

# PRESS RELEASE



## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

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### LBJ DECLARES PALAU MAJOR DISASTER AREA

Marianas

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mar. 22 . . . President Lyndon B. Johnson has declared Palau a major disaster area as a result of Typhoon Sally which devastated Koror and Babelthuap Islands on March 2, High Commissioner William R. Norwood announced today.

Yap

In a message received by the High Commissioner, the President said: "As you requested, I had declared a major disaster under the authority of Public Law 81-875 in those areas of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands suffering damage as a result of Typhoon Sally. This declaration will permit federal aid to assist in the repair of essential public facilities on the islands of Koror and Babelthuap.

Ponape

"I have authorized an initial allocation of \$750,000 for immediate emergency recovery work in the affected areas. When additional federal funds are required to carry out eligible work under PL 81-875, I will take steps to provide a supplemental allocation.

Marshall's

"Representatives of the Office of Emergency Planning will continue to consult with you and assist in the execution of necessary documents governing expenditure of the allocated funds.

Yap

"Please express my deep concern of the storm victims."

Palau

As stated by the President in his message, the initial allocation of \$750,000 is for immediate restoration of "essential public facilities.

MORE

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Additional funds will be made available by the President as project applications are approved for specific recovery work. This means that the total amount of funds which may be made available for the typhoon rehabilitation program in Palau may well exceed the \$750,000 already authorized by the President.

The disaster declaration was actually signed by the President Tuesday afternoon, March 21, during a lengthy conference with the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner, and Micronesians representing all six districts who were invited by the Chief Executive to his Nimitz Hill Headquarters in Guam. The President was in Guam for a two-day conference with U.S. and South Vietnam top military and diplomatic advisers on the Vietnam war situation.

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