

APRIL 24, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today declared a major disaster for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as a result of Typhoon Marie, beginning about April 7, which caused extensive public, private, and agricultural property damage. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the Territory.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of emergency food assistance, 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.

Federal relief activities in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands 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 Territorial damage 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 disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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NOTE:  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FDAA: (202) 634-6666.