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MARIA VON TRAPP  
STOWE, VERMONT 05672

Responded 9/20

August 12, 1975.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

You may have noticed what an outrage was raised all over the country by your flippant remark on television.

By way of introduction I want you to know that I am "the real Maria from 'The Sound of Music.'" As such, I am very much in the lime-light. All during the summer people come in busloads from around the country to meet me, take my picture and to get my autograph. I only say this that you may understand that I really meet hundreds of people every day, and I can assure you you have done great damage to your husband's political aspirations.

Both of you have lost a great deal of respect and good will among the people of the United States.

But aside from all this, do you realize how much harm you have done to the American family and to the American youth?

I pray that God will give you the necessary insight. Then please, Mrs. Ford, have the courage to step before the camera again and try to undo some of the damage. If it comes from your heart, people will believe you.

Sincerely yours,

Maria von Trapp