

The original documents are located in Box 36, “7/13/76 - Remarks following Meeting with D.C. Police Officers, the FBI, and the Federal Bureau of Tobacco and Firearms on Occasion of Recent "Sting" Operations” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

FOLLOWING OPERATION "STING" MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1976

I HAVE JUST MET WITH POLICE CHIEF CULLINANE AND THE MEMBERS
OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT; / FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION / AND BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS WHO
PARTICIPATED IN THE RECENT LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS HERE IN THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA KNOWN AS OPERATIONS "STING" AND "GOT YA
AGAIN."

THESE TWO POLICE ACTIONS RESULTED IN WELL OVER THREE HUNDRED
ARRESTS AND THE RECOVERY OF MORE THAN 3.6 MILLION DOLLARS IN
STOLEN PROPERTY. BOTH OPERATIONS INVOLVED THE COOPERATION OF
FEDERAL AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

THIS INNOVATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK HAS CAPTURED THE
IMAGINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND
INFUSED IN THEM A NEW RESPECT FOR THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER●

THESE OPERATIONS SHOW THAT IT IS THE RESIDENTS OF OUR INNER
CITIES -- THE POOR, THE ELDERLY, THE DISADVANTAGED -- WHO
ARE MOST FREQUENTLY VICTIMIZED. WE OWE THESE LAW-ABIDING
CITIZENS BETTER PROTECTION FROM CRIMINALS THAN THEY ARE GETTING.

AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, I HAVE REPEATEDLY URGED THE CONGRESS
TO SHOW THE WAY BY ENACTING TOUGHER LAWS TO GET HABITUAL
CRIMINALS OFF THE STREETS. MY CONCERN IS NOT VINDICTIVE
PUNISHMENT TO THE CRIMINAL BUT PROTECTION OF INNOCENT VICTIMS
OF CRIME.

ALMOST A YEAR AGO TODAY, I SENT TO THE CONGRESS
COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION WHICH ADDRESSED THESE PROBLEMS.
THE CONGRESS HAS NOT YET ACTED ON THIS LEGISLATION.
I FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL END ITS PROCRASTINATION
AND ENACT THE TOUGH MEASURES WHICH I PROPOSED LAST YEAR.

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