

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSESTATEMENT BY REAR ADM. WILLIAM M. LUKASH, M. D.  
WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN

President Ford today completed his annual medical examination at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He has remained in excellent health except for occasional nagging discomfort in his knees.

The physical examination included routine lab tests, X-rays, and an electrocardiogram.

His weight today was 197 pounds. The President's cardiac status remains completely normal. His blood pressure was 120/80 with a pulse rate of 64 beats per minute. Blood tests for cholesterol, triglyceride and sugar levels were all normal. His electrocardiogram also has remained normal.

Dr. Bart Slemmons, Chairman of the Department of Orthopedics evaluated the stability of the President's knees. Both knees have had surgery for old football injuries.

The X-rays revealed some minimal progression of arthritis which is related to the previous surgery and wear and tear on his knees over the years. Dr. Slemmons felt that the President does an excellent job maintaining the strength of his knees and recommended that he continue his exercise program and daily swimming. He indicated that the President can anticipate recurrent discomfort after arduous skiing or excessive physical activity.

The President feels as well today as he did on the day he first entered office and is looking forward to continued good health and to maintaining a very active schedule.

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