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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 29, 1976

SIGNATURE

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

RECOMMENDATION FOR AMENDMENT  
OF MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION -  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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

Beginning about July 13, 1976, Typhoon Therese raked the Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with high winds and heavy rains, which resulted in extensive damage. This further compounded the severe damage which had resulted from Typhoon Pamela, beginning about May 20, for which you declared a major disaster on June 17. It is extremely difficult to differentiate between the damage caused by the two Typhoons; however, the primary requirements for assistance are for individual and family grants and for financial assistance for the repair or restoration of public buildings, utilities, and docks. Disaster loan assistance from the Small Business Administration will also be needed. (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. They have further concluded that, in this instance, Federal assistance can best be provided with your amendment of your June 17, 1976, declaration of a major disaster to include the damage caused by Typhoon Therese.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that you amend your June 17 major disaster declaration for the Northern Mariana Islands by signing the attached letter authorizing the necessary funds to provide Federal disaster assistance. Max Friedersdorf concurs in this recommendation.

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