

EXECUTIVE
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May 17, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PETER M. FLANIGAN

SUBJECT: Major disaster declaration for
the Truk District of the Trust
Territory of the Pacific

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston, Trust Territory of the Pacific, has requested that you declare a major disaster because of the extensive damage wrought by Typhoon Amy when it struck the Truk District on May 1, 1971. The typhoon was accompanied by winds of 100 m. p. h. and resulted in one death, many injuries, and extensive damage to over 1,000 homes, in addition to severely affecting the agricultural crop and causing major damage to public buildings.

Truk is part of the territory for which the United States is a UN trustee. If no disaster is declared, the U. S. could experience international criticism for not taking care of these disaster victims. There is at least one precedent for a declaration for the Trust Territory: when Typhoon Jean struck the northern Mariana Islands and the northern Truk Islands in April 1968, a disaster was declared.

Secretary Morton has endorsed the request of High Commissioner Johnston for a disaster declaration in this case. General Lincoln also recommends that you declare a major disaster for the Truk District, and I concur in this recommendation.

Recommendation

That you sign the letter to General Lincoln (Tab A) declaring a major disaster exists in the Truk District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific and authorizing him to allocate such funds as he finds necessary for federal disaster assistance.