

LONGHAND LETTER

May 16, 1969

Dear Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I regret the premature announcement of the resignation of Mr. Justice Fortas, after it had been understood that it would be released by you at noon. I want you to know that it was done without my knowledge. The fact is that Justice Fortas became over-wrought on reading of the release of Wolfson's statement in the morning paper, and himself called the Court's press relations man to have him release the news of his resignation. I am sure he would not have been moved to do this under normal conditions. It was really a matter of little importance, but in his troubled state of mind it assumed abnormal importance.

This calls for no response. I merely want you to know what the cause of the miscarriage was.

I heard your message on Vietnam night before last, and it was very impressive. I am sure the American people were profoundly impressed with your approach and your efforts toward peace.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Earl Warren

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Delivered by hand - 5/16/69 - 3:30 p. m.