

# PRESS RELEASE



## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

RELEASE: 55-67

Marianas

### TYPHOON BULLETIN # 2

Truk

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mar. 9 . . . Each village was more devastated than the last was District Administrator Boyd MacKenzie's grim observation on his survey of Typhoon Sally damage to remote villages up the east coast of Babelthuap, the largest of the Palau Islands. He was accompanied on the trip by Construction Engineer Adrian Knyff, Deputy Peace Corps Area Director James Schmidt, Pacific Journal Staff Writer Marjorie Smith, KUAM-TV News Director Edgar A. Olson, Navy Photographer Ed Scarlett, and Trust Territory Public Information Specialist June Winham.

Ponape

Marshalls

The 21-foot open motor boat chopped through heavy waves. Passengers intermittently were burned by sun-tanned skies and chilled by sudden rains. The first stop was 16 miles from Koror--Ngchesar-- a village of 500. The chunks of coral and rocks casually piled along the beach had been a road last week. The large plate of steel sticking out of the water had been the causeway bridge. The church roof was gone, so were many of the houses. In fact, little remains as it had been last week at Ngchesar where the villagers fish and and farm and raise their families. By Sunday what is left of the uprooted crops will be spoiled. The village then will be dependent upon rice from the Red Cross and the daily catch of local fishermen.

Yap

Palau

MORE

COPY LBJ LIBRARY

The cement block elementary school building remains intact but supplies and books are water-soaked. School Principal Emil . Ramarui would like to resume classes but most of the 130 students are unable to reach the school from their homes. All roads and trails are washed out or blocked by fallen trees.

Melekeiok was next, then Ngiwal. Both had suffered the same losses as Ngchesar and more. Local housing, causeways, water front seawalls, dispensaries, Government buildings and housing all seriously damaged. Crops and fruit trees destroyed. Many of the able-bodied men of the coastal communities have gone to Koror to find jobs as stevedores and construction workers leaving behind the aged, the women and the children to clean up the villages.

, # # #

WINHAM /PIO/2148