

February 1, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER
FROM: RON NESSEN

I think it's a good idea for the Fords to attend the benefit evening at the Kennedy Center on behalf of the Special Olympics.

(I hope you'll make sure I'm in the Presidential party for that night!)

The only event I question is the reception hosted by the Iranian Ambassador. I would check with the NSC to see if there are any special problems diplomatically with that.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RONALD NESSEN

FROM: SUSAN PORTER

Mrs. Ford has received the attached invitation for the evening of Sunday, March 9th, to attend a benefit evening at the Kennedy Center on behalf of the Special Olympics, the domestic olympics sponsored by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation for mentally retarded children. Mrs. Ford has publicly stated a special interest in mentally retarded children and is Honorary Patroness of those Olympics which will be held in August in Michigan.

The plans for the evening are as follows:

- 7:15 Reception.
- 7:30 Hour-long, live television show over the ABC network. Barbra Streisand, Omar Sharif, James Caan, Frank Gifford, etc. will appear. There will also be several minutes demonstrating the athletic abilities of mentally retarded children who have participated in the Special Olympics. Dick Cavett is the "M.C."
- 8:30-8:45 15 minute break.
- 8:45-11:00 The Special Olympics World Premier of Barbra Streisand's new film, "Funny Lady" will be shown.
- 11:15 Brief reception hosted by the Iranian Ambassador.

Mrs. Ford has indicated she and the President would be interested in attending the evening but before setting this up firmly, Warren Rustand and I wanted to solícite your thoughts about how best this could be handled.

Thank you.

c: Warren Rustand
James Cavanaugh
Sheila Weidenfeld

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES CAVANAUGH

FROM: SUSAN PORTER

Mrs. Ford will serve this year as Honorary Patroness of the Fourth International Special Olympics Games to be held August 7-11 in Michigan. These, as you know, are the olympics for the mentally retarded children sponsored by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. Mrs. Ford and the President have also been invited to attend the special benefit evening being planned March 9th at the Kennedy Center.

There will be two major parts to the evening. The first is a live, hour-long television show over ABC with various stars (Barbra Streisand, Omar Sharif, James Caan, Frank Gifford, etc.) and several minutes of demonstrating the athletic abilities of mentally retarded children. Dick Cavett is the "M.C."

The second part of the evening will consist of a Special Olympic World Premier of Barbra Streisand's new film, "Funny Lady". (This film, incidentally, has been selected to be shown to the Queen of England.)

Although Mrs. Ford has specifically stated her special interest in the mentally retarded, particularly mentally retarded children and has agreed to serve as Honorary Patroness of the Special Olympics, I wanted to solícite your views about the President and Mrs. Ford's participation in this evening.

Thank you so much.

c: Warren Rustand
Ronald Nessen
Sheila Weidenfeld

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation

1701 K STREET, NORTHWEST, SUITE 205

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

(202) 331-1731

Charge Kennedy P.

January 16, 1975

Mrs. Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

With The President

Dear Mrs. Ford:

I am delighted to read in the newspapers that you are rapidly improving in health. Your pictures make you look so vibrant and full of enthusiasm and high hopes. All of us are very inspired by your high standard of courage and unselfishness in carrying on the many responsibilities of a First Lady and doing so many things well during days which are obviously difficult.

As you will recall, you very graciously agreed to serve as Honorary Patroness of the Fourth International Special Olympics Games, scheduled to take place August 7-11, on the campus of Central Michigan University, in Mt. Pleasant. But I want you to know too that on March 9th there will be a Special Olympics World Premiere of Barbra Streisand's new film "Funny Lady" here in Washington, at the Kennedy Center. Barbra Streisand and the stars of that motion picture, plus a host of other celebrities are coming to Washington for the World Premiere.

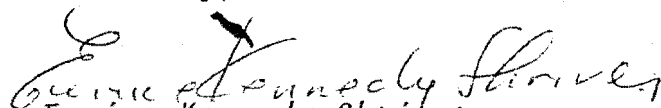
In addition to the movie, we are staging a one-hour T.V. Show over the ABC network. Barbra Streisand, Omar Sharif, James Caan, Frank Gifford, and other stars will appear on that show. Best of all, Special Olympics and the mentally retarded will get about 6 or 7 minutes on that T.V. Show to demonstrate the athletic abilities of mentally retarded children who have participated in Special Olympics, and, for us, "to tell the world" about Special Olympics. Dick Cavett is the "M.C." for the show. He will be interviewing some of our celebrity guests. He will tell about Special Olympics, but most of all he will be the Anchor Man for the entire one-hour Special.

