## PRESS RELEASE



RUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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**RELEASE: 79-67** 

## TERRITORY. UPGRADING COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Apr. 11 ..... On April, 16 two engineers from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will arrive in Kwajalein to assist the Trust Territory Government in up-grading the communications system.

Electronic Engineer W. H. Arscott and Civil Engineer M. A. Goodlin, will be met in Kwajalein by Trust Territory Director of Communications John E. Welch who will conduct them on a visit to all districts of the Territory.

Known as Phase I of the agreement between the Trust Territory and FAA, an engineering study will be made of all major communications systems. FAA officials expect to have the engineering study completed and present their recommendations on implementation within eight weeks.

The rapid expansion of the activities of the Trust Territory and. in particular, the necessity for improving navigational aids, led the Trust Territory Government to request the assistance of the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA communications system is known as the most rapid and reliable system in the United States.

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D. DRISKELL/PIO/2143



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PRESS RELEASE

RELEASE: 78-67

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT SIGNED

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Apr. 10... The Federal Territory Disaster Assistance Agreement to aid typhoon ravaged Palau was signed April 7 at Trust Territory Headquarters by Ralph D. Burns, Disaster Assistance Coordinator, President's Office of Emergency Planning, and the High Commissioner.

Palau District Administrator Boyd MacKenzie has been in Saipan since March 27 conferring with the High Commissioner and his staff on the reconstruction of Koror and Babelthuap. Typhoon Sally did an estimated \$5 million in damages to the two islands on March 2. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Burns departed Saipan Saturday en route to Palau, where Mr. Surns will remain three or four days before returning to his headquarters in Santa Rosa, California.

President Johnson declared Palau a major disaster area during a meeting in Guam with the High Commissioner and seven Micronesian leaders on March 21. He made available Federal funds in the amount of \$750,000 for recovery and rehabilitation of the devastated area. These funds will be used for the repair or replacement of public facilities damaged or destroyed in the typhoon. The President further said that when additional funds are required to carry out rehabilitation work, under U.S. Public Law 81-875, he will tak e steps to provide a supplemental allocation.

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