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*11/3/76*

EXECUTIVE

*PL/CARTER*

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*NOV 3 1976*

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WHITEHOUSE WSH

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PMS THE PRESIDENT ELECT JIMMY CARTER, DLR DONT DWR

PLAINS, GA *31780*

*X*

DEAR JIMMY:

IT IS APPARENT NOW THAT YOU HAVE WON OUR LONG AND INTENSE STRUGGLE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR VICTORY.

AS ONE WHO HAS BEEN HONORED TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT LAND--BOTH IN THE CONGRESS AND AS PRESIDENT--I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST NOW PUT THE DIVISIONS OF THE CAMPAIGN BEHIND US AND UNITE THE COUNTRY ONCE AGAIN IN THE COMMON PURSUIT OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

ALTHOUGH THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISAGREEMENTS OVER THE BEST MEANS TO USE IN PURSUING OUR GOALS, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL HAVE MY COMPLETE AND WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT AS YOU TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE THIS JANUARY.

I ALSO PLEDGE TO YOU THAT I AND ALL MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION WILL DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO INSURE THAT YOU BEGIN YOUR TERM AS SMOOTHLY AND EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS YOU UNDERTAKE YOUR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

SINCERELY,

JERRY FORD

ACCEPTED

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*Original returned to Val docs*

*4/23/04*

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CENTRAL FILES

WHITEHOUSE

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

Dear Jimmy:

It is apparent now that you have won ~~in~~ our long and intense struggle for the Presidency, -- and I ~~want~~ to congratulate you on your victory.

As one who has been honored to serve the people of this great land -- both in the Congress and as President -- I believe that we must now put the divisions of the campaign behind us and unite the country once again in the common pursuit of peace and prosperity.

Although there will continue to be disagreements over the best means to use in pursuing our goals, I want to assure you that you will have my complete and whole-hearted support as you take the oath of office this January.

I also pledge to you that I and all members of my Administration will do all that we can to insure that you begin your term as smoothly and effectively as possible.

May God bless you and your family as you undertake your new responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Jerry Ford

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4/23/04  
/DC