

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

S

FOIA Number:

S

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13638
Folder ID Number: 13638-001

Folder Title:
Hurricane [Andrew] Follow-up 9/1/92 [OA 5811]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	18	4	4

ment on relief for

y called Octavio of schools for Dade im that \$40 million ailable to hard-hit ds will be used to o schools and new to cover extraor-

stroyed or severely e 297 Dade County ortation needs for n expected. It is an- dditional assistance nty will be able to nber 14.

led by the Depart- help students af- is aid includes: ad- l loan money to col- le school students; tal grants and cam- titutions that enroll disaster; and sen- students' financial

A. Nord To Be Consumer mission

announced his inten- . Nord, of the Dis- a Commissioner of Safety Commission 1 October 27, 1992.

ves as a senior con- Jellinek, Schwartz nmental consulting She has also served he Republican Na- n, 1991-92. She has

also served as the executive director of the American Corporate Counsel Association, 1982-90; General Counsel for the Council on Environmental Quality, 1981-82; and associate minority counsel for the Energy and Commerce Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1975-81.

Ms. Nord graduated from the University of Nebraska (B.A., 1968) and George Washington University (J.D., 1971). She was born September 14, 1946, in Sioux Falls, SD. Ms. Nord is married, has one child, and resides in Washington, DC.

Address to the Nation on Hurricane Andrew Disaster Relief September 1, 1992

Good evening, everyone.

Eight days ago the people of south Florida and Louisiana were confronted by perhaps the most destructive natural disaster in our history. Tonight I want to report to the Nation on the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew and the effort required to help Andrew's survivors back on their feet.

In the past week I've twice visited Louisiana and Florida. And in Florida, where the storm was strongest, up to a quarter million people have lost their homes, many huddled beneath the busted timbers of what was once a living room or a kitchen. There's no running water, no electricity. Little children are left without even a toy to play with.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, a relief effort has risen, unprecedented in size and impact. And tonight as we speak, almost 20,000 troops are on the ground assisting in everything from providing meals to erecting tent cities. Basic human needs, food, water, shelter, and medical assistance, are being provided.

In Florida, a curfew is in place, and the National Guard and local police patrol the streets. It's a tribute to these officers and to the people of this region that looting has been kept to a minimum. Social Security checks are being delivered on time. Financial help is being made available to families who have lost their homes and their jobs.

This relief effort has generated incredible cooperation. My thanks go to so many people who slept so little the past 8 days, to State and local government officials, Federal Agencies, private charities, and the heroic men and women of the United States military. Most especially, my appreciation goes out to the volunteers. When we arrived in Florida, some of the first people we met were from South Carolina, victims of Hurricane Hugo who had spent the night driving so they could help others through their ordeal. We met doctors and firefighters spending sleepless vacations lending a helping hand. Through the eloquence of their action, I've been reminded that America will always be a Nation of neighbors.

Although the relief effort is well underway, urgent needs still exist. And so tonight I make a special appeal to the generous spirit of the American people. People in Florida and Louisiana want to stay in their homes. They're in desperate need of rolls of plastic to cover open roofs, lumber to board up walls, and cots to sleep on. They also need diapers, baby formula, and other infant supplies. And fresh volunteers are needed to staff medical facilities or help with the cleanup.

Right now, America's churches and charities are mobilizing to meet these needs. And I encourage all Americans to pitch in, in any way you can. If you don't know where to turn and you want to help right now, please call the American Red Cross at 1-800-842-2200. 1-800-842-2200.

Once our relief effort is complete, we will accelerate the process of recovery. Already today we announced plans to rebuild Homestead Air Force Base, the linchpin of the economy in devastated areas. And a distinguished Florida business leader, Alvah Chapman, has agreed to head a national private sector effort to help rebuild south Florida. It's called "We Will Rebuild." This effort has my strong support and the support of Florida Governor Chiles. All of us are in this for the long haul. If you want to be a part of this effort, please write We Will Rebuild. And the address is Post Office Box 010790, Miami, Florida, and the ZIP Code is 33131.

In the past 8 days we've seen on our TV screens real tears, real sorrow, real hurt. Livelihoods have been destroyed. Lives, even

young lives, have been tragically lost. But already in Florida and Louisiana, we're talking not just of relief but of recovery. This is a tribute to what is inside us. And yes, Andrew blew a whirlwind of devastation. But he could never extinguish the American spirit, a spirit of compassion and sacrifice and endurance. We have seen that spirit in action the past 8 days. And with this spirit and your enduring commitment, our neighbors in south Florida and Louisiana will recover.

Thank you for your generosity. And our prayers are with all who stood in Andrew's path. Good night.

Note: The President spoke at 9 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. The address was broadcast live on nationwide television.

Teleconference With the America 2000 Satellite Town Meeting September 1, 1992

The President. Lamar, I'm here.

Secretary Alexander. Well, terrific.

The President. Delighted to be here. And I'm delighted you're willing to take this phone call from this very interested participant from the White House.

Secretary Alexander. We're honored that you'd take the time to call. We know you've had a very busy day.

The President. Well, let me just make a couple of comments butting into this wonderful program. But first a compliment, and then I do want to ask one question. But my compliments to the more than 2,500 communities out there who are working together on these national education goals.

When the Governors and I established the goals at Charlottesville at that education summit, we hoped to set a new direction for education in our country. But we also knew that the goals would not make much difference unless they were adopted community by community. And so I guess the way to say it is we had high hopes at Charlottesville. But I don't think any one of us envisioned anything quite like this, over 2,500 different communities working together on the goals

at one time by satellite. I really just want to say that I hope you will all stick with it, join the town meeting every month, and become an America 2000 community, if you're not in there already.

There are no quick fixes. The change we're talking about is really fundamental. It is really enormous, literally reinventing education. And that'll require what we call the break-the-mold schools: higher standards and certainly better tests, getting government off the teachers' backs, and then giving families more choice in schools and academic programs. There's nothing more important than creating the best schools in the world for our children, and this is the way to do it.

So my compliments to all assembled for what you're doing. My compliments also to the U.S. Chamber and all the local chambers of commerce out there who are involved in these community efforts, and then, of course, to the wonderful Wal-Mart associates who are participating. I do know firsthand how important education was to Sam Walton. And he would be glad. He would be thrilled that you were participating tonight. So, congratulations.

Now for my question, and I want to place it to Len Sirotzki of Bensenville, Illinois. And I suspect that almost all of the participating communities have this question in mind because I've challenged each one of them to create a break-the-mold school. And now Len, if you're there, you've turned your entire community into a break-the-mold site. And my question is, how did you get started and how is it working out?

