

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 30, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today declared a major disaster 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 declaration expands the range of Federal disaster assistance programs available to the tornado-stricken areas. An earlier, January 18, determination of an emergency in Mississippi allowed the Federal Government to assist with immediate critical needs, including temporary housing and disaster loan service for disaster victims.

The additional Federal help available complements the additional relief and recovery assistance now being furnished by State and local agencies. Federal funds will be provided for disaster assistance needs including debris removal, the repair of schools and other damaged public facilities, as well as disaster unemployment assistance for eligible individuals.

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 disaster 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 disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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