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## FAIR HOUSING MONTH SIGNING CEREMONY

APRIL 8, 1975

I AM SO PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORMAL OBSERVANCE OF FAIR HOUSING MONTH.

OVER THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT IS INSCRIBED THE PHRASE "EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW". NO FACET OF THE LAW IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS WHICH MANDATES EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY CITIZEN, FOR THAT IS THE BASIS FOR OUR DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 DECLARES ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974 PROHIBITS SEX DISCRIMINATION.

THESE ARE PRINCIPLES TO WHICH THIS DEPARTMENT IS DEDICATED. WE CAN BE PROUD OF PAST PROGRESS, BUT THERE IS MORE TO BE DONE. AS MR. JUSTICE MARSHALL SAID LAST YEAR, "RACIAL ATTITUDES INGRAINED IN OUR NATION'S CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE ARE NOT QUICKLY THROWN ASIDE IN ITS MIDDLE YEARS."



BUT SUCH ATTITUDES IN HOUSING CAN BE CHANGED IF ALL OF US RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO ADVANCING THE CONCEPT OF FAIR HOUSING.

IN SIGNING THIS DISPLAY, WHICH DOCUMENTS HUD'S REDEDICATION TO THE POLICY OF EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY, I COMMIT MYSELF TO VIGOROUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT POLICY AND I ASK ALL OF YOU TO JOIN ME IN THAT COMMITMENT.