I would be very happy if you and the President and any other members of your family would be able to attend that evening and I hope you will accept this letter as a warm, personal invitation for you, the President, and for your children. We will have box seats reserved, of course, for you and your party.

Mrs. Gerald Ford
January 16, 1975
Page Two

I know you have many requests for your time, but I hope that you are free that evening and that you and your family will come. We plan to have a lot of fun and with all the movie actors and actresses, with the football stars and other famous athletes, sportswriters and sportscasters, I am sure that we will have a relaxed and happy evening. Your presence would, of course, confer another great honor on Special Olympics and be an inspiration to the hundreds of thousands of volunteers working for the success of these games in every state of the Union.

Sincerely,


Eunice Kennedy Shriver

November 15, 1974

Dear Mrs. Shriver,

How much I appreciated your gracious letter bringing to my attention plans for the Fourth International Special Olympics sponsored by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation and inviting me to serve as Honorary International Chairman. It would be a special pleasure to have my name listed in this way reflecting my interest in this outstanding project on behalf of our mentally retarded citizens.

The development of athletic skills by our mentally retarded young people and an accompanying spirited, friendly competition can indeed inspire "a new kind of joy." These special people have much to contribute to our lives and our world and their opportunities for self-expression and achievement are enhanced and encouraged through these International Special Olympics Games.

With admiration for all who are actively involved in this fine program and my warmest best wishes for the success of the 1975 Games,

Sincerely,

BETTY FORD

Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver
The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
1701 K Street, Northwest
Suite 205
Washington, D. C. 20006

c: ✓ BF Honorary Affiliations (Accepted)
Log
WH Copy to John Gartland for Secretary Simon

SP
E/sh

October 24, 1974

Mrs. Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Next August the Fourth International Special Olympics for the mentally retarded will take place at Central Michigan University. The first two such Games were held in Chicago and the third in Los Angeles.

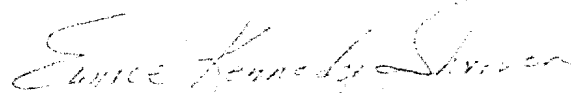
On behalf of the Kennedy Foundation which created these Games, but much more importantly, on behalf of the 3,000 mentally retarded children who will journey to your own great state of Michigan to participate in them and the some 400,000 who will take part in preparatory local, area, and state events, I would like to invite you to be our Honorary International Chairman.

Because this program has been an extraordinary success, not only in our country but in Canada and in France as well, I am asking Madame Giscard d'Estaing and Madame Trudeau to join you as Honorary Co-Chairmen of the 1975 International Special Olympics Games. I can think of no greater tribute to the courage and dignity of the mentally retarded than to have you acknowledge their worth by accepting this role in 1975.

I don't want to take up a lot of your time with a long letter explaining all about the Special Olympics. Let me say simply that they are a most joyous and significant event. The details are set forth in the enclosed materials. I would like to have a chance to talk with you on the phone about this should you have a moment.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Eunice Kennedy Shriver

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ford

MEMORANDUM FOR: PETER SORUM
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-house invitation:

EVENT: Radio and Television Correspondents Association Dinner

DATE: Thursday, March 13, 1975

TIME: Cocktails 6:15-6:45, Georgetown Suite
Dinner and entertainment 8:00, Jefferson Room
Nightcaps, Georgetown Suite

PLACE: Washington Hilton Hotel, D.C.

Phone
CONTACT: Faye Wells
628-5033

COMMENTS: As we have discussed, this is an event which Mrs. Ford attends each year as the guest of Faye Wells. She will do so again this year and ~~plans to stay for the duration of the evening.~~ The Advance Office will want to be in communication with Warren Rustand regarding the President's participation. Faye Wells will be expecting a call from you regarding specific arrangements. Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Warren Rustand
✓ Ronald Nessen
Bill Nicholson
Rex Scouten
Staircase

March 3, 1975

