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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Governor Edwin Edwards (Louisiana)

DATE: As soon as possible

FROM: Jim Cavanaugh

PURPOSE: To express your concern about the sinking of the ferry boat, George Prince, today on the Mississippi River following a collision with a Norwegian tanker, and to tell the Governor that you have directed Ed Foreman, Chairman of the Federal Regional Council, in Dallas, to go to New Orleans to insure that processing of beneficiary claims under the Social Security Program and the Veterans Administration Program are expedited for the survivors of any of the casualties who were eligible for these benefits.

BACKGROUND: This incident occurred this morning and has been the leading story on all the networks tonight. We are told that the site is close to the third stop that you made on the NATCHEZ. We would not plan to make any press announcement here, but rather let the word get out from New Orleans tomorrow. If asked, Ron Nessen, of course, will confirm your call.

ACTION:  
10/20/76

*10/20/76 Tried to call Gov. Edwards who was in N.Y.. Talked to Mrs. Edwards & gave her info. She will see that proper notification given.*