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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 9, 1976

Dear Gene:

Your letter of August 25 has gone unanswered too long, but I trust you understand.

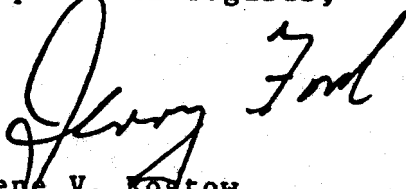
Action speaks louder than words. In the campaign, as you know, I was strongly on the side of an increase in our strategic and conventional defense capability and vigorously opposed the suggested cutbacks that were advocated by some.

Secondly, my F.Y. 1977 defense budget provided a meaningful turnaround in real growth, and in addition I convinced the Congress in 1976 it should not slash away in reductions as it had during the past decade.

Furthermore, several recent decisions, i.e. the B-1, plus the prospective F.Y. 1978 defense budget indicate my continuing interest and support for a fully adequate defense capability.

Let me assure you I support the activity of your group, and I will do all that I can as a private citizen in the same area. We, Democrats and Republicans, must not drop our guard or let the public succumb to such soothing propaganda. At present or in the future there is not time for catch-up once a crisis arises.

Warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" written in a large, sweeping script and "R. Ford" written more compactly to its right.

Dr. Eugene V. Kostow
Yale University Law School
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

Dear Norm/

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