

Pool 7-19-75

## White House Said Open to Solzhenitsyn

Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn has an open invitation to visit President Ford and is expected to do so, Press Secretary Ron Nessen said yesterday.

Nessen said, however, that he did not expect the White House would extend a formal, written invitation, which the author's Washington friends indicate Solzhenitsyn desires.

On Tuesday, Sen. Jesse A. Helms (R-N.C.) telephoned the White House and suggested a meeting the same day, Nessen reported. The President sent word that he would be happy to see Solzhenitsyn at 5:15 p.m., but Helms later called back to say that the Nobel prize-winning writer could not be there at that time.

Helms and Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) originally suggested a meeting with the President on June 30, and at that time Mr. Ford replied that his schedule was full.

Solzhenitsyn has left Washington, but Nessen said, "I would anticipate that sometime during his visit to the United States he will come