

HAVANA, Oct. 19 (AP)—Surgidero de Batabano, a south Cuban port built on lowlands and over water, was destroyed by yesterday's hurricane, and its fishing fleet of more than twenty schooners driven as much as half a mile inland, reports from the hard-hit area said tonight.

While tabulations rose to an estimated twenty-four dead, and United States authorities began planning a relief expedition to stricken parts of the island, it appeared that the Isle of Pines, although badly buffeted, had escaped heavy damage.

A Pan American clipper, carrying government officials on a relief survey, found that Havana and its environs apparently had been hardest hit, although all of western Cuba is expected to face a food shortage. United States help already has been offered by Ambassador Spruille Braden.

A correspondent reported after a tour of the outlying regions that 50 per cent of the crops were destroyed, and 90 per cent of the tobacco warehouses damaged. The heaviest property damage, he said, was in Western Pinar del Rio.

All United States residents in Havana were reported safe and uninjured.