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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JACK HUSHEN

AT 12 NOON EDT

SEPTEMBER 20, 1974

FRIDAY

MR. HUSHEN: Good morning. We seem to have a full house today.

Let me just go quickly through the announcements.

Last evening before making the campaign appearance on behalf of Congressman Stanford Parris, the President met for an hour with Indian Foreign Minister, Swaran Singh. As you know, this was the first opportunity for the President to meet with a high level Indian official since assuming office, and the first such Presidential contact since Prime Minister Gandhi's visit in November of 1971.

The President and Mr. Singh took this opportunity to have a wide-ranging discussion of issues of interest to both sides in the field of foreign policy. That includes South Asia, bilateral relations and a discussion of Secretary Kissinger's trip to that area next month.

The President expressed support for the continued strengthening of relations between India and the United States.

The President got started early this morning at 7:45 and has been meeting with staff members, including Al Haig, Secretary Kissinger, General Scowcroft, Phil Buchen.

Due to the fact that he met for about 45 minutes this morning with Senator Henry Jackson to discuss the trade bill, I was not able to see the President prior to coming out here.

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The only guidance I can give you on the meeting between the President and Senator Jackson was that it was, as I said, to discuss further efforts to achieve an acceptable trade bill. Progress continues to be made as a result of these discussions but I have nothing more that I can give you on that. Secretary Kissinger did sit in on that meeting.

At 1:30 this afternoon, the President will meet with Mr. David Rockefeller to discuss Mr. Rockefeller's proposal for a national development bank which would assist in creating new communities and redeveloping older cities. We will see if we can't get you something more on that after the meeting.

At 2:30 this afternoon, the President will meet with the Governor of Puerto Rico, Rafael Hernandez-Colon. Prior to that meeting, Governor Colon will meet with members of the Domestic Council. The Governor wants to talk to the President about matters of general concern to the people in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Then at 3:30 this afternoon, the President will meet with a group of his economic advisers to receive an update on the proceedings of the meetings leading up to the summit conference on inflation which, as I think you all know, will be held next Friday and Saturday.

As far as tomorrow goes, I can't give you the full schedule yet, but at 11:00 the President will meet with Alberto Juan Vicente Vignes, the Argentine Minister of Foreign Relations. The Foreign Minister is here in the United States for the U.N. General Assembly session and the President wanted to take this opportunity to discuss with him hemispheric relations and other matters of mutual concern.

Q Would that include Cuba?

MR. HUSHEN: Hemispheric relations.

Q About what?

MR. HUSHEN: Then, as we previously announced, the President will meet at 5:30 P.M. tomorrow with Prime Minister Tanaka of Japan, also in the Oval Office.

Looking ahead to Monday, the President will depart the White House for Detroit to address the World Energy Conference at about 8:15 A.M. Then he is scheduled about 11:00 A.M., and we hope to have an advance text for you either Sunday or on the plane Monday.

The President's departure time will require a press check-in at Andrews at 7:00 A.M., with a 7:30 departure for Detroit. I don't have any other detailed times yet, but I think I said yesterday, I expect the President to be returning to the White House in the early afternoon and there are no other visits scheduled in connection with the trip.

We will have the detailed schedule tomorrow, hopefully.

I have several other announcements that I want to get through here. The President is announcing the appointment of William E. Casselman, II, as an additional Counsel to the President. Casselman will serve along with Phillip Areeda as one of the two senior Counsel to the President and associated with Philip Buchen, who is Counsel to the President with Cabinet rank.

The President will nominate Daniel Minchew of Baxley, Georgia, to be a member of the United States Tariff Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 16, 1976.

The President is announcing the appointment of Clyde S. DuPont of Alexandria, Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 14, 1974.

The President is announcing the reappointment of Addie J. Key of Baltimore, Maryland, as a member of the Board of Advisers of the Federal Reformatory for Women. We will post information on that appointment.

You have the memorandum from the President to heads of departments and agencies in which he reaffirms his belief in the career civil service system, and the integrity of the civil servants and wanted to let the heads of the executive departments and agencies know where he stands.

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The President has also signed an Executive Order which you have and which he referred to in his press conference this week. This Executive Order is self-explanatory, but you do have a fact sheet on it.

