

# Ships, Boats Are Missing After Quake

## 'Sea Had Gone Wild,' Crewman Reports

United Press International

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, Sept. 20—Two merchant ships, five Mexican trawlers and two dozen small fishing boats disappeared in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Acapulco after a major earthquake rocked Mexico, the director of Spain's special fishing radio link said today.

Jesus Ferreiro, of "Onda Pesquera," a fishing radio link, said all the ships were in an area about 135 miles west of Acapulco at the time of the quake early yesterday.

The quake, with a magnitude of 7.8 on the open-ended Richter scale, was centered on land, a few miles from the Pacific Coast.

"We talked to the Spanish crew on several tuna trawlers," he said. "One said he thought it was the end of the world.

"Another said the sea had gone wild, with waves swelling as high as 30 meters [100 feet]," he added.

Two merchant ships, one of British registry and carrying seven crewmen and one Liberian-registered ship carrying 28 crewmen, were located today steaming safely in northern Mexican Pacific waters, Ferreiro said.

Still missing were a West German merchant ship with 11 crewmen aboard and a second Liberian-registered merchant ship with 22 crewmen aboard, Ferreiro said.

The five missing trawlers were Mexican, and the number of crew aboard was not known, he said.

Ferreiro said the crew of the Aleta Roja tuna boat, the Liberian oil tanker Schelmis 2 and several other boats reported hearing short-wave reports from Mexican, Salvadoran and Colombian navy vessels indicating that the nine ships were missing.

Ferreira said 14 small fishing boats, each with crews of between four and five, also had failed to return to port at Acapulco but may have taken refuge elsewhere on the Pacific Coast.

"It is not our policy to give the names of missing ships. There is always a chance that their radio equipment is broken down but that they are safe," Ferreiro said.

After the quake, which devastated Mexico City and took a heavy toll of life, the National Weather Service issued a tidal wave watch for Mexico, El Salvador, Ecuador and California but called it off about four hours later. No tidal waves were reported hitting land.