

[6/2/80]

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cable w/att	The White House to American Embassy Tokyo. Re: Message to Prime Minister Ohira. (2 pp.)	6/2/80	A

FILE LOCATION
 Carter Presidential Papers- Staff Offices, Office of Staff Sec.-
 Pres. Handwriting File, "6/2/80." Box 189

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Americus Times-Recorder

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

"Serving Southwest Georgia Since 1879"

MEMBER THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Americus, Georgia
May 26, 1980

cc Billy Blair - Thank!
I try to remember
those political lessons
you taught me in
Atlanta back in the
early 60's -
Jimmy

Dear Jimmy:

With all the concerns you have going, I almost feel like I'm taking your valuable time by writing. But I just wanted to thank you for your call to me in Emory Hospital during my recent illness.

You will never know just how much it meant to me. And it came at the perfect time, too, when I needed all the help I could get. I guess the Lord has something for me to do, else he may not have gone to so much trouble to get me well.

After I began to get better and they took me off the respirator, I really let all the doctors and nurses know what capable hands hold the fate of our country. We agonized with you over the hostage situation as day crept into week and week into month.

James, don't get discouraged. You've been doing the right thing and I have all confidence that everything will come out okay in the end. Courage, morality and judgment . . . you've got them all and, with God's help, right will prevail.

We Americans are a fickle lot . . . I guess that's human nature. More than ever I realize that great leadership comes from conviction and not from consensus or by seeking mass approval.

Our nation was built not by common men...but by uncommon men!

You're uncommon, Jimmy Carter...and regardless of the outcome of our present trials, you will go down in history as a great American. You always have been in my book!

Please give my best to Rosalynn - and Dana sends her best, and Dad, too.

By the way, Col. Charlie Beckwith and I were initiated into Sigma Chi at the same time at UGA.

Your friend,

Billy
William E. Blair
Lakeshore Drive
Americus, Georgia 31709