

[7]
October 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

9:55 AM Meeting with Herman Kleine and Russell McClure

Mr. Kleine and Mr. McClure returned Wednesday from Honduras where the President had sent them to survey the damage caused by Hurricane Fifi. The report concludes that the devastation was great and the country's economic capacity severely set back as a result of the storm and subsequent flooding. A substantial portion of the banana trees, on which the country depends for its major export, have been destroyed and will take eighteen months to two years to replace. Damage estimates are \$500 million in a nation with an annual GNP of \$1 billion. U.S. emergency relief efforts were significant but are now phasing out, and AID is planning a \$5 million grant and \$10-15 million concessional loan rehabilitation program.

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