TAPPING FOR CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GREET

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AS YOU ASSEMBLE FOR YOUR

81st ANNUAL CONVENTION AND SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY. YOUR

CONVENTION THIS YEAR HAS TAKEN ON SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

BECAUSE IT IS BEING HELD AT MEHARRY (MEH-HARRY) MEDICAL

COLLEGE DURING THE SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL YEAR.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE TO OUR

SOCIETY CANNOT BE TOO STRONGLY EMPHASIZED. THIS

DISTINGUISHED INSTITUTION HAS TRAINED A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF

THE BLACK PHYSICIANS NOW PRACTICING IN THE UNITED STATES.
MEHARRY'S UNIQUE ROLE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY AND HEALTH MANPOWER TRAINING,
HAS EARNED IT A PLACE OF DISTINCTION AMONG EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS ENGAGED IN MEETING AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

TODAY, LET ME PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING
ROLE THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS PLAYED IN
PROVIDING FOR THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF MINORITIES. YOUR
ASSOCIATION AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAVE COMPILED A RECORD
OF COMPASSIONATE SERVICE ALL AMERICA CAN BE PROUD OF.
BECAUSE OF YOUR VITAL INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ALL-IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE, I AM INVITING THE MEMBERS OF YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO VISIT WITH ME AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE SO THAT WE MAY DISCUSS THE NATION'S HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DETAIL.

ALTHOUGH AMERICA'S HEALTH NEEDS ARE GREAT AND OUR RESOURCES ARE LIMITED, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT PART IN ENSURING EVERY AMERICAN ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY MEDICAL CARE.

THE GOOD HEALTH OF AMERICANS MUST REMAIN HIGH ON THE LIST OF OUR PRIORITIES AND ON THE AGENDA OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS THAT REMAINS BEFORE US.
FINALLY, I CONVEY TO DR. JASPER WILLIAMS,

DR. ARTHUR COLEMAN, DR. LLOYD ELAM (EE-LUM)

AND THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, MY ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO MAKE QUALITY HEALTH CARE A REALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS.

END OF TEXT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
August 5, 1976
12:00 noon

EVENT: National Medical Association, Inc. Eighty-first Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly in Nashville, Tennessee

DATE: August 9, 1976

PURPOSE: The President was invited to address the 3,000 participants in the 1976 convention of this organization of Black doctors. Since it was not possible to accept, they requested a video-taped message.

BACKGROUND: The National Medical Association includes a majority of the Nation's 6,600 Black physicians. This year's meeting is particularly important to them because it is being held at the Meharry Medical College, the Nation's foremost Black oriented medical school, during the institution's centennial celebration. The N.M.A. feels that your remarks will do much to publicize both their organization and the unique contribution which Meharry has made in the development of minority physicians and community health services.

Your appearance before the convention was strongly recommended by Dr. Jasper Williams, the outgoing President of N.M.A. and a Republican.

Bill Baroody and John Calhoun recommended this message as well.