

CBS  
RB-201

this is Lionel Martin in Havana.. the following is what Cuba is saying and doing about Hurricane Gilbert. I'll begin ¥¥

Jamaica was hit by the full force of Hurricane Gilbert but because communications are down there, its impossible to know exactly how many casualties and how much material damage it caused.

HURRICANE GILBERT

150 KM (KILOMETER)

When it left Jamaica behind some ninety miles south of Cuba it was heading west and slightly north over the Caribbean sea directly for the Cayman Islands. The Cuban weather bureau said that the winds of Hurricane Gilbert were somewhat slowed by the mountains in Jamaica but that it has picked up in intensity now that is over the sea again with winds of about 115 miles an hour.

The Cubans had called a state of emergency in all of Eastern Cuba but as it is, that area was on the fringe of the hurricane and was spared its full force. Over 100,000 people and thousands of head of cattle had been evacuated from coastal and other low lying areas in Eastern Cuba. But only a few homes have been reported damaged by the 35 miles an hour winds and flooding caused by torrential rains.

the 100,000 people TAKEN TO HIGHER ground

The latest report is that those who were evacuated in Eastern Cuba are now going back to their homes.

The Cuban weather bureau believes that the hurricane will remain on its present course. That means that after leaving the Cayman islands it will be heading for the Yucatan Channel and the western of Cuba.

A state of emergency has now been called on the Isle of Pines, a Cuban island to the south of the Cuban mainland and also in western Cuba. This means that people and cattle will be evacuated from areas prone to flooding and that the Cuban armed forces will be having their amphibious personnel carriers and helicopters standing by for possible rescue operations.

MOVIE

For CBC News this is Lionel Martin in Havana

evacuate = people NO!  
KILOMETERS

Cuba Hit By Hurricane Gilbert

CBC  
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