

INFORMATION COPY

# DISASTER PRIORITY

**SUBJECT**

RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR A MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

**DATE**

JUN 15 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

RECOMMENDATION FOR MAJOR  
DISASTER DECLARATION -  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Resident Commissioner Erwin D. Canham of the Northern Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has requested a major disaster declaration because of damage caused by Typhoon Pamela.

The Typhoon, which struck the Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during the period May 20 - 22, caused extensive public, private, and agricultural damage. In addition to the need for public assistance and individual and family grant aid, there is a requirement for food, as the subsistence farming operations, which are the major food source, sustained extensive damage. (A more detailed report is attached.)

Secretary Hills and Tom Dunne, Administrator of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, conclude that this is a disaster of major proportions and that Federal assistance is required.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you declare a major disaster for the Northern Mariana Islands by signing the attached letter authorizing the necessary funds to provide Federal disaster assistance. The Domestic Council, OMB, and Max Friedersdorf concur in this recommendation.

cc:

Mr. Robert D. Linder  
Chief Executive Clerk  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

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THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20410

JUN 15 1976

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Resident Commissioner Erwin D. Canham of the Northern Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has requested a major disaster declaration under Public Law 93-288 because of damage resulting from Typhoon Pamela.

During the period May 20 - 22, 1976, Typhoon Pamela raked the Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with high winds gusting up to 90 - 100 miles per hour. Extensive damage was caused to public, private, and agricultural property in the affected areas. The Resident Commissioner estimated that damage to public property totaled \$4,134,783, private property damage exceeded \$796,000, and agricultural losses totaled \$1,050,000.

Members of our FDAA Regional Office staff from San Francisco have been working closely with Territorial and local officials to determine both the losses and the requirements for Federal assistance. The Resident Commissioner has requested the provision of individual and family grant assistance under Section 408 of Public Law 93-288. Our assessment indicates that there is a significant need for the provision of such assistance. There will also be a requirement for food assistance as the Typhoon caused extensive damage to the subsistence agricultural sector. There is a significant need for Federal financial assistance under Public Law 93-288 to assist the Territorial and local governments in debris clearance, and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed streets, roads, bridges, and public facilities and utilities.

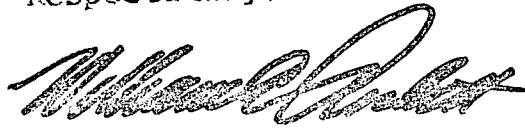
On the basis of information already available, we have concluded that Federal assistance is required and that this is a disaster of major proportions. I recommend that you declare a major disaster for the Northern Mariana Islands and authorize such funds as are necessary to provide Federal disaster assistance.

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If you concur in this recommendation, we propose to appoint Mr. Robert C. Stevens, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HHD Region IX, as the Federal Coordinating Officer for disaster assistance activities in support of this declaration.

Respectfully,

  
for Carla A. Hills

- cc:
- White House - McConahey, Friedersdorf, ✓ Linder
- OMB - O'Neill
- BAA Central Files
- BD Crockett
- B Dunne
- ES Executive Services
- BAF McCausland
- B Reading File
- BAS Reading File
- BAS Reid

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Madam Secretary:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the Northern Mariana Islands resulting from Typhoon Pamela beginning about May 20, 1976, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under Public Law 93-288. I therefore declare that such a major disaster exists in the Northern Mariana Islands.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate, from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

The time period prescribed for the implementation of Section 313(a), Priority to Certain Applications for Public Facility and Public Housing Assistance, shall be for a period not to exceed six months following the date of this declaration.

Sincerely,

Honorable Carla A. Hills  
Secretary of Housing and  
Urban Development  
Washington, D.C. 20410

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**TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE**

NAME OF AGENCY  The White House	PRECEDENCE  ACTION:  INFO:	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION	DATE PREPARED	TYPE OF MESSAGE
FOR INFORMATION CALL		<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE
NAME	PHONE NUMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> BOOK <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE-ADDRESS

THIS SPACE FOR USE OF COMMUNICATION UNIT

MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED (Use double spacing and all capital letters)

**TO:**

Honorable Erwin D. Canham  
 Resident Commissioner  
 Government of the Northern  
 Mariana Islands  
 Saipan, Mariana Islands

As you requested, I have declared a major disaster for the Northern Mariana Islands because of damage due to Typhoon Pamela beginning about May 20, 1976. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected areas.

