

November 17, 1974

POOL REPORT  
ON PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE  
ANDREWS-ELMENDORF

Ron Nessen says that 200 to 300 people were on the South Lawn to see the President off, including wives and children of staff.

The official farewell party of 50 or 60, including diplomats, gathered in a diplomatic reception room for coffee and rolls before President and Mrs. Ford came down.

Ambassador Dobrynin, representatives from the Japanese Embassy (and Nessen thinks from the Korean Embassy) also were present.

The President delivered farewell remarks outdoors in a drizzle. The President had no topcoat or hat. He shook hands with assembled groups and when he reached Dobrynin, the Ambassador gave him a brown fur hat with earflaps tied on top, Russian-style. The President tried it on, laughed.

Mrs. Ford was with him, wearing a plaid, fur-trimmed pant suit.

Mrs. Ford went to Andrews with him on chopper. At Andrews, the President embraced and kissed Mrs. Ford twice at foot of ramp. The President stood for a few moments at top of ramp but there were no waves for photographers. Wheels up 9:50 a.m.

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Nessen on plane: Asked about possibility of an additional stop after Vladivostok. "Absolutely not."

President was reading briefing material and talking with Kissinger and others. Nessen double-checked with President to be certain there has been no previous contact between Ford and Brezhnev, not even socially. Ford had to miss a dinner for Brezhnev at the Russian Embassy.

Kissinger on plane: on BACKGROUND, he repeated his disavowal of Friday press conference about Middle East, said it is not a crisis.

The lunch with Dobrynin Wednesday had been scheduled to discuss Vladivostok at which time the Saturday meeting was also scheduled.

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He said he gave Dobrynin a call on Friday regarding the Middle East.

He said there have been no emergency supplies sent to Israel or Syria and said, "On our side we have not changed our supply pattern since Rabat."

He said there is, "A certain war of nerves," going on because the mandate for U.N. forces in Syria is up at the end of the month.

He said, "I don't think there will be a war in the immediate future. What will happen in six months I am not saying."

At this point Kissinger goes ON THE RECORD to discuss trip. He said a communique will probably be issued after each stop. In Japan, it is not a question of making any firm decisions right now. There are not any basic decisions that need to be made. The Japanese operate on a series of consensus decisions over a long period of time. Relations are now excellent. What we are trying to create is a basis for elaboration of the existing relationship."

He sees it as a combination of symbolism and substance. The symbolism is that this is the first visit of an American President. To the Japanese people, the meeting between the President and Japanese Emperor Hirohito "is what has meaning to the Japanese people," is the most important symbolism. The matters of substance he described as these: They are now two world powers. There is now stability in the Pacific and the world; Japan has a major Middle East interest -- oil; and lastly, the conventional bilateral matters of trade and agriculture, et cetera. Here, Kissinger went on DEEP BACKGROUND: In Japan, the Prime Minister is not the President, he is the Chairman of the Board. He said that is how the textile misunderstanding developed. When Nixon met with Sato, we thought we were dealing with the President, but we were dealing with the Chairman of the Board.

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Japanese leadership at the top is going to remain homogeneous; whatever happens, the others (at the top) are more permanent.

He said this trip is not a visit to Tanaka. Except for a brief photo session of perhaps ten minutes, there will not be a head-to-head meeting.

A. He said it was also that way with Nixon and Tanaka, -- the Foreign Minister and Trade Minister are normally present.

ON FORD AND BREZHNEV: KISSINGER WENT ON THE RECORD again. "The President and Brezhnev between them have the capacity to annihilate humanity. They may be confronting each other on a crisis so it is important they understand each other. They have the opportunity to prevent crisis and to promote peace."

He also made the point that Brezhnev places great stress on personal relationships. We hope to make some progress on SALT, not necessarily something that can be announced. For direct quotes, he said this, "We made pretty good progress in Moscow. We narrowed the differences.

At a later point he said, also for a DIRECT QUOTATION: "I think there is a slightly better than even chance of an agreement in 1975" on signing a pact covering offensive and defensive missiles extending to 1985.

He said that at Vladivostok there could be progress "maybe on numbers, maybe on the approach" regarding SALT. Hopes to continue and ratify advances.

He said the two will also discuss the Middle-east and the European security conference. Asked about the story that the U.S. had called for a special meeting of the standing consultative committee, he denied that an emergency meeting had been called.

Said the meeting had already been scheduled for January to discuss accumulated questions.

FORD-BREZHNEV VISIT -- STYLE DEEP BACKGROUND: Differences in style between Ford and Nixon: Ford is more direct..... In terms of personality, Ford and Brezhnev are better matched than Nixon and Brezhnev. Brezhnev is a more gregarious type. But that is not decisive. He is more interested (than Nixon) in the tactical side. *Ford*

Kissinger goes into more detail with Ford than he did with Nixon. On some weapon details, Kissinger said Ford, who had served on the House Committee on Defense Appropriations, knows more than Kissinger.

STILL ON DEEP BACKGROUND: Kissinger said he believed chances of getting strategic arms agreement are better now that we have "domestic problems behind us."

Last summer the Russians couldn't tell what would happen if they got an agreement. Now they see President Ford as a six-year phenomenon, not a lame duck. He was not predicting Ford's election, but said that looking at it historically, only one President in this century was defeated for re-election. "So, if you are a Soviet planner, you have to look at Ford as if he will be here for six years.

ON THE RECORD: Kissinger said, "I have spent many hours with President Ford. He is well-prepared. Ford is steady and totally unflappable."

##### Bonnie Angelo - Time  
Tom Brokaw - NBC  
Ted Knap - Scripps-Howard