The original documents are located in Box C1, folder “Baker, James A. III” of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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November 4, 1976

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

This is a difficult letter to write because we have lost perhaps the closest electoral vote contest in history. The fact that few gave us any chance at all when we started doesn't ease the pain of losing.

The best man did not win this race, and the American people are the losers for it. This country owes you and your family a tremendous debt of gratitude, and history will record you as one of our most beloved, respected and effective Presidents. It's been my privilege to have had the opportunity to know you and your family and to serve you in positions of high responsibility. I thank you for giving me this honor.

Sincerely,

James A. Baker, III
Dear Mr. President:

I would like to express my urgent concern regarding the recent events in the Middle East. The situation is rapidly deteriorating, and I believe prompt action is necessary to prevent a full-scale conflict.

I have been aware of the tension for some time now and have worked to help mitigate the situation. However, the recent escalation has made it clear that additional measures are required.

I am writing to request immediate assistance in the form of diplomatic efforts to engage key players in the region. A meeting among representatives of all involved countries could help in de-escalating the current tensions.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

[Signature]