The Administrator, Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, will coordinate Federal disaster assistance efforts for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will be Mr. Robert C. Stevens, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region IX. He will consult with you and assist in the execution of the Federal-Territorial Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal funds.

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PAGE NO.	NO. OF PGS.
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June , 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today declared a major disaster for the Northern Mariana Islands as a result of Typhoon Pamela beginning about May 20, 1976, which caused extensive public and private property damage. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the Territory.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of debris removal, and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed streets, roads, bridges, and public facilities and utilities. Low-interest rate disaster loans will be made available by the Small Business Administration.

Federal relief activities in the Northern Mariana Islands will be coordinated by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Administrator Thomas P. Dunne. Mr. Dunne will designate the specific areas within the Territory eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and Territorial damage assessments.

Mr. Robert C. Stevens, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region IX, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the Territory in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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NOTE:  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FDAA: (202) 634-6666.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
 FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
 120 MONTGOMERY STREET CENTER  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94104  
 FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE STAFF

IN REPLY REFER TO:

REGION IX

76 JUN 12 P 5: 38

DATE: June 12, 1976

FROM: Robert C. Stevens, Regional Director, FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

SUBJECT: Request for Presidential Major Disaster Declaration from Northern Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

The following message has been received from Mr. Ernie D. Canham, Resident Commissioner, Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands, dated June 10, 1976:

June 10, 1976

The President  
 The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Robert C. Stevens  
 Director, Region Nine  
 Federal Disaster Assistance Administration  
 120 Montgomery Street  
 San Francisco, California 94104

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully request that you declare that a Major Disaster exists in the Northern Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, comprised of the inhabited islands of Saipan, Rota, Tinian, Anatahan, Pagan, Agrihan and Alamagan, under the provisions of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

Beginning Thursday, May 20 and through Saturday, May 22, 1976, the eye of Typhoon Pamela passed within 50 miles of the Island of Rota, and at its closest approach, within 80-100 miles of the Islands of Saipan and Tinian, resulting in sustained winds of 50-60 m.p.h. with gusts of up to 90-100 m.p.h. at these islands. This caused severe damage to private housing, commercial facilities and agricultural crops on Rota, and, although to a lesser degree, substantial damages of like nature to Tinian and Saipan. Due to wind and wave action, the dock and breakwaters at Tinian received major damages, and Rota's East Harbor dock was almost totally demolished.

SEARCHED	INDEXED	SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 12 1976			
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO			
ACTION			

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Northern Mariana Islands

As a result of the typhoon, 572 private buildings were damaged, of which 56 buildings sustained over 50 per cent damage; damage to farms and crops ranged from 50 per cent to 100 per cent, primarily at Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Radio communications with the Northern Islands of Pagan, Agrihan and Anehan also indicate crop damage at those locations; however, it has not been possible to make on-site surveys due to the lack of transportation.

The estimated damage to public facilities rendering essential public service is as follows:

Docks, seawalls and breakwaters . . . . .	\$3,653,500
Public Buildings . . . . .	171,583
Roads . . . . .	31,800
Water Systems . . . . .	22,000
Power Systems . . . . .	211,000
Telephone Systems . . . . .	7,000

Total damages estimated at this time are:

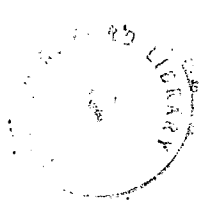
Public damages . . . . .	\$4,134,783
Private Damages . . . . .	796,270
Agriculture . . . . .	1,050,000

Agriculture within the Northern Mariana Islands consists of both commercial and subsistence farming. Principal crops are vegetable and fruits. Typhoon Pamela's high winds, heavy rain and waves resulted in destruction of matured fruit and vegetable crops. Salt-water intrusion of farm areas of Tinian, Rota and Saipan also occurred because of sea spray. The Mariana Agriculturist estimates that it will take 3 to 6 months to re-establish crops to pre-typhoon levels. This will require replanting after the salt has been leached by rains. The cost estimate for agriculture listed above represents costs involved in providing plants, seeds, pesticides and fertilizers and for the rental of farm equipment and implements.

The public damage estimate listed above includes \$37,000 for debris clearance.

