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June 30, 1976

SUBJECT:

PRESIDENT'S POSITION
ON CITIES

Is the President announcing his Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization in response to Jimmy Carter's message yesterday on urban ills?

GUIDANCE: No. The establishment of this Committee is the result of several months of work on the project by several departments and agencies and the Domestic Council. The President has long held the view that there should be better coordination between those departments and agencies which have programs to improve and aid urban areas. This Committee will bring together those departments and agencies and will, the President believes, promote better use of available Federal resources.

The President has on several occasions stated his beliefs on the problems that currently confront urban areas, and he has frequently reiterated the need to let local authorities try to find local solutions, using Federal guidance and assistance where it is necessary and warranted. His statement today is consistent with statements on this subject he has made in the past.

I suggest that you read his statement on the signing of the Housing and Community Development Act (August 22, 1974), as well as his many statements on general revenue sharing, and his address to the U.S. Conference of Mayors last January 29.

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