

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 19, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of New York as a result of an ice storm and subsequent severe storms and flooding, beginning about March 2, which caused extensive public and private property damage. 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 consist primarily of debris removal and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed streets, roads, bridges, and public facilities and utilities. Low-interest rate disaster loans will be made available by the Small Business Administration and emergency loan assistance will be made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

Federal relief activities in New York 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 R. Casey, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region II, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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