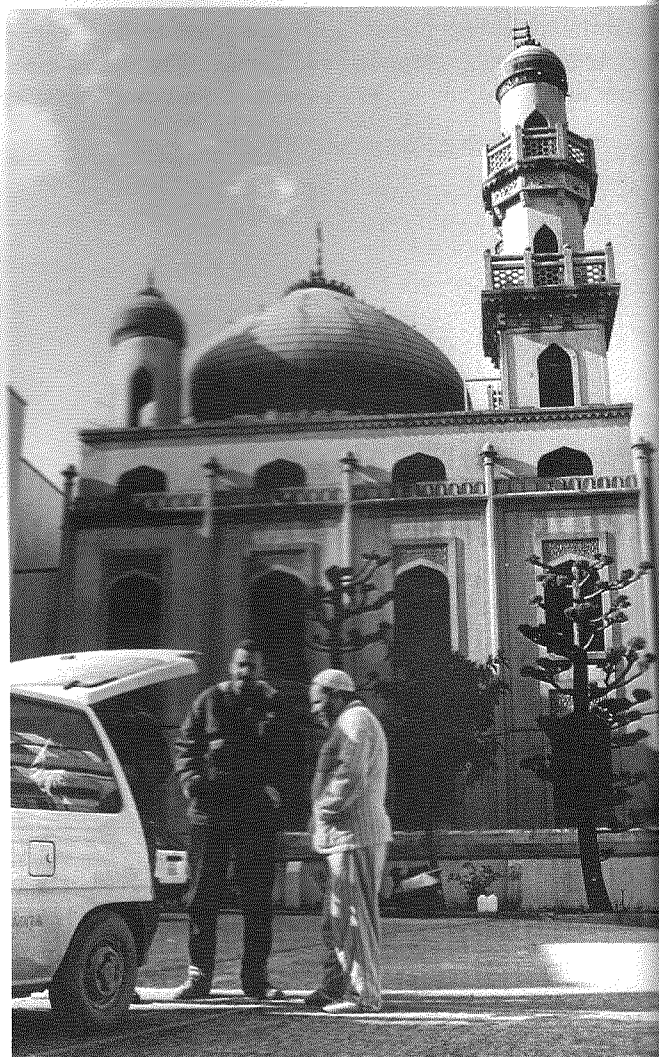
The group also contacted the Islamic Cultural Centers in Tokyo and Gunma Prefecture, which gathered donations from Muslim businesspeople and sent food and other provisions to Kobe.

Though government relief teams were bringing food and blankets into the area soon after the quake, the group did not immediately contact the government to ask for help because such assistance would divert resources away from other needy people, group members said.

"We didn't ask for help for humanitarian reasons. Everyone is in trouble. So first we asked our (Muslim) brothers for help," Narrassid said.

People at the mosque were not too upset by the situation, he said.

"Everything is from Allah. We understand that nobody can control what happens except Allah."



Muslims outside the Kobe Mosque CAMERON HAY