Certain emergency actions, particularly repair and reactivation of essential utility services were begun on Saturday, May 22, 1976. On Monday, May 24, 1976, the then Acting Resident Commissioner Mr. Francisco C. Ads, declared a state of emergency in the Northern Mariana Islands, particularly for the Islands of Rota and Tinian, and convened a special meeting of the Cabinet and other involved officials, to declare this emergency. He directed that pertinent sections of the Trust Territory Emergency Plan for such disasters be invoked, in accordance with

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Section 301 of U. S. Public Law 93-288, and further directed that a Marianas emergency damage assessment force proceed immediately to Rota and Tinian to make on-site surveys and to assist in emergency actions. Similar actions were also taken at Saipan.

Neither the establishment of mass care shelters nor the implementation of an emergency or temporary housing program within the Islands is considered necessary. Families and individuals displaced because of destruction of or major damage to their homes are being housed temporarily by relatives and friends. Since most of the residents who have sustained damage to their homes do not have insurance coverage, a program which will provide for the repair or restoration of their homes will be necessary. In addition, emergency home and personal property loans, to include loans to commercial farmers, should be made available to those who can qualify. It is not believed at this time that unemployment assistance will be required. Between 15-20 small businesses were damaged to varying degrees; however, it is not known whether SBA loans will be requested. I hereby request that assistance authorized under Section 408, Individual and Family Grant Programs, of the Act be made available. I have determined that assistance under the Act and from other means will not be sufficient to meet the necessary expenses or serious needs of approximately 250 to 300 families, based on reports of the damage assessment teams dispatched by this office to the Islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian. The Government of the Northern Marianas will implement an approved Administrative Plan, and the Grant Program will be made available throughout the designated Major Disaster areas. This Government has the personnel and administrative capability to administer this program. I will designate a Coordinating Officer, who will maintain close coordination with the Federal Coordinating Officer, and will provide him with such reports as he may require. Total funding for this program is estimated to be \$225,000, of which \$168,750 will be the Federal share and \$56,250 will be the Government of the Northern Marianas share. All Federal and Northern Marianas funds committed to the Grant Program will be specifically identified in the accounts of the Government of the Northern Marianas.

Since no Government of Northern Marianas funds are available, at this time, the Government of the Northern Marianas is unable to pay its 25 per cent share and I request that \$225,000 be advanced by the Federal Government to cover both the Federal and Government of Northern Marianas share. In order to repay this advance, I will either reprogram Government of the Northern Marianas funds and/or request the Legislature of the Northern Marianas for an appropriation of funds, during their next regular session, and will repay this advance as soon as funds become available. I anticipate that this advance will be repaid by December, 1977. I agree to return, immediately, upon discovery, all Federal funds advanced to meet the Government of Northern Marianas 25 per cent share which exceed actual requirements.



Northern Mariana Islands

I have determined that the situation is beyond the capabilities of the Government of the Northern Marianas. Because of the recent formation of this Government on April 1, 1976, contingency funds for emergencies do not exist within the budget. Therefore, supplementary funds will be required to repair and restore disaster damaged public facilities and to provide financial assistance to individuals and facilities affected by the disaster.

Pursuant to Section 301 of U. S. Public Law 93-288, and Federal Disaster Assistance Administration Regulations, I certify that the total expenditures for this disaster, for which no Federal reimbursement will be requested are expected to exceed \$100,000, as listed in the following table:

Individual Assistance:

1. Housing (emergency distribution of materials for temporary repairs of private homes) . . . . .	\$6,500
2. Individual and Family Grants (GNMI Share) . . . . .	56,250
3. Costs of emergency distribution of food commodities for 6 months . . . . .	6,000
4. Sanitation and Medical Supplies . . . . .	2,500
Total - (Individual) . . . . .	\$71,250

Public Assistance:

1. Protective Work . . . . .	\$ 1,000
2. Restoration of Public Facilities . . . . .	20,000
3. Public Safety . . . . .	3,000
4. Salaries & Overtime (other than in Public Works and Public Safety) . . . . .	4,750
Total - (Public) . . . . .	\$28,750
Grand Total . . . . .	\$100,000

In view of the recent formation of the Government of the Northern Marianas, and the limited budget presently available, I believe that the amount of \$100,000 represents a significant contribution by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for this disaster.

Northern Mariana Islands

I further request other Federal assistance, as listed in the attached table. Your kind consideration and favorable action on this request for declaration of a Major Disaster in the Northern Mariana Islands as a result of Typhoon Pamela would be greatly appreciated by myself, and all the people of these Islands.

