

OFDA
**Disaster
Case Reports**

Korea Typhoon Agnes
August 31-September 3, 1981

**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523**

KOREA - Typhoon Agnes

Data

Date: August 31 - September 3, 1981 (FY 81)

Location: Cheju City, Pusan City, Cholla Namdo (particularly Yonggwang County), Cholla Pukdo, Kyongsang Namdo, Kyongsang Pukdo, Choongchong Namdo, and Daegu City

No. Dead: 113

No. Homeless: 6,074

No. Affected: 14,253

Damage: 24,309 buildings destroyed; 526 fishing vessels destroyed; 96,484 hectares of cropland inundated; 146,815 meters of roads and bridges destroyed or washed out; 355,398 meters of river banking damaged. Total property damage estimated at \$134 million.

The Disaster

Between August 31 and September 3, 1981, Typhoon Agnes dumped up to 500 mm. of heavy rain over most of the southern, eastern, and western parts of the country. The torrential rains caused extensive water damage to buildings, croplands, and the transportation infrastructure before the weakening typhoon moved through the Korea Strait and into the East Sea the night of September 3rd.

Action Taken by the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK)

On September 4, 1981, President Chun Doo Hwan directed the government to assist in relief and rehabilitation efforts. Military units stationed near the typhoon-stricken areas were ordered to provide personnel, equipment, and relief supplies to assist the victims. Civilians, local government officials, and students also joined in the work of rehabilitating flooded cropland, homes, and other facilities. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs took steps to strengthen disinfection measures in the affected areas.

On September 5, the Ministry of Finance began to release funds to assist homeless families and businesses affected by the flooding. A uniform cash grant of \$1,580 was given to each family who had lost their home and an additional \$4,800 per family was made available as a loan. Families whose houses were damaged were provided with loans of \$2,650 by commercial banks. Aid to flood-affected businesses included facility and operating funds, deferment of loan repayments, and reduced tax obligations. The total value

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of assistance provided to the flood victims (both government and private) amounted to about \$16 million.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On September 8, 1981, Ambassador Richard L. Walker determined that a disaster of sufficient magnitude to warrant USG assistance existed as a result of damage inflicted by Typhoon Agnes. To assist in the relief effort, Ambassador Walker presented \$25,000 from the International Disaster Assistance Account to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lho Shin-Yong.....\$25,000

The U.S. Air Force assisted relief efforts by providing personnel and heavy equipment to help control flooding near Kwangju City. Because heavy equipment belonging to the ROK Army had been sent further south where flooding was even more extensive, the Governor of Cholla Namdo asked for disaster relief assistance from the U.S. Air Force. In response to this request, members of the 6171st Air Base Squadron used their earthmoving equipment to restore river embankments, repair roads, and prevent 589 hectares of rice fields from being flooded. No dollar value for this assistance was reported.

TOTAL \$25,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

Governments

China, People's Rep. - \$3,000 cash contribution

Japan - \$30,000 cash contribution

United Kingdom - \$3,000 cash contribution

TOTAL \$36,000

* Please note - the figure for total international assistance is an approximation. In many cases, the cash value of in-kind is unavailable.

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