

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 23, 1963

Dear Mr. Speaker: *of House of Representatives*

Confirming our oral agreement regarding the procedures to be followed in the event of my inability to exercise the powers and duties of the Presidency, I am reducing the agreement to writing and would appreciate your signing the original of this letter and returning it to me for safekeeping in the Presidential files. Enclosed for your use is a signed duplicate original. The terms of the agreement are as follows:

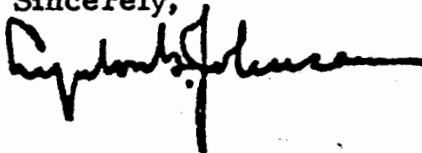
1. In the event of inability, the President would -- if possible -- so inform the Speaker of the House, and the Speaker of the House would serve as Acting President, exercising the powers and duties of the Office until the inability had ended.
2. In the event of an inability which would prevent the President from communicating with the Speaker of the House, the Speaker of the House, after such consultation as seems to him appropriate under the circumstances, would decide upon the devolution of the powers and duties of the Office and would serve as Acting President until the inability had ended.
3. The President, in either event, would determine when the inability had ended and at that time would resume the full exercise of the powers and duties of the Office.

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4. After being informed by the President of his inability or, in the event of an inability which would prevent the President from communicating with the Speaker of the House, after the latter satisfies himself that such inability exists, the Speaker of the House will resign as Speaker and as Representative in Congress before undertaking to act as President.

Sincerely,



Honorable John W. McCormack  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Agreed: 

Date: 17/73/63

