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October 31, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

STATEMENT BY DR. WILLIAM M. LUKASH

Mrs. Betty Ford has just completed five weeks of convalescence following surgery for breast cancer. During this period, special diagnostic studies and physical examinations have not identified any clinical evidence of residual cancer. Because two of the 30 lymph glands removed at surgery had revealed the presence of malignant cells, one cannot be entirely certain that undetected microscopic malignancy has not spread to other areas. For this reason, it has been decided that the First Lady will be treated with chemotherapy to insure more inclusive treatment against any possible remaining cancer. It is anticipated that this therapy will allow her to continue all normal activities as wife, mother and First Lady. Mrs. Ford's progress to date has been excellent and her outlook for prolonged good health is extremely favorable.

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SEP 15 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 9-15-75

TO: Jack Marsh

FROM: Max L. Friedersdorf

For Your Information ✓

Please Handle _____

Please See Me _____

Comments, Please _____

Other



N-3

Vest Can Stop A .44
(Excerpted from the Chicago Tribune)

The "unmentionable" being worn by President Ford -- the bulletproof vest the Secret Services refuses to acknowledge -- apparently is a sleeveless, sweater-like garment containing 16 layers of a new synthetic fiber.

It is flexible, and conforms to the body's shape, but it can stop just about any bullet, including one from a Colt .45 automatic, such as was aimed at the President by Lynette Fromme in Sacramento.

Experts agree from its description by witnesses that the vest is probably made of Kevlar 29, a DuPont synthetic fiber said to be seven times as strong as steel by weight. Such a vest would be about half an inch thick, and weigh 2-1/2 to 4 pounds, depending on its dimensions. It would be worn under a regular shirt.

Velocity, bullet weight, and kind of bullet along with the range from which the bullet is fired and the angle at which it strikes the vest, are factors in how well a vest protects its wearer, the expert said.

Informed sources say Ford wore a bulletproof vest when he stepped down from Air Force 1 at Keene, N.H., Thursday.

It is not known whether any previous President ever wore a bulletproof vest. (9/13/75)

More Than 50 Per Cent of Tribune Readers
Agree With First Lady

More than half of the readers responding to a Chicago Tribune questionnaire on sex and the comments of the First Lady agree with her -- they would not be surprised if they had an 18-year-old daughter who was having an affair.

The Tribune, in its Monday edition, reported, "After all, 38.8 per cent of those who replied admitted that they have experienced premarital affairs themselves." UPI (9/14/75)