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Emergency Assistance in the States of North Dakota and Mississippi

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM:

KITTY HIGGINS *Kitty*
Assistant to the President
and Secretary to the Cabinet

STEPHEN B. SILVERMAN *SB*
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet

SUBJECT:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PRESIDENT DECLARE
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Attached for your comment is a recommendation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the President declare a major disaster in the State of North Dakota. As a result of heavy fall precipitation, rapid snowmelt, and unusually cool spring weather, North Dakota has experienced severe flooding. FEMA has concluded that the resulting damage is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments.

Please forward any comments to our office. If there are no objections, we will recommend to the President that the request for a major disaster declaration in the State of North Dakota be granted.

Attachment

Distribution:

Leon Panetta
Erskine Bowles
Harold Ickes
Doug Sosnik
Barbara Chow
Bob Litan
Mark Gearan
Pat Griffin
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Alexis Herman
John Hart
Kathy McKiernan
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Karen Hancox



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota has experienced severe flooding as a result of heavy fall precipitation levels, an extremely fast snowmelt and unusually cool spring temperatures which have inhibited evaporation.

On April 25-28, 1995, a joint Federal, State and local Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) was conducted. On May 1, 1995, Governor Edward T. Schafer requested Public Assistance for the following ten counties: Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, Griggs, Nelson, Ramsey, Rolette, Steele, Towner, and Walsh.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

Governor Shafer reports one death and three injuries as attributable to this event. The primary impacts to individuals are associated health and safety concerns.

Volunteer organizations, including the American Red Cross (ARC) and the Salvation Army have provided assistance to individuals. The Governor has not requested Individual Assistance.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The primary impact to the public sector has been damage to bridges and rural roadways. Recreational activities have been relocated within the area of Devil's Lake (Ramsey County). Numerous State and local resources have been activated.

DISCUSSION

The Governor's request meets all requirements of 44 CFR 206.36. The State's financial commitment is considered adequate. Governor Shafer has requested that Public Assistance be made available.

Governor Shafer has requested assistance for damage occurring since October 1, 1994. However, there appears to have been an interruption in flooding between the fall of 1994 and March 1, 1995. According to situation reports, none of the counties included in the Governor's request were impacted by earlier flooding. In addition, no significant damage has been substantiated as occurring prior to March 1, 1995. For these reasons, we recommend that the incident period for this event be established as March 1, 1995 and continuing.

To illustrate the high water tables, Devil's Lake has a 3,800 square mile watershed. Since July 1993, the volume of water in this closed basin has doubled, increasing the height of the lake by ten feet and the volume by a third. The lake has not reached this height in the past 110 years.

The Governor has not requested Individual Assistance at this time. However, there are several health and safety concerns associated with this event. These concerns include, saturation of public septic drain fields, which is preventing proper treatment of residential sewage, and flood-caused contamination of private wells.

The ARC and the Salvation Army have provided approximately 1,060 water cleanup kits for distribution. In addition, the ARC has assisted with transient accommodation cases and may provide additional assistance for home repairs which are beyond the limit of assistance available through its Emergency Assistance program.

At this time, structural impacts of the flooding are minimal. However, there is concern that more serious damage could result should the area receive heavy precipitation before the water table level drops.

Cost estimates for agriculture damage are not available. However, the State reports that an estimated 630,000 acres have been damaged. The primary crops affected include cotton, corn, soybeans, peanuts, and hay. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been working with the State to address agricultural impacts.

The primary impact to the public sector has been damage to bridges and rural roadways. In the past years, the State has placed responsibility for maintaining rural road systems with local governments. Although limited assistance is available through the State, the impact of this event to local road maintenance budgets will be significant.

Damage includes roadway erosion and gravel loss, as well as culvert and embankment damage due to ponded water, high water tables, and frost heave. Many roads will require ongoing temporary repairs until the water table decreases allowing access of heavy repair equipment.

Response capabilities of emergency operations, such as fire, police and ambulance services, have been seriously hindered by numerous detours and poor road conditions. School bus routes and postal service have also been impacted.

Some floatable debris from trees, brush, and silt has been deposited in roadway ditches, drainage areas and at culvert and bridge locations.