Mr. Sirotzki. Mr. President, thank you for asking that question. It certainly is wonderful of you to join us this evening. The way we started, very simply put, was that we started. I think that the number one message to communities everywhere is to start, and don't wait for some perfect time that may never come. But we looked for individual persons who were willing to go beyond personal agenda for the benefit of the community, all of the families in the community, and I mean all of them, not only school-aged children. And I think all of us want better communities, but they will not come about magically. It's going to take a very, very long-term commitment, and there will be a great deal

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 08/31/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ASAP TONIGHT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HURRICANE FOLLOW-UP, FLORIDA, 09/01/92

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X PROVOST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X ZOELICK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GAUGHAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THIS EVENING, with a copy to this office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

(Smith/Aarhus)
Draft Two
August 31, 1992
RETURN

2 AUG 31 P7:26

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HURRICANE FOLLOW-UP
FLORIDA
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1, 1992

Last week, I came to Florida and saw rooftops shredded -- and houses flattened / met Americans without food, water or shelter -- but never without hope. / The Good Book tells us: "If one member suffers, all suffer together." Last week we saw how when one American is hurting -- all Americans bleed. //

So far Hurricane Andrew has done billions of dollars worth of damage. __ dead -- __ here in Florida. / We are here to help and rebuild -- and we will work tirelessly to make that happen. /

I don't underestimate the task. It will take months to restore a semblance of community in the devastated areas -- and years to rebuild. / But we have begun -- and we will finish the job. //

Let me review what I've have done to coordinate our efforts. Last week, I named Transportation Secretary Andy Card to lead a task force of Federal officials to the disaster areas / meet with state and local officials / and work with FEMA to provide additional emergency aid. /

On the basis of Secretary Card's reports last Thursday, I directed Federal troops immediately to help FEMA in making sure this aid reached every person who needed it. I have since kept in constant contact with Secretary Card and Governor Chiles. //

So far ___ Federal troops -- that amounts to a full brigade -
- are in or on their way to Florida. Another 1,000 Marines are
going to Opa-Locka to help. They are there to supply
comprehensive assistance for the affected areas -- including
tents, food, water, electrical generators, portable facilities,
and mobile field kitchens. //

Supporting them is the Department of Defense with whatever
transportation is necessary, including aircraft and helicopters,
to fulfill this mission. Last weekend two tent cities with
sanitation facilities to house 5,000 people arrived from
Guantanamo. In addition, we have flown in more than 500 tents,
___ cots, and 75,000 blankets / let contracts for more than 6
million gallons of water / and are shipping nearly 422,000 pounds
of donated food to Florida's hardest-hit areas.

As of now, nearly one million meals have arrived and are
being distributed. We have also brought in seven special medical
teams and a full medical brigade to deal with health problems --
from tetanus shots to delivering babies. Last week South Florida
was on its back. Whether it's food, water, Federal money, or
troops -- we will do whatever it takes to get South Florida back
on its feet.

That is why I am here again / why I am in constant touch
with Secretary Card and Governor Chiles / and why we are using
every civilian agency -- 27 in all -- to make disaster aid
available in an unprecedented way. That includes temporary
housing assistance. Grants for individuals and families for

emergency needs like food, clothing, or hospital expenses. And we have urged businesses to apply for loans to the Small Business Administration. /

This support will continue and be improved. So will the efforts of our military: I know they will use their energies to help defeat the enemies of hunger and homelessness in Florida. / Short-term, we must pick up the pieces. Long-term, the Federal government must, and will, help the plant the seeds of economic rebirth. //

When that occurs -- and it will -- we will never forget the heroes of Hurricane Andrew. The devastated, of course, most of all. Volunteers like the Red Cross and their many support groups across the country. Business and labor -- pulling together to repair what nature has torn apart. Individuals like Edward Gary -- who, after seeing his mobile home in shambles, searched through the rubble to find the American flag. The flag soon flew from the only wall left of his home. Said Edward: "I put it up to let people know we got to go on."

So will South Florida. I know it's not easy to confront a terror not felt in this country since the 1906 earthquake. But I also know Americans. I know how we're at our best when disaster is at its worst. //

Together, we will rebuild these communities -- and show that natural disasters are no match for American neighbor-helping-neighbor. Thank you -- and God bless the United States of America.

(Smith/Aarhus)
Draft Three
August 31, 1992
RETURN

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HURRICANE FOLLOW-UP
FLORIDA
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1, 1992

Last week, I came to Florida and saw rooftops shredded -- and houses flattened / met Americans without food, water or shelter -- but never without hope. / The Good Book tells us: "If one member suffers, all suffer together." Last week we saw how when one American is hurting -- all Americans bleed. //

So far Hurricane Andrew has done billions of dollars worth of damage. __ dead -- __ here in Florida. / We are here to help and rebuild -- and we will work tirelessly to make that happen. /

I don't underestimate the task. It will take months to restore a semblance of community in the devastated areas -- and years to rebuild. / But we have begun -- and we will finish the job. //

Let me review what I've have done to coordinate our efforts. Last week, I named Transportation Secretary Andy Card to lead a task force of Federal officials to the disaster areas / meet with state and local officials / and work with FEMA to provide additional emergency aid. /

On the basis of Secretary Card's reports last Thursday, I directed Federal troops immediately to help FEMA in making sure this aid reached every person who needed it. I have since kept in constant contact with Secretary Card and Governor Chiles. //

So far __ Federal troops -- that amounts to a full brigade -
- are in or on their way to Florida. Another 1,000 Marines are
going to Opa-Locka to help. They are there to supply
comprehensive assistance for the affected areas -- including
tents, food, water, electrical generators, portable facilities,
and mobile field kitchens. //

Supporting them is the Department of Defense with whatever
transportation is necessary, including aircraft and helicopters,
to fulfill this mission. Last weekend two tent cities with
sanitation facilities to house 5,000 people arrived from
Guantanamo. In addition, we have flown in more than 500 tents,
__ cots, and 75,000 blankets / let contracts for more than 6
million gallons of water / and are shipping nearly 422,000 pounds
of donated food to Florida's hardest-hit areas.

