

The original documents are located in Box C8, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 12/11/1974” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. MARSH

FROM: DR. MARRS *ed*

Jack - I have answered this. Thought you might like to show it to the President.

Enclosure

grr

*To 11's
receiving file.*

Mark A. Adelson, Esq.
869 Fairfield Avenue
Westbury, Long Island
New York 11590

November 7th, 1974

452
encl
The President of The United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Having recently returned home under the provisions of the Amnesty Program, I wish to express my appreciation of having had the opportunity to repatriate.

Perhaps you may be interested to know that no prejudice has been expressed or experienced against me by other Americans who are aware of my status. I am well satisfied in my decision to rejoin The United States.

Enclosed, please find a copy of my account in this matter, which I have taken the liberty of forwarding to the exile community in Canada. My feeling is, there are numerous military absentees in Canada who may question the bona fide of The Program, and my hope is to alleviate such doubtfulness in submitting of my personal experience therein.

May I take this opportunity to wish you good fortune in The Presidency ?

I am and remain,

Yours Sincerely,



(Mark A. Adelson)

maa

AIR-MAIL

Mark A. Adelson
869 Fairfield Avenue
Westbury, Long Island
New York, U.S.A. 11590

The Toronto Anti-Draft Program
11½ Spadina Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA

November 1st, 1974

Dear Sirs :

Re. The Presidential Amnesty Program

Here is my account of experience in returning to The United States following a period of over 5 years' unauthorized absence from the Army. It might be beneficial to relay this message publicly to the exile community, as some are hesitant, for fear of mistreatment or of prejudice, to adventure the offer of clemency. Such fear is without foundation.

I returned by air to New York from Toronto on October 11th. The crossing was uneventful. On the 21st, I drove to Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, which lies a mile or two east of Indianapolis. The following morning I telephoned the Joint Processing Centre for directions, arriving at the Fort at about 10:00 A.M. Processing began immediately, and provision was made for legal counsel, if desired, prior to each phase. Meals are gratis, of course, and there is semi-private accommodation complete with colour t.v., vending machines, etc. There are no haircuts, uniforms or other unpleasanties, and the staff sergeants somehow find it feasible to make suggestions instead of orders. Apparently, care has been taken to exclude any unpleasant confrontations; I learned from one sergeant that he had recently received his M.A. degree in Education... The process was completed within 24 hours. Travelling expenses are paid, unless you arrive by car, and there is a "bonus" of \$25.00. Any back-pay will be mailed to you also.

Following the issue of an undesirable discharge, one has 14 days to report to the Selective Service System. After reporting, assistance is available, upon request, to find a suitable position of alternate service, but 30 days is provided to seek such employment according to choice. Rates of pay are as usual, subject to union wages, etc.

I have experienced no prejudice since my return. Upon hearing of my status, most people are amused and curious about Canada. There seems to be little resentment of draft-dodgers and deserters in the country at this time. I think most people desire to forget about Vietnam as quickly as possible.

Yours truly,


Mark A. Adelson

maa