Emergency protective measures taken by the State and local governments include traffic control, construction of ancillary drainage ditches, and emergency temporary repairs to county and township roads as well as Federal Aid System roads.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been active in monitoring the flooding and providing the State with technical assistance. They have performed emergency operations to protect the sewage lagoon in the town of Minnewaukan (Benson County).

The Public Assistance program cost estimates are:

Emergency Work	
Debris Clearance	\$ 50,280
Protective Measures	\$ 178,090
Permanent Work	
Road Systems	\$ 2,100,180
Water Control Facilities	\$ 159,700
Buildings and Equipment	\$ 0
Utilities	\$ 12,900
Other (recreation, etc.)	\$ 0
Total Public Assistance	\$ 2,501,150
FEDERAL SHARE	\$ 1,875,863

North Dakota has identified a balance of approximately \$60,700 in its State contingency fund. This amount will only address a small portion of the disaster related requirements. Additional revenues are limited due to the low population of the State.

The impact of this event is significant on the local level. Damage has been estimated at \$112 per capita in Nelson County and \$74 per capita in Griggs County. The statewide impact is approximately \$3.94 per capita.

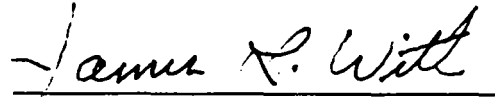
North Dakota received major disaster declarations for flooding in 1993 [FEMA-1001-DR] and 1994 [FEMA-1032-DR]. The current projected Federal share for these events is \$42.5 million.

CONCLUSIONS

- The situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments, and supplemental Federal assistance is necessary.
- The situation warrants a major disaster declaration.
- In the event of a declaration, FEMA intends to provide Public Assistance in Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, Griggs, Nelson, Ramsey, Rolette, Steele, Towner, and Walsh Counties.
- In the event of a declaration, FEMA intends to establish the incident period as March 1, 1995 and continuing.
- Individual Assistance may be added at a later date, if requested and warranted.
- Additional areas may be designated at a later date, if requested and warranted.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governor's request be granted.


James L. Witt
Director

Date: MAY 11 1995

Attachments:
Declaration Letter
Telegram to the Governor
Notice to the Press
Congressional Representation
State Map
Governor's Request

SUMMARY

In the event of a declaration, the following information applies:

STATE: North Dakota
NUMBER: FEMA-1050-DR
INCIDENT: Severe Storms, Flooding and Ground Saturation
due to High Water Tables.
INCIDENT PERIOD: March 1, 1995 and Continuing
DATE REQUESTED BY GOVERNOR: May 1, 1995
FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER: David P. Grier
FEMA Region VIII

DESIGNATIONS AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE (Assistance to families and
individuals):

None

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Assistance to State and local
governments for the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged
public facilities):

Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, Griggs, Nelson,
Ramsey, Rolette, Steele, Towner, and Walsh
Counties.

OTHER: Additional designations may be made at a later date after
further evaluation.

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May , 1995

The President today declared a major disaster exists in the State of North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding and ground saturation due to high water tables beginning on March 1, 1995 and continuing.

The President's action makes Federal funding available to affected local governments in a ten county area. The counties include Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, Griggs, Nelson, Ramsey, Rolette, Steele, Towner, and Walsh.

Federal funding is available to eligible local governments on a cost-sharing basis for the repair or replacement of public facilities damaged by the severe storms, flooding and ground saturation due to high water tables associated with this event.

James L. Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), named David P. Grier of FEMA's regional office in Denver, Colorado to coordinate Federal recovery operations in the affected area.

The Agency said that damage surveys are continuing in other areas, and additional counties may be added after the assessments are completed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-4600.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Governor of North Dakota is:

Edward T. Schafer (R)

North Dakota Senators are:

Kent Conrad (D)

Byron Dorgan (D)

Representing the affected areas:

Earl Pomeroy (D)

At large

For further information, contact FEMA at (202) 646-4500.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM:

KITTY HIGGINS *Kitty*
Assistant to the President
and Secretary to the Cabinet

STEPHEN B. SILVERMAN *SB*
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet

SUBJECT:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PRESIDENT DECLARE
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Attached for your comment is a recommendation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the President declare a major disaster in the State of Mississippi. Beginning on May 8, 1995, severe storms caused extensive flooding. FEMA has concluded that the resulting damage is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments.