As of now, nearly one million meals have arrived and are
being distributed. We have also brought in seven special medical
teams and a full medical brigade to deal with health problems --
from tetanus shots to delivering babies. Last week South Florida
was on its back. Whether it's food, water, Federal money, or
troops -- we will do whatever it takes to get South Florida back
on its feet. //

That is why I am here again / why I am in constant touch
with Secretary Card and Governor Chiles / and why we are using
every civilian agency -- 27 in all -- to make disaster aid
available in an unprecedented way. That includes temporary
housing assistance. Grants for individuals and families for

emergency needs like food, clothing, or hospital expenses. And we have urged businesses to apply for loans to the Small Business Administration. /

This support will continue and be improved. So will the efforts of our military: I know they will use their energies to help defeat the enemies of hunger and homelessness in Florida. / Short-term, we must pick up the pieces. Long-term, the Federal government must help the plant the seeds of economic rebirth. //

When that occurs -- and it will -- we will never forget the heroes of Hurricane Andrew. Volunteers like the Red Cross and their many support groups across the country. / Business and labor -- pulling together to repair what nature has torn apart. / The devastated, most of all. Individuals like the Reverend Clarence Clem, pastor of a church near Cutler Ridge. /

Today, his church is gone -- as are the homes of all 85 members. Yet the Reverend Clem still holds prayer meetings and Bible readings. Still keeps the members together. Still asks them to go out and be a light unto the world. //

For the past week South Florida's courage has amazed the world. I know it's not easy to confront a terror rarely felt in this country since the 1906 earthquake. But I also know Americans. We're at our best when disaster is at its worst. //

Together, we will rebuild these communities -- and show that natural disasters are no match for American neighbor-helping-neighbor. Thank you -- and God bless the United States of America.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 28, 1992

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT

The Rose Garden

12:10 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I have with me several of the key leaders at the Pentagon who are working on this humanitarian problem. And our military resources are responding promptly and massively to the hurricane disaster.

At least 7,000 federal troops are on station or en route to deliver services to Floridians who are the victims of this horrible disaster. That amounts to a full brigade. Another 1,000 Marines are going to Opa Locka to help, if necessary.

Two tent cities with sanitation facilities which can house 5,000 people will arrive in Florida this afternoon from Guantanamo. General Reimer, with me today, and Secretary Atwood tell me that the Department of Defense has already delivered nearly 200,000 meals. And in addition, another 200,000 would be delivered today and tomorrow. Also, 20 mobile kitchen trailers, which are each capable of feeding 300 personnel every two hours, will serve food around the clock. The Department of the Navy is providing shelter for up to 5,000 personnel.

In addition, the Army is sending up to 1,250 tents, 25,000 cots and 50,000 blankets. The military is sending a full medical brigade and seven special medical teams to deal with the health problems. Ten thousand gallons of bottled water arrive today. Contracts have been let for six million more gallons of water. Generators are being supplied for electricity support and relief centers. And in addition, the Army Corps of Engineers is on the ground to help with the removal of debris that will allow people to move around.

The United States Department of Agriculture has just distributed over 100,000 food packages. In addition, 7,000 cases of food from the Red Cross and other agencies have been sent to Florida shelters.

And, finally, with the respect to the maintenance of public order and security, functions now the responsibility of state and local officials in Florida, I have made very clear to Governor Chiles both yesterday and today that I am willing to send more federal troops and federalize the National Guard in Florida if he wants us to. We will commit all federal military resources necessary to help the people in Florida.

I've just talked to Governor Chiles, and I think we are in agreement on all of this. And as far as Louisiana goes, problems for some families are terrible. The size, the scope of the disaster is not near as great. But the military is helping there as well. There are MREs on the ground. The generator sets are there, and I've been trying to contact Governor Edwards, with whom I visited the area the other day, to be sure that we are giving him the proper support for the people of Louisiana.

MORE

So things are moving, and the big thing is to get this job done for the people. It is a cooperative effort between private agencies, between local, state and the federal government. And I am very, very proud of the way the military has responded here.

Q Mr. President, how do you respond to criticism that you did not act fast enough or you didn't respond to the needs --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the reason -- I would simply say this. First place, I'm not going to participate in the blame game, nor is Governor Chiles. What we're trying to do is help people. And it doesn't do any good to go into "who shot John." I can tell you this -- that this large a military movement would not have taken place if there was not very early planning and cooperation by the military. And we have responded. I think the Governor would agree that when he asked for this massive movement of force, it was only within a few hours that we responded to that.

And so I think much more important than when something took place or didn't take place is the feeling we must convey of total cooperation. And I'm satisfied that we responded properly and I'm very confident that the military have conducted their mission so far with beautiful planning, now excellent execution. And I'm also satisfied they will do whatever it takes to go the extra mile to help the people of Florida. And that's all I'm going to say about that.

Q Was Chiles slow to ask for federal troops?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not going to say that. I just expressed myself on this subject. I think we've responded. I think he would agree that when asked for a massive amount of force yesterday, it's on the way. There were some things he asked about that we were not able to do, but as he said down there -- and I will say here -- we are having excellent cooperation between the Governor's office, the State of Florida and the federal government. He said it and I say it. And I'm not going to change my mind on that. He's working --

Q Weren't you ready to send troops in there sooner?

THE PRESIDENT: -- very, very hard to coordinate. He's got a very difficult job down there.

Q Weren't troops ready to move sooner than that at Bragg, though, and elsewhere?

THE PRESIDENT: I've already said when we were asked to move we moved these massive numbers of forces.

Q But they were ready to move sooner if asked, weren't they?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not going to go into that, because I don't -- what you seem to be interested in is kind of assigning blame or something. That is not what's at stake here and I don't want to participate in that.

There was some unit that we couldn't -- what was it --

MAJOR GENERAL HELDSTAB: One air battalion.

GENERAL REIMER: Air battalion.

THE PRESIDENT: Engineer -- and what was the reason for that?

MAJOR GENERAL HELDSTAB: They had already been on their two-week active duty and were unable to be involuntarily recalled.

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: There was one battalion he wanted to have -- this was before yesterday's request -- and we were not able to do it because those people had served -- it was a reserve unit, they had served, and under the law we're not able to mobilize them. But perhaps that's what's causing some of the concern.

But the Governor and I are looking at this, I think, the same. I'm not going to -- you can ask him. But we want to give full cooperation to what's happening there. You just turn on the set and you can see these planes rolling in there. And that's the main thing. We're looking forward, try to help, and try to wipe out these little differences that some people want to talk about. I want to dwell on how we're going to help the people in Florida.

Q Mr. President, does the federal government have the lead role in this right now?

THE PRESIDENT: The federal government has a tremendous -- has a leading role in the humanitarian relief. It does not have a role in the security right now. That's left in the hands of the state and it's been entrusted largely to the National Guard, which is under the control of the Governor because it has not been federalized.

