

OCTOBER 15, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Ford has said that he deplores the violence that continues to occur in Boston. He has repeatedly called upon the citizens of Boston to reject the violence, and the hatred and shrill voices of the violent few.

The President feels the primary responsibility for maintaining order continues to lie with the State and local officials, as Judge Garrity indicated last week in Federal Court when he rejected Major White's request for federal marshals.

Although the Governor has yet to deploy any of the National Guard which he mobilized, the President is confident that both Governor Sargent and Mayor White will use all of the resources at their disposal which they feel necessary to bring order to the situation and to end the violence. The President feels Federal troops should only be used as a last resort.

Under Federal law, Federal troops should only be called out when all three of the following steps are met:

- a situation of "serious domestic violence" exists;
- the situation cannot be controlled through the use of State resources;
- the State legislature or the Governor has formally written the President requesting Federal troops.

President Ford is aware of current developments in Boston. The White House and the Department of Justice are in touch with Governor Sargent and have discussed the situation. No formal written request for Federal troops has been received by the President, and none would be in order until the Governor is in a position to say he has utilized the full resources of the State and that despite these efforts he can no longer control the situation.

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