The original documents are located in Box 34, folder “Nixon Pardon - Nixon Statement, 9/8/74” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Exact duplicates within this folder were not digitized.
I have been informed that President Ford has granted me a full and absolute pardon for any charges which might be brought against me for actions taken during the time I was President of the United States. In accepting this pardon, I hope that his compassionate act will contribute to lifting the burden of Watergate from our country.

Here in California, my perspective on Watergate is quite different than it was while I was embattled in the midst of the controversy, and while I was still subject to the unrelenting daily demands of the Presidency itself.

Looking back on what is still in my mind a complex and confusing maze of events, decisions, pressures, and personalities, one thing I can see clearly now is that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and more forthrightly in dealing with Watergate, particularly when it reached the stage of judicial proceedings and grew from a political scandal into a national tragedy.
No words can describe the depth of my regret and
pain at the anguish my mistakes over Watergate have
caused the Nation and the Presidency — a Nation
I so deeply love, and an institution I so greatly
respect.

I know that many fair-minded people believe that my
motivations and actions in the Watergate affair
were intentionally self-serving and illegal. I now
understand how my own mistakes and misjudgments
have contributed to that belief and seemed to support
it. This burden is the heaviest one of all
to bear.

That the way I tried to deal with Watergate was the
wrong way is a burden I shall bear for every day
of the life that is left to me.

# # #
SAN CLEMENTE FAX SIMILE HEADER SLIP

FROM: Ann Grier
TO: Connie Girard
INFO:

LDX ____________ PAGES 2 ____________
DACOM 03Y ________ GPS ____________
TTY ____________ SSN ____________
DTG 08/15/53st ________ TOR 08/15/53st ____________

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION:

WHITE HOUSE STAFF
SEP 8, 1974
MILL 29
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To be used when cutting from order
September 8, 1974

San Clemente, California

STATEMENT BY FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

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SAN CLEMENTE FACSIMILE HEADER SLIP

FROM: Ann Grier
TO: Connie Girard
INFO:

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DTG 091535T TOR 091535T

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION:

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WHITE HOUSE
SEP 8, 1974
M-11-28
San Clemente, California

STATEMENT BY FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

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