Q Mr. President, is the magnitude of this disaster going to require additional federal funds?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if it does, we will have to acquire additional federal funds. I have not had an estimate on that yet.

Q Mr. President, what are your plans for this weekend? And since you were able to manage the crisis involving the Soviet coup and the prewar plans last year, why did you decide to scrub your trip to Kennebunkport?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think I'll be having meetings here over the weekend. I'll be down here either tomorrow or Sunday for a report from the people on the ground down there. I don't want to pull them out of there right now, but I think it is very important that the coordination go forward. We've talked here about the military. We have a lot of civilian agencies, 27 of them to be exact, that are involved in all of this. And our staff here under Jim Baker have been actively involved almost around the clock. But I think it's important that all of these agencies know that the President is going to be on top of this.

Q Was there a political consideration in not going to Kennebunkport, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No political consideration. I'd very much would like to be there and regret not going. But I've got my responsibilities here and I think I can do that from here. And then I'm going to be at Camp David. We've got excellent communications; it's almost like being in your office here. But I'll just do what I've got to do.

Q Mr. President, did Jim Baker or anyone say it wouldn't look right, sir?

Q Mr. President, you mentioned that what happened last night and this morning was the result of considerable planning that had been done by the military. When did that planning actually begin, sir, and how closely did you stay on top of it on the days that followed your visit to Florida?

MORE

SECRETARY ATWOOD: On Sunday we activated the Army to make plans -- this was before the hurricane struck.

THE PRESIDENT: Sunday the planning began, and they activated plans before -- the planning before the hurricane struck. They were giving me reports on what possibly we would use in terms of assets.

Q Mr. President, were you in contact with Governor Chiles as soon as that plan was developed to be sure that he understood it and could right then, that the second he asked for federal assistance these trips would be in there?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I said that publicly when I was in Florida on Tuesday -- was it Tuesday I was down there -- but when I was there he was standing right next to me and we did talk about that, yes.

We've talked about -- and I think we've had a good, cooperative relationship. I heard some local officials who were somewhat -- well, not somewhat -- quite critical. But I understand that. These people have been up all night. They've been worried about their constituency -- in this case a commissioner. They're wondering how their people are going to get fed. So I can understand tempers flaring. But I don't want to contribute to that. We want to move forward here.

Q Mr. President, part of the problem also that they were saying was that there was, as you were saying earlier, a lack of coordination, and also they were saying perhaps some red tape. Is there anything more the White House can do to eliminate some of the red tape to get the aid going quicker?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, any time you have this massive an operation I suppose, as the young major I heard on the television right now -- he said, well, there's a glitch from time to time, but it's overwhelmed by the fact that so much good is happening. But we've got good, competent people trying to work out the coordination between the agencies. Andy Card, our Secretary of Transportation, has my full confidence, and he's on the spot working with the other federal officials and with the Governor's people. So if there are any difficulties or red tape, we want to cut right through it.

Q Were you disappointed -- early response, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't know what area they've not responded in. Listen, if anybody can do the job better, why, we'll be pushing them to do it better.

Q To clear up the situation in Louisiana, Mr. President, is it your expectation that no federal troops will be necessary there?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I gather that's the case right now. But we made clear to Governor Edwards that if more was required to please let us know. I think he had assurance on that -- I didn't talk to him; I've been trying to get hold of him -- but one of our White House officials talked to him and I think that was his last, latest judgment on it.

I've got time for one more question.

Q Mr. President, yesterday you said the reason you were sending in the military is because the size of the disaster is so much larger than originally anticipated. Sir, why didn't we know sooner that hundreds of thousands of people have been left homeless?

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: I think one of the reasons is you've got a lot of isolated areas. Secondly, I don't know that there was a large discrepancy in numbers of people that are out of their homes. But as I said, yesterday we received a request for massive numbers of troops and yesterday we responded within several hours. And I think that will be Governor Chiles's understanding, too.

But, look, if any federal official is trying to blame a state official, I want it to stop. And if any state official is trying to blame the federal official or local official, that doesn't -- that's not constructive. I know it makes very good, wonderful debate, but it doesn't help anything. What we're trying to do is work together here. And I am determined that from the federal government's standpoint we give maximum cooperation to local and state officials. And that's the way it's going to be.

And there is no point getting into blame and this "who shot John" thing that I know everybody's fascinated with. I don't want that and I don't want one single federal official trying to be in the blame-assigning business. I've given you the facts here today. I think Governor Chiles will understand that those are the facts. And the important thing is to help the people.

And this military of ours, these men standing behind me and those that work for them are doing a first-rate job in responding to the order. And the order is to get down there and help people. And it's a wonderful thing. And I think the people of Florida when they see this, see the magnitude of this operation, will be very, very grateful. And we all should be grateful that we can have this kind of response.

Thank you all very much.

END

12:20 P.M. EDT



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
August 31, 1992

SP
Don't refer to
the money (100 million)
Just say we're announcing
we'll rebuild
the base

8/31 7:30pm (1)
D.K.
(2)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.
FROM: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SUBJECT: Rebuilding of Homestead Air Force Base

As you directed, we are prepared to begin rebuilding Homestead Air Force Base, which was recently destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. The location of Homestead Air Force Base permits strategically valuable air coverage of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and portions of the eastern North Atlantic ocean, through the sea lanes of which passes a substantial portion of American commerce. The location of Homestead also remains well-suited for the conduct of counternarcotics operations, and especially the national effort to combat the trans-Caribbean cocaine trade. The location also is well-suited to provide air defense along America's southeastern flank, including areas adjacent to Cuba. Accordingly, the rebuilding of Homestead would serve a number of important military interests. Also, rebuilding Homestead Air Force Base would help spur economic recovery of the entire area of southern Florida devastated by Hurricane Andrew and thus would be a significant element of the overall Federal program of aid to the stricken area.

Perhaps add:
sign of
our commitment
to the area

The Base Before the Hurricane

Homestead Air Force Base, activated in 1942, is a 3,345 acre base 37 miles south of Miami. It is the home of the Air Force's 31st Fighter Wing of F-16C/D aircraft, Air Training Command's sea-survival school, and the 726th Control Squadron; a Naval Security Group activity; the Air Force Reserve's 482d Fighter Wing and 301st Rescue Squadron; a detachment of the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Interceptor Group; and the Inter-American Air Forces Academy. Approximately 6,500 military personnel (accompanied by 5,500 family members) and 1,000 civilians worked at the base. Its annual payroll was approximately \$152 million.