Please forward any comments to our office. If there are no objections, we will recommend to the President that the request for a major disaster declaration in the State of Mississippi be granted.

Attachment

MAY 14 1995

Distribution:

**Leon Panetta
Erskine Bowles
Harold Ickes
Doug Sosnik
Barbara Chow
Bob Litan
Mark Gearan
Pat Griffin
Marcia Hale
Alexis Herman
Michael McCurry
John Hart
Kathy McKiernan
Lorraine Miller
Jack Quinn
Lorraine Voles
Karen Hancox**



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MAY 14 1995

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Beginning on May 8, 1995, a series of severe storms deposited as much as 15 inches of rain over portions of southern Mississippi causing flooding over several counties. Governor Kirk Fordice activated the State Emergency Plan on May 9.

On May 10, Governor Fordice submitted a request for an expedited major disaster declaration for Hancock, Harrison, and Pearl River Counties. A joint Federal and State flyover was done to May 11 to identify the scope of the damage.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

A number of families have been displaced as a result of the flooding. At least 700 dwellings are expected to be affected in the three county area. Voluntary agencies are actively providing meals and shelter for those affected and supporting the emergency response.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

State and local resources are responding to the emergency situation in the State. Debris removal and emergency assistance activities such as sheltering, water distribution, and evacuation are underway.

DISCUSSION

The Governor's request meets all requirements of 44 CFR 206.36 for an expedited request. The State commitment is considered adequate.

Governor Fordice specifically requests Public Assistance and all Individual Assistance programs under Public Law 93-288, as amended, and has further indicated a need for assistance through the loan programs from the Small Business Administration (SBA). The designation of Individual Assistance programs will make the disaster loan program from the SBA automatically available.

Limited information is available about the disaster impact. Federal and State representatives flew over the affected areas and confirmed that a number of homes will be damaged by the flooding.

Rain is continuing in the State and in many areas flood water has not receded. A damage assessment is scheduled to begin May 13 to fully evaluate the extent of damage to both homes and to the infrastructure. A decision to implement Public Assistance should be deferred until damage assessment is completed.

Currently, FEMA has activated its Field Assessment Teams (FAST) to work with the State on responding to emergency needs. FAST teams are comprised of a number of Federal agencies and the American Red Cross (ARC) to address medical needs, mass care, infrastructure impacts, search and rescue operations and other emergency issues.

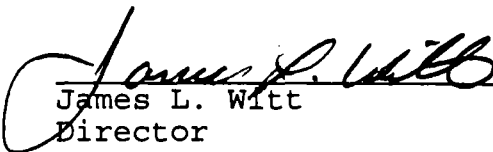
FEMA cannot estimate the cost of assistance at this time. We will make an initial allocation of \$5 million in disaster funds for Stafford Act programs. This amount is expected to increase once needs are identified.

CONCLUSIONS

- The situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments, and supplemental Federal assistance is necessary.
- The situation warrants a major disaster declaration.
- In the event of a declaration, FEMA intends to provide Individual Assistance in Hancock, Harrison, and Pearl River Counties.
- Additional areas may be designated at a later date, if warranted.
- Public Assistance may be designated at a later date, if warranted.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governor's request be granted.


James L. Witt
Director

Date: 5/12/95

Attachments:
Declaration Letter
Telegram to the Governor
Notice to the Press
Congressional Representation
State Map
Governor's Request

SUMMARY

In the event of a declaration, the following information applies:

STATE: Mississippi
NUMBER: FEMA-1051-DR
INCIDENT: Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding
INCIDENT PERIOD: May 8, 1995, and Continuing
DATE REQUESTED BY GOVERNOR: May 10, 1995
FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER: Michael J. Polny
FEMA Region IV

DESIGNATIONS AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE (Assistance to families and individuals):

Hancock, Harrison, and Pearl River Counties

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Assistance to State and local governments for the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged public facilities):

None.

OTHER: Additional designations may be made at a later date after further evaluation.

