

AUGUST 13 , 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today amended his August 5, 1976, declaration of a major disaster for Vermont because of damage caused by severe storms, high winds, and flooding, beginning about July 11, 1976, to include damage caused by severe storms and flooding associated with Hurricane Belle, beginning about August 9, 1976. This action was taken so that Federal disaster assistance may be provided in those areas of the State of Vermont which sustained damage resulting from the rains caused by Hurricane Belle.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of temporary housing, disaster unemployment assistance payments to those who lost their jobs as a result of the flooding, 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 Vermont 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. E. Paul Hartzell, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Region I, who was appointed Federal Coordinating Officer for the President's August 5 declaration of a major disaster, will also coordinate the Federal relief and recovery activities in the areas which sustained damage because of severe storms and flooding associated with Hurricane Belle.

#

#

#

NOTE:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FDAA: (202) 634-6666