

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today declared a major disaster for the Territory of American Samoa as a result of the impact of a drought, beginning about September seventh. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the Territory.

The President's declaration of a major disaster will provide funds for Disaster Unemployment Assistance payments for those individuals who are unemployed as a result of the drought. Federal officials will continue to monitor the situation to determine what other assistance may be made available.

Federal relief activities in American Samoa 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 Territory eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and Territory assessments. Mr. Robert C. Stevens, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region IX, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the Territory in providing Federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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