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N E W S C O N F E R E N C E

#74

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 4:30 P.M. (JAPAN TIME)

NOVEMBER 20, 1974

WEDNESDAY

(Tokyo, Japan)

MR. NESSEN: We are starting the briefing at this time because at 5:00 when we originally planned it, the President is next door at a reception and I am told the sound leaks through, and we don't want to compete with him.

After the President's remarks at the reception next door, Secretary Kissinger will come here to brief on this morning's second meeting with the Prime Minister and also on the final communique which has been put out. That should be about 5:30, and that will be available for film and tape and live, and whatever else you want to do with it.

We have had some requests for one press plane to remain overnight in Tokyo Sunday night and fly back to Washington on Monday. And the problem is that I think there are really only a few people who want to do that, while I think most of the people do want to go back after a decent interval of filing time here.

So what we are going to do is both planes will have to leave Tokyo on Sunday, but when the one press plane which is going to Vladivostok returns here on Sunday, those of you who want to go right on to the States can get on one plane, and those of you who need some filing time can stay here and file and go back on the second plane.

There will be a press room set-up at the airport and that second plane can leave as late as three hours, so three hours of filing time ought to be enough, I think.

I don't want to get into a lot of details of these airplanes, but Ray Zook and Tom DeCair will work out the details with you.

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We have an addition to the schedule which is at 8:30 tomorrow morning after most of you have gone on to Osaka. The President will plant a dogwood tree on the grounds of the Osaka Palace as a living memento of his visit to Japan and as a tribute to the Japanese people.

It will be a symbol of the continued growth in relations between Japan and the United States.

The Director General of the Japanese Prime Minister's Office, Tokusaburo Kosaka, will also assist in the tree planting and 60 or so members of the Akasaka Palace household will watch the tree planting and also give the President a chance to thank the members of the household staff for their service and hospitality.

This event will be covered by the travel pool who will travel with the President to Osaka, and you will get a report on that when you get to Osaka.

We want to tell you that Don Rumsfeld will be going to the People's Republic of China with Dr. Kissinger. Dr. Kissinger requested that Don go along with him, and the President agreed to that.

The President and Dr. Kissinger both thought it would be useful for Don to make a visit to China.

There are two announcements that were made in Washington at the White House today, and I am sure they were covered by your staffs in Washington. But just so you can keep up with what is going on there, the President has accepted the resignation of Walter Annenberg as Ambassador to Great Britain, effective on the date to be determined.

Mr. Annenberg served as Ambassador since March 14, 1969, and there is no successor to announce at this time.

Also put out at the White House was an exchange of correspondence between the President and Dan Kingsley. Mr. Kingsley requested that the President not resubmit his name in nomination as Commissioner of the Federal Power Commission.

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There was a posting which some of you may have missed today saying that there will be an earlier departure for the airport tomorrow morning. You can turn in your bags between 9:00 and 11:00 tonight or between 5:00 and 6:00 in the morning. The press buses for both of the press planes will leave the main entrance of the Okura at 7:30. So, remember our little discussion last week about hooting with the owls and soaring with the eagles.

That is all I have in the way of announcements. Dr. Kissinger will be here about 5:30.

Does anybody have any questions?

Q Besides being useful, what other considerations were involved in Rumsfeld's trip to Peking?

MR. NESSEN: None that I know of.

Q Has the President told you anything about how he feels about the overall success of the trip?

MR. NESSEN: Well, he hasn't told me directly, but in conversations, he is very pleased with the way he has been received and he is very pleased at the way the talks are going and he has been pleased at the various events he has attended.

He was impressed by the Palace, the Imperial Palace, and he was impressed by his meeting with the Emperor and Empress and other members of the Royal household and Imperial Family.

Q Ron, you did not refer just now to his conversations with the Prime Minister nor did the President refer in any way in his speech today to the Prime Minister, who is having some political difficulties. Is that intentional?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of. I think Dr. Kissinger will give you a full report on today's second meeting and on the Joint Communique, but I wouldn't read anything into that.

Q Ron, have you been told that a large and growing number of newsmen feel very strongly about not wanting to fly back Sunday night to Washington a couple of hours after the President's plane, and would like to stay over in Tokyo Sunday night, if this is where we are stopping?

MR. NESSEN: I have been told that some have and I don't get the feeling it is an overwhelming number.

Q I think if you would like to ask at any time you would find it is overwhelming.

MR. NESSEN: It is simply not going to be possible to hold one of the press planes here overnight for a variety of reasons. The plane has to get back. I suppose it is possible to drop off and fly back commercial if you want. But we are not going to be able to hold one of the press planes beyond about three hours.

Q What is the approximate time we are getting back to Tokyo, do you know?

MR. NESSEN: From Vladivostok?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: It is late afternoon or early evening.

Q What time do you expect the President to arrive back in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: The President gets back to Washington in about 14 hours -- it will be Sunday afternoon or evening.

Q Can you tell us anything about what the President is going to be doing tomorrow in Kyoto?

MR. NESSEN: Haven't we put out the schedule for Kyoto? I thought we had.

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: The schedule will be right out after the briefing, so why don't you wait and look at it then?

Q When I asked yesterday which officials were meeting with Dr. Kissinger and the President, we were told we would find out. We never were told. We still have not been told who the other officials are.

MR. NESSEN: I read it in the morning paper this morning.

Q I am sorry, I haven't seen it on a pool report.

MR. NESSEN: We will post it.

Q Do you have the toasts for tonight?

MR. NESSEN: We haven't got the text in advance. There may not be an advance text.

Q Could you please comment on the rationale for the President of the United States to take a day off to go sightseeing? I mean, it isn't very often this happens.

MR. NESSEN: Why is he taking off a day to sight-see? Do you object to it, Walt?

Q No, my question is I don't understand the rationale for it. I can't remember the last time a President took a day off for sightseeing.

MR. NESSEN: The President spoke in his Press Club speech, I think, about his feeling for the history and traditions of Japan. He is going to be in the ancient capital of Japan and, like anyone who is impressed with what he has seen, he wants to have time to see this aspect of Japan.

Q Was it his idea to do this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I don't know who made up the schedule but obviously it is something he wants to do.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 4:45 P.M. Japan Time)