



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

July 29, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

On June 17, 1976, you declared a major disaster for the Northern Mariana Islands because of damage resulting from ". . .Typhoon Pamela beginning about May 20, 1976. . .".

Beginning about July 13, 1976, Typhoon Therese raked the Islands of Saipan and Tinian with sustained winds of 110 miles per hour and gusts of up to 135 miles per hour, and the Island of Rota, which sustained winds of from 70-85 miles per hour. Typhoon Therese caused extensive damage, thereby compounding the damage the Islands had already sustained as a result of Typhoon Pamela in May.

Members of our FDAA Regional Office staff in San Francisco have been working closely with State and local officials to determine both the losses and the requirements for Federal disaster assistance. The most urgent need at this time is for Federal financial assistance under Public Law 93-288 to aid in the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed public buildings, utilities, and docks. There is also a requirement for individual and family grant assistance under Section 408 of Public Law 93-288.

Due to the severity and magnitude of the damage, it is extremely difficult to differentiate between the damage caused by Typhoon Pamela and that caused by Typhoon Therese. In view of this, and in view of the even greater financial strain which the damaged caused by Typhoon Therese has placed on the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, I recommend that you amend your June 17, 1976, declaration of a major disaster to read ". . .Typhoon Pamela, beginning about May 20, 1976, and from Typhoon Therese, beginning about July 13, 1976. . .". This amendment will permit us to provide Federal financial assistance in the Northern Mariana Islands for the damage caused by Typhoon Therese.

Respectfully,

Thomas P. Dunne
for Carla A. Hills



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