

For immediate release
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will open the White House to the public for two evenings of tours during the Christmas season. The tours will be Dec. 29 and Dec. 30 from 6:30 -- 9 p.m.

Reservations are not required. Admission is free, and visitors should come to the East Gate of the White House (on East Executive Avenue) to participate.

The tours will be by candlelight, with torches lighting the East Entrance and the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden. Lights in the residence will be turned to candlelight intensity. There will be fires in the fireplaces. The string ensembles of the Armed Services will provide music. Each visitor will receive a momento explaining how to make some of the handcrafted ornaments on the White House Christmas tree.

In addition to the public tours, there will be some special tours for:

- about 700 children and adults in schools or programs for the handicapped and mentally retarded in the Washington, D.C. area; Dec. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- White House press corps and their families, Dec. 29 1-3 p.m.
- Members of Congress and their families, Dec. 23 2-5 p.m.
- White House staff and families, Dec. 22-23 7-9 p.m.

The first special tour of the Christmas season was for about 1300 senior citizens. It was held Dec. 11 from 6-8 p.m.

#