The Order sets forth the strict and legally-binding procedures by which the President's access will be governed as well as access by members of the staff to tax records.

Under this Order, the President must personally specify in writing the returns desired and must personally designate in writing the member of his staff who is authorized to see the returns in his behalf.

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Q Does he have to say why he wants to see the return and why not if he doesn't?

MR. HUSHEN: Does he have to say why he wants to see the returns?

Q Yes.

MR. HUSHEN: I don't think so. I think he just has to designate that he wants to see them.

Q Jack, can't he simply set that aside by another Executive Order of his own or a waiver? What is the effect of an Executive Order when he issues it only himself?

MR. HUSHEN: I think it certainly indicates to the public how he feels about the situation.

Q Does it have any legally binding effect on him if he changes his mind and wants to see someone's tax return?

MR. HUSHEN: I think you can always change your Executive Orders, but I think what he is obviously stating here is what his policy is going to be.

Q Is he saying that no subordinate can order an income tax return without the President's knowledge? Is that what he is saying?

MR. HUSHEN: That is correct.

Q Does he still favor the legislation which would in effect prevent him from doing this kind of thing?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know what his position is on that.

Q Jack, would he have to issue another public Executive Order to change this?

MR. HUSHEN: I believe so.

Q Why did he take this action?

MR. HUSHEN: He indicated in his press conference how he felt about it.

Q I mean, does it come from any abuses that he knows of? (Laughter)

MR. HUSHEN: You have been around here long enough.

Q That is a legitimate question.

Q No, I want to ask you why.

MR. HUSHEN: I think he has seen what has happened in the past, and I think he wants to make it very clear that it is not going to happen in the future, at least not as long as he is in the White House.

Q Will the file records on any requests for inspection of these returns be open for examination by any Members of Congress or just simply the public in any fashion, or will that be a secret file?

MR. HUSHEN: Do you mean the designations of approval?

Q Yes.

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know whether that would be open or not. I am sure we can get you an answer to that.

Q Congressional committees can see tax records if the President approves, if the President issues an Executive Order?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

Q Jack, there are several Congressional committees that have blanket authority to see taxpayer's records under present law. Does this have any effect on that?

MR. HUSHEN: I thought that was the case.

Q Does this have any effect on that at all?

MR. HUSHEN: This would, I believe, be an order that would only affect the Executive Branch.

Q Can you explain why the President would want to visit a country like South Korea, which is becoming increasingly dictatorial and a regime where the government is under fire and under attack for undemocratic steps?

MR. HUSHEN: South Korea has been a long-standing ally of this country, and the United States has important security interests in that area, and he believes that talks with Mr. Park will be useful.

Q Did he think about it; I mean, did he weigh these considerations?

MR. HUSHEN: I am not privy to all of the information that went into this trip.

Q Is there any special worry about security arrangements there in view of the assassination attempt?

MR. HUSHEN: There is always a concern for security of the President, but I know of no unusual precautions.

Q Jack, do you expect different stops, if there are additional stops, to be announced piecemeal on this trip?

MR. HUSHEN: If there are any additional stops -- and I don't know of any right now -- they would be announced as they are firmed up.

Q Does that mean South Korea was firmed up yesterday?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes.

Q Does it mean --

MR. HUSHEN: That was in answer to Cliff's question, not yours.

Q Are there any additional trips contemplated, not at this time, additional stops, I mean?

Q Does the President consider this trip an endorsement of the Park regime?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't think you have to view it that way. He is going to be in Japan. As I said before, South Korea has been a long and strong ally.

Q Jack, does that mean that he will not be using his tickets to the Ohio State-Michigan game?

MR. HUSHEN: Do you want them?

Q Yes.

MR. HUSHEN: Is that the date?

Q The 23rd.

Q Was there any talk about him going to India during that talk last night?

MR. HUSHEN: I have no guidance for you on that.

Q Jack, when Senator Jackson left here this morning he said, if I understand him correctly, that the President was going to meet with Mr. Gromyko again on Tuesday. Do you know anything about that?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, that may have been discussed. The meetings that have gone on this morning have been virtually non-stop and I don't know.

Q Jack, has the President had any conversations with Attorney General Saxbe lately about several matters: about the increased crime rate around the country; the fact that the Justice Department has, on a non-stop basis, been losing political cases; and, third, about three investigations that are underway at LEAA including one that has to do with consultant-ships and alleged abuse of the Civil Service laws?