(3) Talking PH
OK (w.
one deletion)
JRB

Remaining Infrastructure

When the National Weather Center issued warnings that Hurricane Andrew's path was likely to include the Homestead area, we evacuated from the base its personnel and fighter aircraft. We sent for temporary assignment to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina Homestead's three squadrons of fighters, two of which we intend to further relocate temporarily at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia.

The Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force has advised that most of the physical plant at Homestead Air Force Base was destroyed, although portions of some buildings are usable at least to provide cover from the weather for temporary offices and shelter. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs inspected the base hospital over the weekend as part of his assessment of the medical situation. He concluded, subject to final confirmation by a structural engineer, that a portion of the base hospital appears to be usable to provide medical services. The runway remains in operating condition. Beyond that, however, Homestead would be largely rebuilt from scratch.

Current Base Operations

Since the early days of the relief operation, Homestead Air Force Base has been open for daylight operations under visual flight rules with rudimentary air traffic control. Relief supplies and personnel have flowed into the Base. We have now installed temporary navigational aids to replace those destroyed by the hurricane and have established an emergency air traffic control operation using mobile gear. As a result, tonight (8/31) Homestead can begin 24-hours-a-day operation.

We continue to use the land at Homestead for emergency shelter. The Air Force has deployed a containerized 1100-person hardwall shelter (known as "HARVEST BEAR") to provide emergency shelter and some operating spaces. As the size of the military relief operation continues to mount, the shelter and operational use of the Base will expand.

Funds for Rebuilding

The General Counsel of the Department of Defense advises that: (1) a decision to rebuild Homestead Air Force Base would be lawful and, in particular, would not contravene statutes governing base closures and realignments, and (2) to rebuild Homestead Air Force Base will require funding legislation from Congress -- either supplemental appropriations for the purpose (which we strongly prefer) or statutory language authorizing us to use existing DOD appropriations for the purpose. Although budget-quality data is not yet available on the cost of rebuilding Homestead Air Force Base, our rough working estimate is \$500,000,000.

I would recommend that we request appropriations for the rebuilding of Homestead Air Force Base in the Florida disaster supplemental appropriations request that is in preparation.

Attached are talking points for your use with respect to a decision to rebuild Homestead Air Force Base.

TALKING POINTS ON DECISION TO REBUILD HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE

- As we visit here at Homestead Air Force Base, we have a lot of work ahead of us.
- Everyone -- from the local police officer walking the street to guard homes, to the soldier hauling water to thirsty people, to the medical volunteer bandaging wounds -- has shown great dedication to helping the people of southern Florida recover.
- Americans all across the country have donated goods and money to private organizations to help south Floridians.
- We have a massive Federal, State and local recovery effort under way.
- And it must be emphasized that -- in the great spirit of the American people -- the people of the devastated area are doing a great deal for themselves -- neighbors helping neighbors.
- The armed forces are filling a vital role in the recovery effort -- with troops, equipment, and supplies and the airplanes, ships, and trucks to move them.
- We were fortunate that the runway at Homestead Air Force Base remained in working condition and we have been able to use the Base to support recovery efforts.
- Homestead Air Force Base has been important for many years because of its location.
- The location of the Base permits strategically valuable air coverage of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the portions of the eastern North Atlantic ocean. A substantial portion of American commerce passes through these sea lanes.
- The location of the Base also remains well-suited for the conduct of counternarcotics operations, and especially the effort to combat the trans-Caribbean cocaine trade.
- The location of the Base also is well-suited to provide air defense along America's southeastern flank, including areas adjacent to Cuba.
- Because of the military value of the Base and because it is vital to the economic recovery of the area, I am directing Secretary Cheney to rebuild Homestead Air Force Base as a high priority.
- We will need the cooperation of the Congress in providing the funding needed to rebuild the Base, and I trust Members of Congress will support us.
- We look forward to the day when the Air Force fighter squadrons will come home to Homestead.

Stay away from the funding

Post Report

Federal Response to Victims of Hurricane Andrew

Status Report: Information Available as of August 31, 11:00 a.m.

****New information is in bold**

Presidential Action

On August 24, the President declared a major disaster in three Florida counties, and on August 26, the President declared a major disaster for affected areas in Louisiana. On August 28, the President declared that Collier County, Florida, was added to the disaster declaration for both individual and public assistance.

FEMA estimates that Federal assistance provided in South Florida could eventually total \$1-2 billion. Federal assistance provided in Louisiana could total \$20-50 million. The President is committed to providing this assistance as swiftly as possible.

On August 26, the President appointed Secretary of Transportation Andrew Card to lead a task force of federal officials to travel to the disaster areas, meet with state and local officials, and coordinate the federal response in conjunction with FEMA.

On August 27, after Secretary Card had reported on the situation in Florida, and upon receipt of Governor Chiles's request for military assistance, the President immediately directed Federal troops to supply comprehensive assistance to the affected areas, including mobile tents, food, water, field kitchens. He also directed the Department of Defense to provide whatever transportation is necessary, including aircraft and helicopters, to fulfill that mission.

Secretary Card will hold a press conference in Florida at 3:00 p.m.

Department of Defense Support

Florida

On August 30, military presence totaled 13,381 military personnel and 6,478 National Guard.

On August 28, 20 mobile field kitchens were operational in South Florida. An additional 14 are scheduled to arrive by midnight August 31.

The CINCLANT-20 bed hospital has arrived and is operational. Advance elements of a 100-bed combat support hospital have arrived, remaining elements are en route.

On August 30, a preventive medicine sanitation team arrived.

On August 30, 10,000 portable radios with batteries were shipped;

an additional 2,500 radios will be delivered August 31.

On August 28, the Corps of Engineers had arranged the delivery of 40,000 gallons of waters; an additional 200,000 gallons are scheduled to arrive through August 29.

On August 28, contracts had been awarded to provide emergency generators. Seventy-five miscellaneous generators had already been delivered on August 28. Four 750 kilowatt generators are scheduled to be in Miami by noon, August 29.

On August 28, the DOD search and rescue teams had completed their mission.

On August 30, 300,000 MRE's had arrived and were being distributed. An additional 600,000 are scheduled to be delivered within the next two days.

On August 29, a DOD 20-bed clinic for triage and immediate care will be operational in Dade County.

On August 30 and 31, the following is scheduled to arrive at Opa Locka: 1,250 tents, 50,000 blankets, 25,000 cots, 2,500 water cans, and 50 30-kilowatt generators. [On August 30, 468 medium and 59 large tents, and 75,000 blankets arrived.]

