

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 27, 1974

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

President Ford today asked two high-level foreign assistance experts to visit flood-stricken Honduras in order to assess the damage from Hurricane Fifi and to report directly to him on current relief efforts and food needs.

The officials are Herman Kleine, Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) for Latin America, and Russell S. McClure, Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator for AID. Following their arrival tomorrow night in the capital city, Tegucigalpa, they will confer with U.S. Ambassador Philip V. Sanchez and AID Mission Director Frank Kimball, who have been coordinating U.S. relief efforts there, and with officials of the Government of Honduras before visiting the affected areas.

AID's Foreign Disaster Relief Center continues to coordinate the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the U.S. Government in Honduras and other areas in Central America damaged by the hurricane. Two U.S. aircraft have been flying supplies and rescue missions daily since their arrival in the area.

The total sum spent by the U.S. Government in this effort has now reached \$300,000, and is growing as new shipments of food and medicine are airlifted to the area.

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