Has he talked to Saxbe about any of those matters?

MR. HUSHEN: The only conversation I am aware that the President has had with the Attorney General recently has been in connection with the conditional amnesty program.

Q Jack, the Venezuelan president has taken offense at the President's speech to the U.N. on oil producing countries and he sent a 2,000-word cable. Do you have any response to that?

MR. HUSHEN: I do not.

Q Jack, what prompted the President's memorandum to departments and agencies about Civil Service employees?

MR. HUSHEN: I think it has been something that he had been planning to say. I think the statement speaks for itself in the sense that he has a high regard for the civil servants and will not tolerate any abuse of that system.

Q Did it have any connection with his request for deferring the pay raise?

MR. HUSHEN: Absolutely not.

Q Did it have any connection with the front page Star News report yesterday?

MR. HUSHEN: No, this has been in the works for a long time, much longer than the series of stories.

Q Does it relate to any abuses he thinks may have occurred during the previous Administration?

MR. HUSHEN: He just wants to state his position.

Let me just mention something that I slipped by regarding our announcements of visits of foreign dignitaries. President Ford will meet with Australian Prime Minister, E. Gough Whitlam, Friday, October 4. The Prime Minister will be visiting Washington after his attendance at the General Assembly in New York.

And I have one addition to the President's schedule for today. About 3:25 P.M. the President will meet with Andrew May, who will be retiring in mid-November as the office manager and assignment editor in the Photo Office here in the White House.

Most of you know Buck May so I will not enumerate his many activities and accomplishments. This will be a photo session.

Q Does the President endorse Mr. Greenspan's statements to the summit meeting yesterday, the HEW meeting yesterday?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, if you look at everything that Mr. Greenspan said --

Q Do we have to? (Laughter)

MR. HUSHEN: -- I think he was addressing the wrong audience. (Laughter)

The President is on the record as saying that inflation hits hardest the people on the fixed incomes. What Mr. Greenspan was pointing out was purely a statistical fact which would stand by itself.

It is not a matter of endorsing that fact or the statement.

I think the President is fully on record as to his feelings about inflation and how it hurts everybody but most importantly those who are on a fixed income.

Q Does the President have any initial feeling on the new cost of living figures announced today, the highest in a year?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't give you anything on that.

Q Jack, this statement on Civil Service seems to be just restating what has been in the law for a number of years. If it is not related to any abuses, does the President plan to issue similar statements on other laws that he thinks should be obeyed? (Laughter)

MR. HUSHEN: The President just wanted to go on record as to what he feels about the Civil Service system and the quality of the employees.

Q And he doesn't agree with President Nixon about the bureaucracies and impenetrable force?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, you have what President Ford feels about it.

Q Jack, is the President giving any attention to the fact of his appointments he has to make at some point to the Board of the new Legal Services Corporation?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, he is. I think that matter is close to being announced.

Q Jack, who is going to succeed General Haig?

MR. HUSHEN: I have nothing I can give you on that today.

Q When do you anticipate there will be an announcement on that?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know. As I mentioned, I wasn't able to talk to the President this morning.

Q Do you know when General Haig leaves?

MR. HUSHEN: It will be next week.

Q The end of next week?

MR. HUSHEN: No, it will be some time next week.

Q Has the President changed his position on the need for confirmation of Haig?

MR. HUSHEN: No.

Q And it still is that he doesn't need to be confirmed and won't be nominated?

MR. HUSHEN: That is correct.

Q I thought there was a formal request from a committee of the Senate to have General Haig come up to answer questions. Will that be refused as far as the White House is concerned?

MR. HUSHEN: Will it be reviewed or refused?

Q Refused?

MR. HUSHEN: Bill, I think we will just have to take a look at that request when it comes up.

Q Jack, can you tell us who authorized and under what provisions Julie Eisenhower could fly by military plane to California?

MR. HUSHEN: Mr. Gulley, over in the Military Aide's Office, said yesterday to those who contacted him, it has been a long-standing policy to make available to former Presidents' families seats on courier planes that are traveling to the location of the former President to give him briefing materials and other things like that.

And the Trumans took advantage of this, the Johnson daughters, so it is nothing unusual.

