

AUGUST 9, 1974

POOL REPORT ON THE  
PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE  
CHINESE AMBASSADOR

In a circle of five, you had in order, left to right as you looked, it was first the interpreter, Chi Chao-chu, then the Chinese Ambassador Huang Chen, then President Ford, then Secretary Kissinger and General Scowcroft.

When we came in, I think the President said, with a look in Kissinger's direction, "The Secretary is on a diet." All of these remarks to be translated into English. And the Secretary said, "I have a rule, I don't go to embassies for dinner, but that does not apply to the Liaison Office."

Then a little bit of chit-chat and President Ford said, "I think they are going to run out of film today," with a reference to the cameramen. Then looking back to the Chinese Ambassador, "I had a delightful trip with Congressman Boggs to your country in 1972," and Huang Chen, through the interpreter, said, "I know about that fine trip, and I also know you received a..." and I have welcome, but it may have been a very fine welcome.

The President said, "We traveled to the Manchurian area, and it reminded me of my part of the country; the warmth of the people was extraordinary." Huang Chen then said something about, "There were other cities, too," and then as we left, I heard the President say something like, "Yes, Canton, Peking, and at one point we had some bad weather and had to go back."

One little thing that came up suddenly that was a personal thing, and I just mention. Huang Chen looked up and he used to serve in Indonesia when I lived there and he recognized me, and I have talked to him a couple of times here. He put his hand right across the President there, and I was struck there, caught in the crossfire, and he shook my hand and I sunk to the floor.

Bernard Kalb-CBS News

