

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 5, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President has declared a major disaster for the State of Missouri as a result of damage caused by tornadoes, hail, and heavy winds beginning on April 23, which caused damage to public, private, and agricultural property. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of temporary housing assistance for families who have lost their homes as a result of the tornadoes. Low-interest rate disaster loans for homeowners and businesses will be made available by the Small Business Administration under the authorities of Public Law 93-24, and emergency loan assistance will be made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

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

Mr. Francis X. Tobin, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region VII, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288,

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