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May , 1995

The President today declared a major disaster exists in the State of Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on May 8, 1995.

The President's action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in a three county area. The counties include Hancock, Harrison, and Pearl River.

Assistance can include disaster housing, grants, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

James L. Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), named Michael J. Polny of FEMA's regional office in Atlanta, Georgia to coordinate Federal recovery operations in the affected area.

The Agency said that damage surveys are continuing in other areas, and additional counties may be added after the assessments are completed.

The Agency said that residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance immediately by calling 1-800-462-9029, or 1-800-462-7585 (TDD) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CT) seven days a week until further notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-4600.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Governor of Mississippi is:

The Honorable Kirk Fordice (R)

Mississippi Senators are:

Thad Cochran (R)

Trent Lott (R)

Representing the affected area:

Gene Taylor (D)

5th District

For further information, contact FEMA at (202) 646-4500.

Broken Lines = County Border
Solid Lines = Congressional District

Alexis

—

FYI

Doug

—

MAY 12 1995



Harold Lckes
(202) 456-1121

May 8, 1995

Charles Stack, Esquire
Coral Gables, Florida

Dear Bud:

As I told you on the telephone, the lines of communication between the White House and the Cubans has broken down and we need to restore them as soon as possible.

As you know, I have been in this community for the past 35 years and I like to think that I have the respect of all the residents.

If I can be of any assistance in restoring these lines of communication, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I was nice to talk to you.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Manolo Reyes", written over a horizontal line.

Manolo Reyes
Administrative Director

MR:ig

Dear Harold -
This is a good
guy with lots of
background & respect
in the Cuban community
Bud

Dr. Manuel de Jesus Reyes Xiques

243 S.W. 26th Road
Miami, Florida 33129
(305) 285-9306

1930 - 1936	Elementary School, La Salle, Havana, Cuba
1936 - 1941	High School, La Salle, Havana, Cuba
1944 - 1949	Law School, University of Havana Degree: Juris Doctor and Diplomatic Degree
Sept. 1949	Admitted to Havana Bar Association
1977 - 1980	Law School, University of Miami Degree: Juris Doctor
1980 - Present	Senior Member Inter-American Bar Association

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1938 - 1940	CMQ Radio Station, Havana, Cuba
1941 - 1954	CMQ Program Director, (YOUNGEST EVER IN CUBA)
1955 - 1960	CMQ Sales Manager
1949 - 1960	Senior Partner - Own law practice, Havana, Cuba
1960 - 1978	WTVJ Channel 4 News Director (NEWSCASTER ON FIRST SPANISH NEWS PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES ON AMERICAN TELEVISION)
1978 - 1980	Palmetto General Hospital, Vice President in charge of Public Relations
1980 - 1983	Palmetto General Hospital, Senior Vice President in charge of Patient, Employee and Community Relations and Marketing
1981 - 1983	Vice President LifeMark Corporation in Texas, in charge of Public Relations for Region II.
1982 - 3/84	Administrator, Palmetto Medical Plaza plus previous responsibilities

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4/84 - 11/84	Director of Community Affairs, Hialeah Hospital
1/85 - 1/86	Consultant, Hialeah Hospital
1/86 - 9/87	Associate Vice President, Hialeah Hospital and Administrator, Hialeah Hospital Medical Plaza
9/87 - Present	Administrative Assistant to the President, Mercy Hospital

ORGANIZATIONS

Cuban Sertoma Club (Chapter President and Founder)

YMCA International Jose Marti (Founder)

Dade Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. (Advisor)

V.F.W. Post Jose Marti (Cuban-American Vietnam Veterans) (Advisor)

Crime Commission of Greater Miami (Chairman for Latin Section)

Former Vice President Council for International Visitors

Heart Sunday, American Heart Association, Dade County (as Chairman)

United Way (Board of Directors)

Easter Seal (Board of Directors)

Barry College (Board of Directors)

Hialeah-Miami Springs Kiwanis Claus

U.S. Navy (Hispanic Advisor)

University of Miami - General Alumni Association (Director)

University of Miami - Law Alumni Association (Director)

Hialeah Miami Springs Chamber of Commerce (Board of Directors)

Senior Member Interamerican Bar Association

Page 3

American College of Hospital Administrators

American Bar Association (International Association)

ACTIVITIES

Numerous visits to Dade County Public Schools

Promoted a U.S. citizen campaign during the Bicentennial Year (1975-1976)

Has appeared fifteen (15) times before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Committee about the Cuban situation.

