

# PRESS RELEASE



## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

RELEASE: 61-67

Marianas

### TYPHOON BULLETIN 6

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mar. 13 . . . Ralph D. Burns from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Emergency Planning, Santa Rosa, California, arrived in weather-ravaged Koror, Thursday afternoon. He is making an on-the-spot inspection of the islands that were crippled by Typhoon Sally on March 2. His evaluation of the extent of damages will be submitted to President Johnson who will determine whether Palau technically is a major disaster area and eligible for federal assistance.

Truk

Ponape

Accompanying Mr. Burns to assist in the inspection and evaluation are Eudell Garfield Whitten registered Professional Engineer, OICC, Marianas, and Lt. Sam Lindsey and Lee C. Ivel Engineer Corps U.S. Naval Reserve both of Guam.

Marshalls

Yap

A major disaster is any storm or other catastrophe which in the determination of the President is or threatens to be of sufficient severity to warrant assistance by the Federal Government to supplement efforts and resources of state or local governments.

Palau

In 1964 the Federal Disaster Act was extended to include territories of the United States including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the United States under a trusteeship agreement with the United Nations.

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Allocation of monies from the President's Disaster Fund allows the Office of Emergency Planning to provide financial assistance for work essential for the preservation of life and property, clearance of debris and wreckage, making emergency repairs and temporary replacements of essential public facilities including provisions for temporary housing or emergency shelter

At this time, Mr. Burns is unable to give any indication whether battered Palau District will qualify as a major disaster area.

He is scheduled to arrive in Saipan Tuesday to confer with the High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner and staff.

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WINHAM/PIO/2148