

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE PRESS
Martinsburg, Pennsylvania April 1, 1979

MY PRIMARY PURPOSE IN COMING HERE IS TO UNDERSCORE MY CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS AT THREE MILE ISLAND AND TO ASSURE THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO COPE WITH THESE PROBLEMS, BOTH AT THE REACTOR AND IN CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

I WANT TO COMMEND GOVERNOR THORNBURGH AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND TO EXPRESS MY ADMIRATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF THIS AREA WHO HAVE BEHAVED IN A CALM AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER...AND FOR THE CIVILIAN AND GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WHO CONTINUE TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES WITHOUT RESERVATION TO SOLVING THE PROBLEMS AT THE REACTOR SITE.

THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP AMONG STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN GOOD AND PRODUCTIVE.

THE PRIMARY AND OVERRIDING CONCERN FOR US ALL IS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, IF WE ERR, I WANT IT TO BE ON THE SIDE OF SAFETY AND CAUTION.

I HAVE LEARNED THAT RADIATION IS BEING CLOSELY MONITORED THROUGHOUT THE REGION SO THAT ANY TREND TOWARD HIGHER LEVELS WILL BE INSTANTLY RECOGNIZED, AND PROPER PRECAUTIONS TAKEN.

WE HAVE ASSEMBLED A TEAM OF THE NATIONS' LEADING EXPERTS TO MONITOR THIS SITUATION AND RECOMMEND METHODS TO COOL DOWN THE REACTOR TO A SAFE LEVEL.

I AM INFORMED THAT THE SITUATION AT THE REACTOR IS RELATIVELY STABLE AT PRESENT.

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HOWEVER WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, IMPORTANT DECISIONS WILL BE MADE ON HOW TO SHUT DOWN THE REACTOR. AS ALWAYS, THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION AS THESE DECISIONS ARE MADE, WILL BE HEALTH AND SAFETY.

IF NECESSARY, YOUR GOVERNOR WILL ASK YOU, THE PEOPLE OF

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THIS AREA. TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY.
IF AND WHEN HE DOES, I WANT TO URGE THAT THESE INSTRUCTIONS
BE FOLLOWED CALMLY AND EXACTLY AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST.

IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE LESSONS
FOR US ALL FROM THIS INCIDENT. ONCE THE JOB OF SATISFACTORILY
DEALING WITH THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS IS COMPLETE , THERE
MUST BE A THOROUGH INQUIRY INTO THE EVENTS HERE THAT WILL
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT EXIST IN THE MINDS OF THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE.

I INTEND TO MAKE SURE THAT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION
IS CONDUCTED, AND THAT THE RESULTS ARE MADE PUBLIC.