A Special Purpose Marine Task Group will arrive by August 30 to construct two tent cities capable of housing 2,500 people each.

Louisiana

On August 29, four 750-kilowatt generators will have been delivered to the State. Smaller generators have been provided to various locations around the state,

300,000 MREs have been provided to the area

Helicopters provide transportation for assessment teams on a continuous basis.

More than 100 power generators have been provided. Most of the damaged electrical power has been restored, with the remainder expected to be restored in the next couple days.

FEMA Disaster Relief

The President's disaster declarations activated assistance through FEMA and various other emergency support functions through 27 Federal departments and agencies to three affected counties in Florida and eight affected parishes in Louisiana.

FEMA provides assistance to individuals and State and local

governments. This assistance includes:

- Temporary housing and grants to individuals and families (up to \$11,500 per household) whose homes and property were damaged in the disaster, and who cannot qualify for SBA loans.
- Assistance to local governments to cover the costs of repairing damaged public buildings and utilities and regular and overtime salary costs of State and local workers involved in responding to the disaster.

On August 30, 15 stationary and five mobile Disaster Assistance Centers were opened in South Florida. These centers will coordinate Federal, state, and local assistance to residents and businesses. FEMA plans to open up to five additional centers this week.

Five Disaster Assistance Centers are open Louisiana as of August 30. FEMA plans to open three additional centers this week.

On August 29, a checkwriting facility will be established capable of processing 3,000 temporary housing assistance checks a day. One hundred computer work stations are being set up in the Miami Disaster Field Office to process applications.

FEMA has established a toll-free number to respond to hurricane victims seeking information or assistance: 1-800-462-9029; 135 operators staff the phone lines.

On August 26, North Carolina Governor Martin responded to the President's request to direct his state's emergency management division to assist in the restoration of electricity and coordination of debris removal in Homestead, Florida.

Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance

The SBA will provide direct, low-interest loans to homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profit organizations experiencing losses.

- SBA currently estimates that it will make approximately \$400 - \$700 million in loans.
- Homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profit organizations can apply for either one or both types of SBA's disaster loans. Loan repayments are based on the ability to repay, and can run for terms of up to 30 years. Most of these loans will be issued at a 4 percent interest rate.
- Loans of up to \$100,000 can be made to homeowners and renters to cover damage to residences, and up to \$20,000 to cover damage to personal property. Loans of up to \$500,000 can be

made to businesses to cover physical damage and economic injury.

Immediate Assistance to Individuals and Families

Food

On August 29, USDA and the State of Florida reached an agreement on emergency food stamps, which covers Dade County. There are currently 123,548 households on food stamps in the county, and under the agreement another 300,000 households are potentially eligible (900,000 individuals). 62% of the population could receive food stamps during the emergency period, for a total estimated additional cost of approximately \$110 million.

On August 29, USDA also reached an agreement with the State of Louisiana on emergency food stamps, which will be provided to two parishes, and portions of two additional parishes. The program will cost an estimated \$15 million above the normal program costs for the four parishes.

On August 28, USDA made available an additional \$5 million in commodities for hurricane victims in Florida. Currently food is being distributed from the army field kitchens and from seven direct distribution centers. USDA plans to provide a continuous flow of food to the 20 field kitchens.

An additional 104,000 pounds of food have been provided to the Red Cross in Florida.

The Red Cross in Louisiana reports sufficient quantities of food. USDA released \$42,913 worth of commodities on August 29 to be used as needed, and it has two-trucks of infant formula on stand-by.

The WIC program will be replaced by an emergency commodity program in three parishes, because of difficulty processing WIC vouchers.

On August 25 and 26, USDA opened commodity warehouses in Broward and Dade counties for food distribution. Schools and commodity warehouses in Louisiana began distributing stored stocks on August 27.

On August 26, USDA authorized the state food distribution agency to distribute 100,000 food packages (additional packages are en route from North Carolina); 62,000 cold meal packets have already been delivered.

On August 26, USDA sent 7,000 cases of food to the Red Cross and other agencies to feed people in Florida shelters; additionally, USDA sent two truck loads of infant formula for distribution in Miami.

On August 27, the President reported the donation of 422,000 pounds

of food totaling more than \$300,000 to Florida. The distribution of more than 12,000 cases of this food will begin on August 28.

USDA has announced that WIC coupons will be valid at any vendor. In addition, WIC services are being provided at alternative sites.

Housing

FEMA will write 120-day rent checks for homeowners and 90-day checks for renters (as compared with 90-days for owners and 30-days for renters).

The maximum amount allowed for home repair under FEMA programs is being doubled from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

On August 28, HUD teams were surveying HUD-owned or controlled housing to identify possible temporary housing units in the disaster areas.

On August 27, the Department of Defense delivered 40 pallets of plastic sheeting material to Opa Locks airport. The material will be used for plastic roofing and temporary housing repair.

HUD will allow affected counties in Florida and Louisiana to use Section 108 loan guarantees. The loans can finance removal of debris, repair, rehabilitation, or demolition of buildings on public land, installation of public improvements, housing rehabilitation, and economic development activities.

Approximately 1200 public housing units were destroyed in Florida, and an additional 1200 were severely damaged. HUD estimates a total of \$104 million in public housing damages.

Emergency shelters will also continue to be open indefinitely in Florida and Louisiana, and temporary housing will be available through HUD and FEMA grants.

On August 27, FEMA began to ship a supply of 1,500-2,500 mobile homes to the Miami area; 25 per day will arrive beginning next week. FEMA is identifying staging areas for the mobile homes.

Health and Education

On August 30, ten NMS Disaster Medical Assistance Teams had arrived in Florida. NMS has also sent three medical management teams to provide logistical support for emergency medicine.

On August 30, the Post Office delivered state and federal checks normally delivered at the beginning of the month.

On August 28, NIH sent a preventive medicine team to Florida to

establish safeguards for public hygiene and sanitation.

HHS is preparing to send mental health units to the disaster areas in response to requests from medical officials now in South Florida.

On August 27, the Department of Veterans Affairs provided a 15,000 gallon water tanker to transport water to Miami Hospital from a nearby VA facility.

Transportation

All major airports and facilities are operational in Florida.

On August 28, NASA agreed to provide to the state of Florida specially equipped surveillance planes to be used for damage assessment.

On August 28, the FAA will provided Miami airport with a mobile radar system to provide long-range radar coverage while the permanent radar facilities are undergoing repair.

On August 26, the General Services Administration delivered 7,000 gallons of diesel fuel for the FAA in Miami.

