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PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE

December 10, 1976

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TEXT OF
A MESSAGE FROM U.S. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER
TO
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
DECEMBER 9, 1976

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Our NATO alliance lies at the heart of the partnership between North America and Western Europe. NATO is the essential instrument for enhancing our collective security. The American commitment to maintaining the NATO alliance shall be sustained and strengthened under my administration.

Over the past month, I discussed a number of challenges that face NATO -- that we maintain a common strategy against common threats, that we have efficient and strong military forces, and that we consult closely as we negotiate with others on both European and global issues. I have no doubt that these challenges can be met.

I take the opportunity of this message to reaffirm that belief. I am convinced that NATO's mission and the North Atlantic alliance are no less important today than when NATO was originally established. I look forward to working closely with all the governments represented at this meeting.

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