

THE PRESIDENT ~~VERY MUCH WANTED TO READ THIS STATEMENT~~

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

~~TO YOU. BUT HIS VOICE IS NOW COMPLETELY GONE. SO~~

~~HE~~ ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE TELEPHONED PRESIDENT-ELECT

CARTER A SHORT TIME AGO AND CONGRATULATED HIM ON HIS

VICTORY.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO WANTS TO THANK ALL THOSE
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO WORKED SO HARD ON HIS
BEHALF AND THE MILLIONS WHO SUPPORTED HIM WITH
THEIR VOTES.

IT HAS BEEN THE GREATEST HONOR OF MY HUSBAND'S
LIFE TO HAVE SERVED HIS FELLOW AMERICANS DURING TWO
OF THE MOST DIFFICULT YEARS IN OUR HISTORY.

THE PRESIDENT URGES ALL AMERICANS TO JOIN
HIM IN GIVING OUR UNITED SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT-ELECT
CARTER AS HE PREPARES TO ASSUME HIS NEW
RESPONSIBILITIES.

I'D LIKE TO READ YOU THE TELEGRAM THE PRESIDENT

SENT TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER THIS MORNING.

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.

JERRY FORD