

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 18, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today declared an emergency for the State of Mississippi as a result of tornadoes, beginning about January 10, 1975, which caused widespread and extensive damage to public and private property. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will include temporary housing accommodations for families whose homes were destroyed or seriously damaged. The Administrator of the Small Business Administration is designating the affected areas as eligible for low-interest rate disaster loan assistance. The Department of Agriculture is surveying the affected areas to determine what assistance it can make available under its own authorities.

Federal relief activities in Mississippi 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 State eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and State damage assessments.

Mr. Thomas P. Credle, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region IV, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing emergency assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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