

NOVEMBER 19, 1974

POOL REPORT
Luncheon Given by Prime Minister Tanaka for President Ford

The luncheon was held at the Prime Minister's yellow-brick official residence. A string ensemble located at one end of the banquet hall played both Japanese and American music. According to Japanese protocol officials, Mr. Ford had requested that "The Victors" and "Mr. Touchdown" be played, and "Mr. Touchdown" was played shortly after Mr. Ford entered the banquet hall.

There were a total of 105 guests at the luncheon, including Japanese Cabinet level officials and former prime ministers Sato and Kishi.

A lobster bisque, veal, and pineapple sherbert were served along with German and French wines and champagne.

Mr. Ford and Mr. Tanaka spoke with each other through an interpreter during the luncheon. At one point, Mr. Tanaka took out a small fan and flicked it vigorously.

Mr. Tanaka's toast followed the text which has already been released.

Mr. Ford departed slightly from the text which was released earlier by the White House. He said that he had talked with Mrs. Ford by telephone this morning and that she "deeply regrets" that she is not with him on the trip to Japan.

"She had long looked forward to going to Japan and meeting the Japanese people," Mr. Ford said.

"But she is here in spirit if not in person, and she will come on some other occasion," he said.

At another point in the toast, Mr. Ford departed from the text to say that "some of our finest citizens" are of Japanese ancestry and that Americans are proud of the contributions which they have made to the United States."

Dan Southerland - The Christian Science
Monitor