Easter Seal Telethon - Co-Host for Hispanic population

Course of Health Care Marketing at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania

Guest Professor of Anglo-American Law at the University of Miami School of Law (TORTS-CONTRACTS LAW)

Director of the Law Alumni Association, University of Miami

Director of the Alumni Association - University of Miami

District Chairman - Tequesta Boys Scouts of America

Appointed Spanish Advisor for the U.S. Navy in recruiting in South Florida

Appointed member of the Miami Advisory Council, Small Business Administration

Appointed by President Ronald Reagan as a member of the President's Commission on Organized Crime

Chairman for Hispanics in 10 Southeastern states for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island campaign

Member of the Community Relations Board

AWARDS

The EMMY Award (National Academy of Television and Sciences)

The Silver Circle Award

Page 4

Veterans of Foreign Wars

National Conference of Christians and Jews

Rotarians

Lions

Sertoma

Various Committees of the U.S. Government

Dade County Board of Public Instruction

Key to the City of Key West

Key to the City of Hialeah

Citation of Services B'NAI B'RITH Association

For two years nominated the outstanding Man of the Year in Dade County

Plaque for outstanding service to the Florida State Lodge

Fraternal Order of Police - District No. 6

Plaque for outstanding services and unselfish efforts to aid the community and Police Department when disaster was facing the entire community - presented by the City of Hialeah Gardens

Pentagon - Award for Human Goals

REFERENCES

Available upon request

Page 5

Ever since Dr. Manolo Reyes came to Miami in August of 1960 he has acted as goodwill ambassador between the American and Cuban communities.

When Tracy Vorhees, Esquire, came to Miami as Presidential Envoy sent by President Eisenhower to find out if Miami should be helped due to the Cuban influx in the fall of 1960. Dr. Reyes had several meetings with M. Vorhees to inform him of the situation. Upon Mr. Vorhees' return to the White House, the Cuban Refugee Emergency Center was established on a temporary basis.

On January 20, 1960 John F. Kennedy became President of the United States. Seven days later Abraham Ribikoff was sent to Miami by President Kennedy on a fact-finding mission about Cuban refugees. Senator Ribikoff called upon Dr. Reyes and had several meetings with him at the Dupont Plaza Hotel. After Ribikoff's visit, the Cuban Refugee Emergency Program was established on a permanent basis.

Since his arrival, Dr. Reyes has volunteered his time in an effort to visit American and Cuban children in the Dade County Public Schools, and also the private schools in an effort to establish a "bridge" of understanding between the two groups. By doing this he has visited more than 200,000 children. His work has been highly praised by many local and school officials.

He has been the founder of many local branches of American organizations. This move has allowed many Cubans and Hispanics to become integrated to the American way of life. He founded the Cuban Sertoma Club, the YMCA Jose Marti, the Spanish Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Business and Professional Women's Chapter for Hispanics, etc.

In 1975-1976 he became Chairman of the group which promoted citizenship among Cubans and Latins as a tribute to the American people on the Bicentennial Year. On July 6, 1976, he presided, along with a Federal Judge, at the largest swearing-in ceremony in the history of the United States up to that time. That day at the Miami Beach Convention Center, 7,149 Latins became American citizens.

In July 1983, President Ronald Reagan appointed Dr. Reyes as one of nineteen members of the President's Commission on Organized Crime. After the proper Federal investigations he was given all the security clearances. As Commissioner, Dr. Reyes did an excellent job until the time when the Commission expired on March 30, 1986.

In 1976, at 52 years of age, Dr. Reyes passed the LSAT and was accepted by the University of Miami School of Law where he studied for three years. On May 26, 1980, he graduated from Law School with ninety credits (the requirement for graduation is eighty-eight credits).

Dr. Reyes is highly respected by Americans and Hispanics alike. He has name recognition in all Hispanic communities of the United States.