

July 2, 1968

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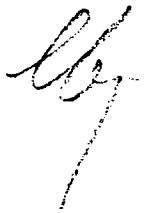
Mrs. Johnson and I deeply regret that we cannot be with you and our friends in American Samoa on this day.

We are humbled by the honor which you and your people have chosen to bring on us through the dedication of the new Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center. It is an honor that reflects our long concern and continuing aspirations for their well-being.

We are impressed by American Samoa's successful completion of the comprehensive program we launched only seven years ago to improve the quality of health and education services, and provide a healthier climate for the territory's progress and development. It is a monument to your co-operative, creative effort -- and long, hard work.

The major scourges of the tropical world have found in your people a determined, unrelenting enemy. And the promise of better health and fuller, happier lives has found in them a steadfast champion.

So we commend them and applaud your own productive leadership in opening this important doorway to a fuller and more fruitful participation by American Samoa in the medical and social milestones that are being realized throughout our hemisphere.



LBJ:WRS:EH:avw

cc: Juanita Roberts/Will Sparks/Loyd Hackler/E. Hasek/C. F.

**To be sent by Dept of Interior to: Hon. Owen S. Aspinall
Governor of American Samoa, Pago Pago, American Samoa**