

October 31, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

STATEMENT BY DR. WILLIAM M. LUKASH

Mrs. Betty Ford has just completed five weeks of convalescence following surgery for breast cancer. During this period, special diagnostic studies and physical examinations have not identified any clinical evidence of residual cancer. Because two of the 30 lymph glands removed at surgery had revealed the presence of malignant cells, one cannot be entirely certain that undetected microscopic malignancy has not spread to other areas. For this reason, it has been decided that the First Lady will be treated with chemotherapy to insure more inclusive treatment against any possible remaining cancer. It is anticipated that this therapy will allow her to continue all normal activities as wife, mother and First Lady. Mrs. Ford's progress to date has been excellent and her outlook for prolonged good health is extremely favorable.

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