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January 17, 1975

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

For Announcement

As a matter of information, there have been stories about the possibility of transferring the Office of Telecommunications Policy to the Department of Commerce. That transfer has been considered by the President and has now been rejected.

Why did the President reject the transfer?

GUIDANCE: The President decided that OTP has a role to fulfill in communications and that is best fulfilled within the Executive Office of the President.

Had the final decision been made to transfer OTP?

GUIDANCE: The decision was originally presented in the context of developing the budget and a tentative decision was reached which, after full consideration, has now been changed.

Isn't it true that Roy Ash advocated the transfer, and hasn't Ash now lost another battle?

GUIDANCE: I don't think I should discuss the advice given to the President by his advisors. If you wish to speak with Mr. Ash, you certainly may do so.

JGC