Law Enforcement

On August 30, Justice deployed 100 deputy marshals to assist the Florida law enforcement efforts.

By August 27, 3,876 members of the National Guard were assisting civil authorities in the region.

The Bureau of Prisons has transferred or evacuated nearly 2,000 inmates from Florida correctional facilities affected by the hurricane.

Income and Employment Assistance

On August 26, the President announced that \$10 million in emergency funds will be provided to Florida and \$10 million to Louisiana to create 10,000 short-term jobs to clean up from the storm and help restore essential public services. The funds are provided by the emergency provisions of the Job Training Partnership Act. The initial allocation of \$3.3 million was delivered to the State of Florida on August 27.

On August 26, the President also requested that federal agency heads provide leave for employees located in the affected areas so that they may attend to personal emergencies or participate in relief efforts authorized by state and local governments.

On August 27, the Social Security Administration (SSA) reestablished phone service in all its facilities in the area. SSA has instituted emergency procedures to expedite claims for survivor benefits for the families of those killed in the disaster.

Workers whose employment has been disrupted by the disaster will be eligible for unemployment insurance, or for emergency unemployment benefits, for at least 26 weeks.

HURRICANE NOTES

From Atlanta Constitution; 8-27-92

- * Corporations like Blockbuster Video, Humana Hospital Corp., and AT&T announced cash contributions of as much as \$1 million
- * FEMA seed money: \$57 million to FL
\$77 million to LA
to get relief operations underway.
- * In New Iberia Senior High School, a banner hung in the hall that read, "Surf's Up"
- * Gerri Hudson, owner of Bayou Teche Lounge on Main Street, New Iberia, said, "I tried to have a nervous breakdown, but I didn't have any nerves left," as water poured through the roof.
- * Other corporate help: Kmart -- 800 cartons of diapers
Home Depot -- trying to keep prices reasonable, and rationing generator sales so people won't resell them.
- * Stroh's brewery sent 7,000 cases of fresh drinking water

Atlanta Constitution; 8-26-92

- * citrus, avocado, and mango groves were destroyed, as were their packing plants.
- * Louisiana: sugar cane brings in \$327 million annually; traditionally harvested in late fall
rice growers bring in \$240 million annually, and they've already harvested half their crop
cotton, grown mostly in Louisiana and Mississippi for a total of 1.1 billion/year, could suffer if there's extreme flooding
oil: mainland and offshore production facilities yield 417 million barrels annually.
- * "We're just financially getting over the bad freeze two years ago. I'm a third-generation cane farmer. It looks like it's going to stop with me." -- Kerry Herbert (farms 600 acres)
- * Sugar cane is 2d largest crop in LA, next to cotton. It covers 390,000 acres of marshland near the Gulf coast.

Atlanta Constitution; 8-25-92

- * A woman and her family weathered the storm in Florida, sandwiched between two mattresses.

Christian Science Monitor; 8-28-92

- * Bush's motorcade passed toppled billboards, snapped light poles, sagging high voltage wires, and roofless hotels in Louisiana
- * In Florida, someone drew a bullseye on the boarded-up windows of the Peter Glenn of Vermont ski shop. A message is printed in red letters: We Shall Return.
- * Small businesses have been hit the hardest, and they're the largest employers/job creators, etc.

Christian Science Monitor; 8-26-92

- * On a radio talk show a caller offered a place to stay for people left homeless by the storm. Another offered to move debris with his miniature front loader.

Philadelphia Inquirer; 8-28-92

- * Issa Hatem, owner of a Days Inn in Homestead, fired up his commercial-size outdoor grill and cooked filet mignon, shrimp and scallops. The food was donated by local restaurants and needed to be cooked before it spoiled due to lack of electricity. They fed 2500 on Wednesday during the day and at night feed almost 300 -- most of who are police.
- * At SW 157th Street in Miami, Scott Merrick a guardsman from Oak Hill, FL, stuck an American flag between a twisted traffic light and a storm gutter. He said, "This American flag, I put it up because it says a whole lot about what's happening here. Although these people are physically beaten, you can notice that they show excellent spirit."

Washington Post; 8-28-92

- * Shirley Betzinger, age 74, whose mobile home in FL was destroyed said, "I've worked too hard all my life to let this knock me down. I'm not going to let it."

August 28, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR SPEECHWRITERS/RESEARCHERS

FROM: MICHELE NIX

SUBJECT: ACTS OF HEROISM DURING HURRICANE ANDREW/QUOTES

- LA →
• "Edward Gary, after seeing his mobile home in shambles, went straight to the rubble to find his American flag. It soon fluttered from the only wall left of his home. "I put it up to let people know we got to go on," said an emotional Mr. Gary, 29.
- LA
• Gene Ledbetter, an industrial mechanic, rigged a generator to the electric-powered respirator that keeps alive Derrick Williams, 19, a muscular dystrophy sufferer. Said Ledbetter: "At one point I was fusing 110-volt connections and standing ankle deep in water. It had to be done."
- FL
• The Rev. Clarence Clem, 40 pastor of the Body of Christian Believers Church, a predominately black church near Cutler Ridge. The church is gone as are the homes of all 85 members. Clem has held prayer meetings, Bible readings and gives cheerful counsel to keep the members together and to send them out to help others.
- LA
• Bill Cromwell, 60, a retired businessman, braved the rough weather to deliver 300 hot meals to a Baton Rouge Emergency shelter.
- LA →
• While evacuating residents, hotel lounge manager Larry Woods opened a room to discover a woman sitting on the bed. It was after he yelled, "Come on, let's go" that he realized she was blind. Two men held the door open against the wind and Larry carried her downstairs.
- Quote by Mayor Emmett Hardaway, who spoke of the nine police officers and public works employees who, after getting their own families out of their town of Berwick, stayed to keep their communities together. Said Hardaway: "That's heroism." "We all got into the mess together. We're all going to get out together."
- FL
• Alexo Muxo, Homestead City Manager, "It's never gone. There's always tomorrow."

- A police officer who used his cruiser to ram another car out of a dangerous area.
- Bare-chested migrant workers walking miles to carry their little children to safety.
- Bush site visits in Florida on Monday (8/24) included: the Little Havana home where George and Elizabeth Sancez weathered the storm. Also, he spoke with Rhonda McCoy, who said her Cutler Ridge apartment was destroyed. Also, visited a shelter at South Miami High School, where families sat on mattresses on the floor, with what few belongings they had nestled beside them.

