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NEWS CONFERENCE

#103

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:15 A.M. (Martinique Time)

DECEMBER 16, 1974

MONDAY

(Martinique, F.W.I.)

MR. NESSEN: Let me give you a very brief rundown on what President Ford did this morning and the schedule for the remainder of the visit.

The President got up at 7:30. He went down and swam for ten or twelve minutes, beginning at about 8:00. The floral arrangements from the party last night were still floating in the pool. There was no one else in the pool at the time he went down to swim. He had breakfast in his suite, consisting of pineapple, papaya, the ever present English muffin, and tea.

The President then worked on some papers and studied some briefing material. Meanwhile, Dr. Kissinger and the French Foreign Minister had a meeting beginning at 9:30, which lasted until 10:15, after which Dr. Kissinger and I went up to the President's suite to talk about arrangements for the rest of the day.

In response to a question from yesterday, the President telephoned Mrs. Ford after dinner last night.

Now, the final communique is being typed right now. It will be for release at noon, local time. The plan would be to have it distributed here a page at a time if there are no objections to that. It would just get it to you faster than waiting for it to be completed and collated, so the first page should be here very shortly.

The two Presidents began meeting about 15 minutes ago for their final meeting. Secretary Kissinger will be down to brief on the final communique and on the meetings at 11:45, in this room available for filming and taping.

Dr. Kissinger's briefing means that the President's departure will be delayed 20 minutes to 30 minutes and when we were up there talking this morning, the President said, "Don't worry, I have plenty of work to do." So, he will be up in his suite working while Dr. Kissinger briefs down here.

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Those wishing to cover the departure ceremony at the airport, the buses will depart the hotel at 11:30 and will return to the hotel after the departure, so obviously, some of you will have to decide whether you want to go out there and miss Dr. Kissinger's briefing or not.

Mr. Beauchamps will be along in a moment or so to tell you what his President's plans are for his news conference.

Q Can we get transcripts of whatever might be said at the airport before we leave here?

MR. NESSEN: You mean in the way of departure remarks?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that anything said at the airport will be piped back here -- departure remarks.

Q For networks and radio, Ron, is Kissinger's hold for release until the conclusion of the briefing?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Just to make sure everybody heard that, Dr. Kissinger's briefing should not be broadcast on the radio until it is completed.

Q Will you explain the ground rules on the embargo?

MR. NESSEN: The communique is embargoed for noon. Now, what you are asking is can you move it before Dr. Kissinger's briefing. Is that the question?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Clearly, it has a noon embargo, which is not dependent on anything else, so as it comes in here page by page, you can begin to write.

Q What about a wire embargo?

MR. NESSEN: That is a release embargo. The communique is for release at noon.

Q How many pages on the communique?

MR. NESSEN: Double-spaced, letter-sized pages, it is about six, but when it comes out in legal sized pages, I would think it would be three or four.

That is all I have.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 11:20 A.M. Martinique Time)