Q Was there a courier plane taking briefing materials to the former President?

MR. HUSHEN: That is correct.

Q Briefing materials on what aspects of Government?

MR. HUSHEN: Dick, I can't give you specifics on that but again this is the same policy that has been followed for ex-Presidents to keep them apprised of current issues.

Q How frequently do these briefing materials go out? Are they accompanied by a person who gives a personal briefing or is it just written materials?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know the answer to that.

Q Is it a special plane or the regular East-West courier plane from Andrews to San Bernardino?

MR. HUSHEN: It is not a special plane. It is the regular courier plane.

Q What else does it do? I mean, what is its regular duties other than dropping off these briefings? I mean, does it have other people that it drops off briefing matters to?

MR. HUSHEN: I imagine it could be used for anything, any Federal activity on the West Coast.

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Q I was just wondering how much need there is for that. Is there a great deal of need to get Washington materials to some Federal agency on the West Coast that requires a flight out to the West Coast?

MR. HUSHEN: I am sure we can get a definition of the activities in that regard for you.

Q Can we find out, Jack, specifically what this airplane that carried Julie Eisenhower out, specifically what else it carried out?

MR. HUSHEN: I think we probably can.

Q Jack, have you seen information that this President has ordered that former President Nixon be kept up-to-date on foreign and domestic affairs through a private briefing?

MR. HUSHEN: As I understand it, that is the standard practice for former Presidents. I don't know how detailed these briefings are, and I can't go into how great the information is that is given to them.

Q Well, it seems to me that that is a fairly important issue. I wonder if there is a way we can find out who is doing the briefings and what information is being passed on to Mr. Nixon that the rest of us are not getting?

MR. HUSHEN: I think we can try to give you some help in that area.

Q Does Nixon send back any memos?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

Q Do you know whether it is a packet of briefing papers or whether a personal aide went out?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

I am informed that it can be either way, depending on the subject.

Q Jack, did Dr. Tkach go out on that plane?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know who else was on that plane other than Julie Eisenhower.

Q Could you find that out?

MR. HUSHEN: Possibly. As you know, Tkach went out there last week.

Q Yes, and I understand he went out yesterday or today.

MR. HUSHEN: I will not guess at that. I haven't checked the manifest.

Q What is the thinking behind briefing of former Presidents? Is it to get advice from those former Presidents, or what?

MR. HUSHEN: That is probably part of it. I didn't explore what the purpose of it was. We got the courier about Julie Eisenhower and that is the only thing we went into.

Q Does President Ford know in fact that President Nixon is being briefed?

MR. HUSHEN: I believe so. As I said, it has been standard procedure to brief former Presidents.

Q Jack, are you equating the departure of President Nixon with those of other former Presidents?

MR. HUSHEN: What do you mean "equating"?

Q Well, in your statement you make it sound like that is what you do for all former Presidents.

MR. HUSHEN: I certainly wouldn't equate the way the former President left with other former Presidents, but he still is a former President.

Q You said that papers or a person can fly out there to brief. Do you mean by that that someone has flown out there to brief the former President at some point?

MR. HUSHEN: They may have, I don't know. We are in an area that I don't have that many facts on. It is obvious from my response to your questions that I am not well briefed in this particular area.

Q Jack, could you fairly expeditiously locate someone who could perhaps give us some information on this because there are a lot of holes right now.

MR. HUSHEN: We will try to get you some more information.

Q Jack, are you saying that there is material that is of such urgency that it can't be entrusted to the United States mail but has to be sent out by Air Force jet to Mr. Nixon?

MR. HUSHEN: Let me see if we can't get some answers here.

Q And also is any of it classified?

Q And is Secretary Kissinger going to brief Nixon? I believe he did brief Johnson after Johnson left on several occasions.

Q And is it correct this courier plane makes scheduled weekly stops once or twice a week there?

MR. HUSHEN: I think I read that.

Q We would like to confirm that. I have a need for it.

MR. HUSHEN: Okay.

Q What kind of security stamp is on this material that the former President is getting? Does he still have "Top Secret" security clearance?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 12:30 P.M. EDT)

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JACK HUSHEN

AT 3:56 P.M. EDT

SEPTEMBER 20, 1974

FRIDAY

MR. HUSHEN: The President met this morning for two and a half hours with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, who, as you know, was in the United States for the General Assembly meeting.

