

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 21, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President met with the family of Dr. Frank Olson (Mrs. Frank Olson and her three children -- Mrs. Lisa Hayward, Nils Olson, and Eric Olson) at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. He expressed the sympathy of the American people and apologized on behalf of the U. S. Government for the circumstances of Dr. Frank Olson's death in November 1953. The Olson family asked that they be told of all the facts about Dr. Olson's death. The President told the family that he had instructed his Counsel's Office to make information available to them at the earliest possible date. He has also informed the Olson family that the Attorney General has been asked to meet with their legal representatives to discuss the claims they wish to assert against the Central Intelligence Agency by reason of Dr. Olson's death. The Olson family asked that the following statement be released on their behalf:

"We deeply appreciate President Ford's expression of sympathy and apology to our family. His concern and his invitation to meet with him are of great value to us.

Frank Olson's death was a tragic loss to his family, his friends, and his scientific colleagues. As previously unknown circumstances of his death have been revealed, the American people have been deeply moved. We are heartened by this response and encouraged that this experience has provided an impetus in our country for reflection on fundamental issues important to us all as a free people.

We are grateful that President Ford has given us his support for our effort to be fully informed about Frank Olson's death and to obtain a just resolution of this entire matter. We hope that this will be part of a continuing effort to insure that the CIA is accountable for its actions and that people in all parts of the world are safe from abuses of power by American intelligence agencies."

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