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H. W. Baadke
Phone: (616) 361-7188

3625 Manderley Road, N. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

November 17, 1976

Chris...
THE PRESIDENT AND SARA

ML
The Honorable Gerald R. Ford, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20024

Dear Herrn

Dear Mr. President:

This is probably one of the most difficult letters I have ever written. What can anyone say after an election that was so close -- and yet, was lost.

A lot of hopes and dreams were shattered as the results became known; your hope to remain in the White House for another four years, the hope for the country that you could continue the work that you had begun with such remarkable success, and my own dreams for a new career which were so closely linked to yours.

With your indulgence, permit me to dwell on all of them for a few moments. Your hope, of serving a full term, I am sure, was not prompted by personal ambition, but by the desire to serve your country, and by the conviction that you could do the job, and do it well. Every unbiased observer must agree that you achieved remarkable success in two years; inflation rate cut in half, unemployment down, although not at a level where we would like to see it, confidence in the White House restored. Yet, for 51% of the voters it apparently was not enough. What did they expect? miracles? No president can perform them, certainly not without the cooperation of Congress. As for the country, what will a Carter administration mean? Another period of double digit inflation, higher taxes to finance the programs that promised everything to everybody, and new confrontations with the Soviet Union instead of consultation? I do not know the answer, but many people with whom I have talked since the election share my concern; to put it bluntly, they are scared of the future!

As to my own plans, they seem to have been thoroughly shattered. You know of my desire to serve my country in the field of foreign policy. I had hoped that I might become Ambassador Cooper's successor in East Berlin, although I did not ask you for the appointment. I felt that would have been inappropriate. With the change in administration, it seems that this chance is gone for good. There still may be a slight possibility of obtaining a position on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee through Senator Griffin, but even that seems to be very slim. I will have to leave my present company by the end of the year. I am still hoping that some opportunity might present itself that will allow me to work in foreign relations, which has been my dream for many years, and I am trying to explore every possibility in this direction.

3625 Waverley Road, N. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505
WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM

H. M. Gaskie
Phone: (616) 361-7188

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President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20504

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President Ford
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Whatever the future may hold for either one of us, I am proud that you have called me your friend, and I hope that our personal relationship will continue. I also trust that the tremendous wealth of your experience will not be lost to the nation, but that you will find ways to make it available to the country for the benefit of all.

Our very best wishes are with you and your family, and I hope that we can meet again, either in Washington or here in Grand Rapids.

Warmest personal regards, also from Valeska and Michael.

Most Sincerely,



H. W. Baadke

HWB/as

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