

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 29, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today declared an emergency for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico because of the impact of a drought. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the Commonwealth.

Dry conditions, which have existed in Puerto Rico for some time have reached a critical stage this year with a severe lack of rainfall. Pastures in the Commonwealth have been dying out because of the lack of moisture. The President's declaration of an emergency will provide a Federally funded program of survival livestock feeding of cattle in order to maintain the herds of the Commonwealth. Federal officials will continue to monitor the situation to determine what other assistance may be made available.

Federal relief and recovery activities in Puerto Rico will be coordinated by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Administrator Thomas P. Dunne. Mr. Dunne will designate the specific areas within the Commonwealth eligible for Federal assistance.

Mr. Thomas R. Casey, Regional Director for Federal Disaster Assistance, HUD Region II, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the Commonwealth in providing Federal emergency assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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