

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 8, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY

REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM M. LUKASH
WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN

Mrs. Ford developed moderately severe pain and discomfort in her neck and left shoulder early Friday morning. This is a result of a chronic arthritic condition that has been recurrent for the past 12 years.

Previous episodes have been related to excessive fatigue resulting from physical stress. She generally responds to physiotherapy, hot packs, and massage, and she is able to return to her full activity with no residual disability.

Mrs. Ford was examined this afternoon by Dr. William Felts, Professor of Medicine, and Chief of Rheumatology at George Washington University Medical School. He has treated her for this condition for the past 8 years and considers this to be typical of her previous episodes of neck pain.

The current flare-up will cause Mrs. Ford to curtail her activities temporarily.

I would also like to confirm the results of her first examination since breast surgery for cancer last September. Mrs. Ford was seen at Bethesda Naval Hospital on January 13, 1975, and all the tests and physical findings were considered to be completely normal with no evidence of cancer recurrence. She is tolerating her chemotherapy with no side effects whatsoever. She is scheduled to have a cancer checkup routinely every four months.

#