The original documents are located in Box C1, folder "Conte, Silvio O." of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

SILVIO O. CONTE House of Representatives Washington

First District Massachusetts

November 4, 1976

The President The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As I listened to the words of the telegram you sent to Governor Carter yesterday, I found myself again wishing that I had your ability to find the appropriate words for even the most difficult occasions.

Although this cannot be the letter of congratulations that I have long hoped it would be, I want you to know that, in my humble opinion, your Presidency was in the very best interest of this nation and its citizens. My regret over the results of last Tuesday's Presidential election is largely offset by the knowledge that you accepted and met the challenges of our highest office at one of the most difficult times in our history.

Despite the results of the election, I know that millions of Americans are joining me in prayers of gratitude that you were available when the nation needed you. I feel especially fortunate in being able to include in those prayers a personal thanksgiving for the great privilege of having enjoyed your friendship for so many years.

Also included in my prayers will be the request that your friends and your countrymen will continue to benefit from your advice and counsel.

With warm regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Silvio O. Conte Member of Congress

SOC: jrp

P.S. you will always

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