The meeting was described as cordial in tone and provided for a very useful exchange of views on the major issues of current interest to the United States and the Soviet Union.

There was no set agenda for this morning's discussion. The majority of the meeting was devoted to a review of the current status of U.S.-Soviet relations, including developments that have occurred since the United States and USSR summit conference in June of 1974.

The two leaders also discussed upcoming issues of interest to both countries and also the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, the SALT negotiations, that have resumed in Geneva.

In addition to the bilateral subjects, the meeting also included a review of international issues such as the East-West negotiations currently in progress and the situation in the Middle East.

President Ford and Foreign Minister Gromyko both agreed on the importance of continuing efforts toward a lasting and equitable peace in the Middle East.

Others attending the meeting this morning were Secretary of State Kissinger and Ambassador Walter Stoessel and the Russian Ambassador, Dobrynin.

The meeting did include a brief review of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. That is the CSCE, and the force reduction talks which have just resumed in Vienna.

There was a question this morning as to whether or not the President planned to meet again with Mr. Gromyko. The answer to that is no. I think there was some misunderstanding. He plans to leave the United States on Tuesday, but I think you had better, if you want to, check that definitely with the Russian Embassy.

Q Isn't Kissinger going to meet again with him?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know the answer to that.

Q Did they talk about the trade bill?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, the President touched on his discussions with the Congress aimed at producing an acceptable trade bill.

Q Did he get some sort of an agreement on immigration from the Soviet Foreign Minister?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't go beyond what I have said on that.

Q Did Gromyko say anything on this subject? You said the President touched on it. Did Gromyko respond in any way?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't give you any answer to that question.

Q Does the President feel that there is an agreement soon, that there might be an agreement soon, with the talks today? Jackson said much depended on the White House talks.

MR. HUSHEN: On the trade bill?

Q Yes.

MR. HUSHEN: Nothing that I can say.

Q Are you aware of what Senator Jackson said? His quote was that the Soviet Union had turned 180 degrees. Are you aware of that quote?

MR. HUSHEN: No, I am not.

Q Have you read anything about that?

MR. HUSHEN: No, I didn't see the wire on Jackson, and I didn't get a chance to get a fill-in.

Q Do you have answers for questions that haven't been answered.

MR. HUSHEN: That is a good way to phrase it. I have some more answers here.

Q What about the courier service to California?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't get into that until I have had a chance to get some more guidance on how it is going to be operated in this Administration. We have checked parts of the question as to what went on before.

Q Jack, as a result of the President's talks with Jackson and with Gromyko, does the Administration feel that a trade bill is near, that agreement is imminent?

MR. HUSHEN: The President certainly is hopeful, but I didn't want to put a time on it.

Q Is he more hopeful now than he was earlier this morning

MR. HUSHEN: Charlie, I have not seen the President, and I don't know.

Q The Senate hopes to get that through before they adjourn. That is what one of the Senators told me.

Q Do you have anything more on his weekend schedule?

MR. HUSHEN: No, that is about all I can give you on the meeting this morning and nothing more on what I have said this weekend.

Q What exactly did they talk about?

MR. HUSHEN: A whole range of issues. In fact, I think this is the first time they have sat down together and they discussed a whole broad range of issues.

Q Did anything come out of it beyond their exchange of views?

MR. HUSHEN: The purpose of the meeting was to provide a setting for this kind of discussion. No subjects were raised with the idea of hammering out an agreement.

Q Do you mean to say that the President touched on his discussions in Congress on this trade bill and you can't tell us whether it went beyond that, whether there was any discussion of a commitment from the Soviets in terms of numbers, whether there was any --

MR. HUSHEN: I cannot.

Q Was there any talk of renewing President Nixon's invitation to Mr. Brezhnev to come here next year for a return summit?

MR. HUSHEN: I think the invitation is still on, and President Ford looks forward to Mr. Brezhnev's visit here in 1975.

Q But there was no discussion that you know of?

MR. HUSHEN: No. Well, let me back up for a minute. The President indicated he was looking forward to the visit.

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Q Jack, have you got anything on this briefing of Mr. Nixon that you can tell us?

MR. HUSHEN: I was just saying to Fay, we were able to get some of the details, but I want to be able to talk to some other people before I start commenting on it.