Dear Mr. Stickney:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Florida, resulting from Hurricane Andrew on August 23, 1992, is of sufficient severity and magnitude that special conditions are warranted regarding the limitation of Federal funds provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("the Stafford Act") for the Public Assistance program.

Therefore, I amend my previous declaration to authorize Federal reimbursement for 100 percent of eligible public assistance costs exceeding \$10 per capita, as is authorized under the law for extreme disasters. This 100 percent reimbursement for costs above \$10 per capita applies to all authorized public assistance costs, including debris removal to eliminate immediate threats to public health and safety, emergency work to save lives and protect public health and safety, and repair or reconstruction of uninsured public and private non-profit facilities. Temporary housing assistance, mortgage/rental assistance, crisis counseling assistance and disaster unemployment assistance will continue to be 100 percent federally funded. Funds for public assistance up to \$10 per capita will be reimbursed pursuant to the conditions set forth in my previous declaration.

This waiver of State and local cost-sharing requirements above \$10 per capita applies to all costs eligible for such a waiver under the law. The law specifically prohibits a similar waiver for funds provided to States for the Individual and Family Grant program. These funds will continue to be reimbursed at 75 percent of total eligible costs.

This amended declaration is consistent with the request made to you by the Governor of the State of Florida.

Please notify the Governor of the State of Florida and the Federal Coordinating Officer of this amendment to my major disaster declaration.

The key points I authorize Fed'l reimbursement

for 100% of eligible ~~public assistance~~ cost

Keep in

Up to you



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

URGENT

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: _____

TO: Bob Zoellick

FROM: Bob Grady

ADDRESSE'S FAX NUMBER: _____

SENDER'S FAX NUMBER: (202) 395-1005

SENDER'S CONFIRMATION NUMBER: (202) 395-4840

COMMENTS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

AUG-31-92 MON 18:41

FEMA/SL-AD

FAX NO. 2028484080

P. 01

→ RBZ

DRAFT
Fixed up
version
coming

RBZ

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FLORIDA

On August 23, 1992, Hurricane Andrew struck the southern coast of Florida causing widespread damage throughout the area. As a result of this event, on August 24, 1992, the President declared a major disaster declaration for the State of Florida, FEMA-955-DR.

On August 28, 1992, Governor Lawton Chiles submitted a request for a waiver of the non-Federal cost sharing requirement for both the Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

Move to p. 2
EA

The Stafford Act contains no provision for waiver of cost sharing for the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program. Concerning the Florida contribution of 25 percent, the law specifically states "The Federal share of a grant under this section shall be paid only on condition that the remaining 25 percent of the cost is paid to an individual or family from funds made available by a State."

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Under Section 406 of the Stafford Act, contributions may be made to a State, local government, or private nonprofit organization for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a facility which is damaged or destroyed by a major disaster. The Act establishes the Federal share of such contributions at not less than 75 percent, thereby implicitly allowing up to 100 percent where warranted.

In the President's declaration of August 24, 1992, modified cost sharing was provided as follows: "Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs, except that for the first 10 days, FEMA is authorized to provide funds for debris removal and emergency protective measures under Section 403(a) at 90 percent of the total eligible costs, if warranted."

On August 28, Governor Chiles requested, and was granted, that this modified cost sharing be provided for essential services and debris removal.

DISCUSSION

① Inlet Inland Ass'tant

Governor Chiles cites the immediate and long term economic impact of this disaster as his primary consideration for the State. He projects that a substantial portion of South Florida's tourism, agriculture, agribusiness, and manufacturing have been destroyed or severely crippled.

More than 400,000 people are without food, water, or electricity, while over 189,000 are homeless.

The Governor reports that preliminary estimates of the damage to public and private property in Florida may reach in the billions of dollars. FEMA damage estimates, however, are still underway. The estimate of projected costs to date for assistance covered by the Stafford Act may reach \$600 million. The population for the State of Florida is 13,957,926. If Stafford Act assistance reaches \$600 million, the state-wide per capita impact would be \$43.

Should the damage projections stated by the Governor be reached, Florida will be faced with serious financial issues for recovery. FEMA believes that some measure of cost sharing would be appropriate since the Stafford Act states that Federal assistance is supplemental to the resources of the State and local governments. The declaration letter you signed on August 24, 1992, must be amended to authorize any change. We recommend that eligible Public Assistance costs up to \$10 per capita continue to be cost shared at 75 percent Federal and 25 percent State of Florida, except that for the first 10 days debris removal and emergency protective measures will be cost shared at 90 percent Federal and 10 percent State of Florida. For all costs beyond \$10 per capita, the cost sharing requirements should be waived.

CONCLUSIONS

We recommend that

Cost sharing by the State of Florida for Public Assistance at an increased level of Federal participation is justified in order to enable a successful recovery for Hurricane Andrew.

Cost sharing by the Federal government for the Individual and Family Grant Program is limited by law to 75% of the total cost of this program.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governor's request be addressed by modifying cost sharing for Public Assistance to provide 100% Federal share for public assistance costs for those public assistance costs above \$10 per capita, as indicated in the proposed letter.

Wallace E. Stickney
Director

Date:

Attachments:
Amended Declaration Letter
Declaration Letter
Governor's Request

The President has ordered federal assistance to the state of Florida to help in recovery efforts resulting from Hurricane Andrew. The President signed a disaster declaration for Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties that will make at least \$50 million available as an initial allocation of disaster funds. Federal Emergency Management Agency officials are on the scene inspecting damage and setting up emergency centers.

President Bush spoke by telephone with Governor Lawton Chiles early this afternoon to offer all Federal Assistance possible. The President will go to Florida this afternoon to inspect the damage and assure the people of Florida of full federal assistance. Wallace Stickney, Director of the Federal Emergency Agency, and Senator Connie Mack of Florida, will accompany the President. We will depart Newark as scheduled at approximately 3:25 p.m. en route to Opalocka, Florida, where he will inspect damage and meet with local officials.

AIR FORCE ONE

TUE 25 AUG 92 12:27

JL.01

527-4139

To: Bob Zoelleck
From: Steve Provost
Re: Legion Insert.

I suggest this should be inserted after first paragraph.

If you'll allow me one aside, I was in Southern Florida last evening. While I was stunned by the incredible physical destruction I witnessed, you can't help but be impressed by the way we pull together in times of crisis. We are at our best when times are bad.

South Florida has been declared a federal disaster area, and you should know that 27 federal agencies -- including our military services -- are pulling together to assist Floridians in their time of need. I hope I speak for all Americans -- when I say our prayers are with the people of South Florida, and we will do everything we can -- to help them recover.

Photocopy-Preservation