



Kobe's popular city center of Sannomiya more than three weeks after the quake KYODO

came from nearly 30 countries within three days after the temblor. It initially accepted only relief goods from the United States and search dogs from Switzerland.

Even with the government's blundering, which may have prevented the rescue of more people, and with property damage to 11,000 houses and other structures estimated by Hyogo Prefecture at ¥9.5 trillion, the quake was not as bad as it would have been had it struck after all urban functions were up and running for the day.

The first bullet trains were to have left Shin-Osaka Station on both the east- and west-bound lines 14 minutes later, possibly

carrying a total of more than 2,000 passengers. Most businesses and factories were empty, and traffic was light on the elevated Hanshin Expressway's Kobe Line, which runs through the hardest hit areas.

So much tragedy and sorrow have drawn overwhelming charity from both home and abroad. Within the first month, more than ¥57.3 billion in relief funds for quake victims was raised, the highest amount ever generated for a single disaster.

Volunteers, including more than 10,000 students, are making long-term commitments to help the evacuees, prompting the government to consider measures to sup-

port private relief workers and the Education Ministry to request university authorities to substitute their activities for term examinations.

To supplement the shortage of governmental temporary housing, which will total 40,000 units, local governments and host families have offered accommodations.

Local small-business owners such as those who operated assembly lines for synthetic shoes, one of Kobe's leading industries but now severely ravaged by the quake and blazes, are staying on gamely to make a comeback, starting from scratch just as they did after World War II.