

September 27, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The following letter was sent to Charles H. Morin, attorney for Charles W. Colson, on September 19, 1974 in response to Mr. Morin's letter to President Ford seeking a pardon or commutation for Mr. Colson:

Dear Mr. Morin:

Your September sixteenth letter requesting executive clemency for Charles W. Colson has been received.

The President has decided that all applications for executive clemency should be submitted through the appropriate procedures of the Department of Justice. You might want to communicate directly with that Department.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

It is clear from the letter that the matter has not been referred to the Pardon Attorney's office as the Press Office previously announced. The earlier, incorrect announcement was caused by a misunderstanding in the Press Office. We assumed that Mr. Buchen was referring the matter to the Justice Department. What he actually did was to refer the request back to Mr. Morin, not to the Pardon Attorney. The reason for that action was to permit Mr. Morin to make whatever changes he believed were necessary in the letter if he planned to contact the Pardon Attorney.

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