

[10-9-76]

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Dick:

It is with special gratitude for your long and distinguished public service and for your contribution to the Administration and to the conduct of our foreign policy that I accept your resignation as Ambassador to Iran, effective upon a date to be determined.

During the more than three years you have served in Tehran, you have carried out your challenging responsibilities with dedication and skill. The interests of the United States have been ably represented under your direction, and the many insights which you have brought to bear in your work have provided a valuable contribution to our relations with Iran.

As you retire from government service, I hope you will look back on your thirty-four years of service to our Nation with pride and a special sense of personal satisfaction. It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to express my appreciation for your efforts. You have my very best wishes for continued success and happiness in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Richard Helms  
American Ambassador  
Tehran, Iran

Tehran, Iran

October 9, 1976

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

This letter is to inform you that I wish to resign my post and to leave the federal service.

After 34 years in the United States Government, I feel that the time has come for me to move out of public life. I pick this date to communicate my decision to you, because I do not want my resignation construed as having political overtones of any kind or as being affected in any way by the outcome of the Presidential Election in November. As for timing, my preference would be to stay on in Tehran until the period between Christmas and the New Year. This would leave only three weeks of vacancy at the post before a new Presidential term begins. I trust that you will find this satisfactory.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Ambassador at the Imperial Court of Iran. May I extend warmest greetings and best wishes for your continued good health and success in the great office you hold.

Respectfully,



Richard Helms  
Ambassador