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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MR PRESIDENT:

The letters mentioned by Max
Friedersdorf are attached for your
signature.

Jim Connor
2/26/76

*I have signed but make
sure it tracks with what
Max told me this A.M.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*

SUBJECT: 200 Mile Limit Bill *NR7*

I have talked to Leonor Sullivan about the President's very strong feeling about at least an April 1977 trigger date on the 200 Mile Limit bill.

She was sympathetic and will raise it at the Conference today.

She requested a Presidential letter on the trigger date, not conceding any other concerns about the bill.

The letter is being drafted immediately for Presidential signature.

OBE
des [unclear]
per Jim Conner
2/27/76 S.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Madam Chairman:

As you complete your consideration of H. R. 200 and S. 961, I want to re-emphasize the need to extend the effective date of such legislation. The Law of the Sea negotiations are entering a crucial phase. Unilateral U. S. legislation to impose a 200-mile fisheries zone which becomes effective during the next eighteen months would seriously reduce our chances of achieving a successful treaty. It is also important to provide sufficient time to prepare for implementation of the legislation.

As you know, I strongly prefer the July 1, 1977 effective date contained in the Senate version. I understand that the conferees are giving serious consideration to an effective date of January 1, 1977. I do not believe it would be prudent or acceptable to set an effective date earlier than April 1, 1977.

Several departments and agencies have already proposed changes in other aspects of the legislation. I have asked the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to present final Administration proposals in a separate letter.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Leonor K. Sullivan
Chairman
Committee on Merchant Marine
and Fisheries
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

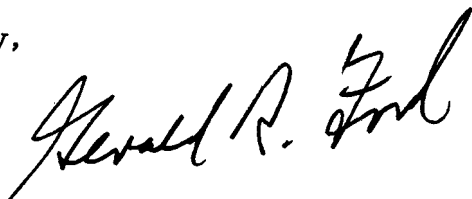
Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you complete your consideration of H. R. 200 and S. 961, I want to re-emphasize the need to extend the effective date of such legislation. The Law of the Sea negotiations are entering a crucial phase. Unilateral U. S. legislation to impose a 200-mile fisheries zone which becomes effective during the next eighteen months would seriously reduce our chances of achieving a successful treaty. It is also important to provide sufficient time to prepare for implementation of the legislation.

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Several departments and agencies have already proposed changes in other aspects of the legislation. I have asked the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to present final Administration proposals in a separate letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "D".

The Honorable Warren G. Magnuson
Chairman
Committee on Commerce
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510