

# THE GUARDIAN

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## Labour aids Sri Lanka

By a Staff Reporter

The British Labour movement yesterday pledged its support to a fund set up to assist victims of a cyclone which devastated Sri Lanka's eastern province last November. The fund, which has no fixed target, will be used to provide shelter for the homeless and help to restore the area's wrecked economy.

The cyclone killed over 1,000 people and made over 100,000 immediately homeless.

An appeal fund for the victims of the disaster, launched in Britain yesterday by the Academy of Science of Tamils of Ceylon, has been pledged support by Labour MPs, the Co-operative Movement and by trade unions associated with Liberation, the organisation which developed from the Movement for Colonial Freedom.

The academy had asked British journalist, Mr. C. Hitchens, foreign editor of the New Statesman, to prepare a report on the situation. The problems of the survivors of the cyclone have been compounded by the fact that they are largely members of the island's Tamil minority, who have traditionally faced discrimination from the island's Sinhala majority.