

# USDA prepared with food for Texas disaster victims

DALLAS (AP)—In Texas, some sort of weather phenomena is about as common as frogs around a rain barrel.

Texas had drought and floods this year, a killer tornado and a savage hurricane last year.

God makes them, weathermen predict them, Texans dread them and the Department of Agriculture feeds the refugees.

But preparedness goes a long way toward lighting the darkness brought on by such natural calamities.

Part of the year-round preparedness involves the storage and maintenance of food stocks

all over the state.

The food comes from the Agriculture Department's surplus removal program, administered by county officials and dispensed by the American Red Cross.

The foodstuffs are stored in 42 warehouses in 23 Texas cities in addition to the one-month supply stored in each county.

When disaster strikes, county officials call for help and the Department of Agriculture be-

gins coordination of food relief.

The foodstuffs are dispensed by the American Red Cross as close to the scene as practical and possible. Often, military units are summoned to assist in the delivery of food.

In the case of Hurricane Celia last year, 50,000 people were fed in field kitchens while another 66,526 took food to their homes.

Hurricanes post the least problem to these food specialists who

plot their movement in the Gulf long before they strike the Texas coast. That's the case now with tropical storm Fern.

It's the sudden tornadoes and flash floods that sometime play havoc with relief workers.

But with 15 to 20 specialists in each county, it doesn't take long to begin serving hot food to homeless victims.

When last year's tornado roared through Lubbock, buildings

tumbled and over a score of people were killed. Six to seven hours later, the Department of Agriculture had set its wheels into motion.

Directly responsible for this assistance is the USDA's commodity distribution division which aids state distributing agencies in their on-scene activities.

Some 13 million pounds of food are shipped into Texas every

month for many USDA programs, among them the feeding of disaster refugees.

Warehouses are located in Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Brownwood, Corpus Christi, Corsicana, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Laredo, Lubbock, Lufkin, Mt. Pleasant, Paris, San Angelo, San Antonio, Waco, Wichita Falls, Huntsville, Pharr and Brownsville.

More than 5 million pounds of

19 food varieties were on hand in Corpus Christi warehouses before Celia struck.

This supply was augmented by stockpiles brought in from other areas as is always the case when natural calamity strikes.

"Regardless of whether it's a hurricane, tornado or what, we are always ready to get in with food for as long as it's needed and in the quantities required," one USDA spokesman said.

## Assassination attempt made on ambassador

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A bomb set to assassinate U.S. Ambassador Emory C. Swank was sent careening on a bicycle into his limousine Tuesday but it failed to explode and tumbled harmlessly to the street.

Police said the riderless bicycle, carrying a 13-pound plastic charge hidden among loaves of bread behind the seat, was shoved from an alleyway as Swank rode to work.

Cambodian police said the bicycle-bomb was designed to explode on impact with the limousine, but only bounced off and fell to the street.

The defective explosive was discovered when Swank's Cambodian guard stopped and ordered military police to inspect the bicycle and the bread-laden basket behind its seat, police said.

Embassy spokesmen said Swank continued to his office unaware of the attempt on his life. He learned of the assassination try only at midmorning, they said.

Police sources said the bicycle was pushed into the street by two young men on motorcycles who escaped down the alleyway and onto another street. They were described as being Chinese or Vietnamese in appearance.

Police said they also are seeking a young bread salesman who delivered the bomb to the alleyway under the bread loaves and disappeared shortly before Swank's black limousine came into view.

The sources said a full report on the incident will be placed before Marshal Lon Nol, Cambodia's leader.

## Russia claims Chinese military prepares for war

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia said today the Chinese army is militarizing all aspects of life in China in preparation for war with the Soviet Union.

The newspaper of the Soviet defense ministry, Red Star, said "Mao Tse-tung and his entourage are establishing in China their new system of power, with the army ruling the roost."

The army, the paper said, has "the task of ideological-political education of the population, the task of the practical implementation of instructions of the 'Mao headquarters' in the political, economic, cultural and social spheres."

"They make no secret of whom one should be prepared to fight against. The army and the population are inoculated with the idea of the existing 'threat from the north.'"

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