Respectfully,

Erwin D. Camban  
Resident Commissioner  
Government of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands

CATEGORIES OF REQUESTED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Individual Assistance:

Individual and Family Grant Program (Sec. 408):

Federal Share . . . . .	\$168,750
Government of the Northern Marianas Share & (advanced by Federal Government) . . . . .	56,250
(No temporary housing or unemployment compensation requirements)	

Public Assistance:

Decks and seawalls . . . . .	\$3,653,500
Public Buildings . . . . .	171,583
Roads . . . . .	31,800
Water systems . . . . .	22,000
Power systems . . . . .	211,900
Telephone systems . . . . .	7,000
Debris clearance . . . . .	37,000
Total . . . . .	\$4,134,783

Agriculture:

An emergency food program is being carried out, for a total of 790 persons or approximately 100 families (average of 8 per family) at 30 cents per day per family. These 790 recipients are in addition to the welfare assistance recipients of 715, who will continue to receive food commodities attributed to "welfare", rather than typhoon assistance (526 at Rota, 189 at Tinian, 75 at Saipan).

790 individuals (100 families) for 6 months  
Total . . . . . \$6,000 &

& This represents distribution costs - mainly freight only - as there are no charges for the USDA rations themselves).

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TYPHOON PAMELA  
REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

## A. SAIPAN

1. Public facilities (offices, buildings, schools, etc.)	\$ 45,000
2. Public utilities (water, power, telephone, & sewers)	162,000
3. Road system damage	31,000
4. Debris clearance	12,000
Sub-total, Public Facs.	\$ 250,000
5. Private sector losses (private & commercial)	132,585
6. Agricultural losses	468,233
Total for Saipan	\$850,821

## B. TINIAN

1. Docks, seawalls and breakwaters damages	\$3,039,000
2. Public facilities (offices, buildings, schools, etc.)	5,000
3. Public utilities (water, power, phones & sewers)	1,900
4. Road system damages	800
Sub-total, Public Facs.	\$3,046,700
5. Private sector losses (private & commercial)	12,490
6. Agricultural losses	306,587
Total for Tinian	\$3,365,777

## C. ROTA

1. Docks, seawalls and breakwaters damages	\$ 614,500
2. Public facilities (offices, buildings, schools, etc.)	121,583
3. Public utilities (water, power & sewers)	77,000
4. Debris clearance	25,000
Sub-total, Public Facs.	\$ 838,083
5. Private Sector Losses:	
5.a. Dwellings	\$457,080
5.b. Commercial buildings	117,112
5.c. Catholic Mission (public meeting hall)	77,000
	\$ 651,192



Northern Mariana Islands

C. Rota (Continued)

6. Agricultural losses . . . . .	\$ 241,982
Total for Rota . . . . .	\$1,731,257

D. NORTHERN ISLANDS (ANATAHAN, ALAYAGAN, PAGAN AND AGRTEAN)

1. Agricultural losses . . . . .	\$ 33,198
Grand Total for the Northern Mariana Islands . . . . .	\$5,981,053

Recap and Summary

I. Total for Northern Marianas . . . . .	\$5,981,053
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II. Categorical Break-down:

A. Public facilities (docks & seawalls) . . . . .	\$3,653,500
B. Public facilities (buildings, housing, schools, hosp., etc.) . . . . .	171,583
C. Public utilities (power, water, phone, sewer) . . . . .	240,500
D. Debris clearance . . . . .	37,000
E. Road system damages . . . . .	31,800
Sub-total (public facs.) . . . . .	\$4,134,783
F. Agricultural losses . . . . .	1,050,000
G. Private sector losses (dwellings & commercial) . . . . .	796,270
Grand Total - Northern Marianas . . . . .	\$5,981,053

Prepared by:

Dan E. Akimoto  
 Special Consultant to the Resident  
 Commissioner (Typhoon Coordinator)  
 Government of the Northern Mariana  
 Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands

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Northern Mariana Islands

We have responded to the Resident Commissioner's request as follows on June 12, 1976:

"From: Robert C. Stevens, Regional Director, FDAA Region Nine, San Francisco, CA  
To: Mr. Erwin D. Carham, Resident Commissioner, Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands  
Subj: Request for Declaration of a Major Disaster Area

Your message #120500Z Jun 76 received this date requesting the declaration of a major disaster area in the Northern Mariana Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands due to damage caused by Typhoon Pamela is receiving prompt attention. You will be notified as soon as a determination is made."

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Regional recommendation will be forwarded later.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Regional Director

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