Q When are you going to do this, Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know. Hopefully we will try to get some today, but the President's schedule has really been tight.

Q Let me just state what we know so far. Mr. Nixon gets regular briefings from the White House. Sometimes these briefings are in written form; sometimes they are in person. And they go by military courier flight. Is that right?

MR. HUSHEN: Let me just correct one thing in that. There have been no "in person" briefings. What has gone to Mr. Nixon is generally foreign policy intelligence type material similar to that which has been given to other former Presidents.

Q Did you find that classification, Jack? Did you get that?

MR. HUSHEN: No.

Q Does he get this once a week?

MR. HUSHEN: As I said, I can't get into any more details on this until I have some more information.

Q Jack, can you tell us whether the President is planning to go to the Ann Arbor-Colorado game Saturday?

MR. HUSHEN: This Saturday?

Q Tomorrow, yes. They seem to be expecting him.

MR. HUSHEN: Well, it would be one surprised Deputy Press Secretary.

Q He is seeing Tanaka, isn't he?

MR. HUSHEN: He is seeing the Australian --

Q No, he is seeing the Japanese tomorrow.

MR. HUSHEN: But, I announced the Australian man for the morning and then Tanaka.

Q Just to clear this up, did you say this morning that one of the purposes of this briefing process is that Mr. Ford can seek advice from President Nixon on foreign policy? Did I understand you correctly to say that?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, that could be. I think I will just stick with what I said this morning.

Q Well, I haven't got it clear.

MR. HUSHEN: That would make sense to me, that the reason to keep former Presidents aware of what is transpiring after they leave office would be so that the sitting President could call upon them for consultation purposes primarily in the foreign policy area.

Q Has this been done yet? Has Mr. Ford asked --

MR. HUSHEN: You are getting into areas that I can be of no help.

Q Are you going to try to get this in the next hour?

MR. HUSHEN: There are a lot of things going on around here.

Q We have all had our preliminary stories and there is a certain backing-off here with you now, and before this day is out --

MR. HUSHEN: Backing off of what?

Q You are saying now there have been no individual briefings. The impression this morning was that this had been both ways.

MR. HUSHEN: There were individual briefings for former President Johnson, for instance.

Q You are saying this has not been the case for Nixon?

MR. HUSHEN: Not that I have been able to ascertain.

Q You know some of us already have these stories out and we need some clarification.

Q When we say "courier plane", do we mean that plane goes out there only for this purpose, or is this plane going out there anyway and it is used to send this along?

MR. HUSHEN: It is called a courier plane, but it is my understanding whenever there is material to go, and it generally occurs every week or ten days, it goes. But there are other things. For instance, we still have quite a bit of communications equipment out there and we exchange communication teams.

Q The plane is not sent out there primarily to deliver this material to Mr. Nixon, is it?

MR. HUSHEN: Again, I don't know the answer to that.

Q Do you mean you exchange communication teams? What does that mean?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, we have the White House communications system, Signal Corps, and they stay out there for a period of time, and then they come back here. There is still a lot of communications gear out there.

Q Did Julie Eisenhower call and ask to be taken there and a plane just happened to be ready to go?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

Q What kind of communications?

MR. HUSHEN: The Signal Corps lines between here and San Clemente are still in place.

Q Is that the only kind of communications you are talking about? You are not talking of transition communications or anything like that?

MR. HUSHEN: There is that going on too.

Q You don't mean just people engaged in Signal Corps operations?

MR. HUSHEN: No, but for instance, on the plane Julie was on, there were some White House Communications people taken out there.

Q Was Dr. Tkach on that plane?

MR. HUSHEN: I think the answer is no, but I haven't had a chance to check it.

Q Was he on one today?

MR. HUSHEN: Again, I don't know. Call Mr. Gulléy in the Military Aide's office.

Q Gulleys out jogging.

Q Jack, have any of the former President's files been brought out to him on that plane?

MR. HUSHEN: Not that I am aware of, but I don't know what happened regarding the former President in that regard.

Q Has the President heard anything about the latest report that the former President is going to the hospital on Monday?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know other than what I have said in the past, that he has asked Dr. Lukash to keep him generally informed. I think we will probably stick with that.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 4:14 P.M. EDT)