

Wheels up officially at 9:14 local time. Were told 1st known U.S. flight over Amchitka to Alaska.

Nessen came back quickly to tell us summit produced "one of the most significant agreements since World War II." He said: "Richard Nixon ~~xxx~~ could not achieve this in 5 years, President Ford achieved it in three months." Nessen said, "Kissinger indicated Ford and Brezhnev were much more simpatico than Nixon and Brezhnev."

Nessen said Ford will brief the bipartisan leadership Tuesday, disclosing to them the actual secret numbers involved, and subsequently will go beyond the leadership in briefing Congress members. He said the numbers would be made public "within a week," indicating later rather than sooner. Asked if Ford might make the disclosure in a TV address, an American official (who asked that his name not be used or he would not talk to us) said, "If I were writing the story, that would be a good guess."

Our "American official" informant said, "As of yesterday they didn't believe they would make real progress. Today, in fact, they did make real progress because of the chemistry between the two men. Neither side in anticipation of this meeting expected anything more than a ceremonial get-together. That's all we expected... They got acquainted yesterday and they got down to business today... They hit it off famously. Brezhnev was always bear-hugging the President. There was a personal rapport. They are two tough guys who are fundamentally politicians. They talked real tough, but in the end they drank their vodka and really meant it... Brezhnev is a hell of a politician... They did hit it off well. Brezhnev went out of his way to demonstrate this visually to his people."

The official said, "They were not stiff together. During the dinner there was bantering back and forth."

Nessen said, "There was a lot of joking. They have a similar sense of humor and that's why they got along better than Nixon and Brezhnev got along."

American Official said that on dinner menu was bear and venison. During bear course, one of 10, Ford said, "I thought I got all the Russian bear I could take yesterday." Brezhnev was said to have laughed. He said, "There were not many vodka toasts. There were two chug-a-lugs."

American Official said Ford asked Brezhnev many questions about hunting rules and practices in Soviet far east. Said informant, "The President likes caviar. He grabbed up the caviar. He ate his share."

Official said of Ford, "He's in a very good mood, very happy. He really felt the trip very worthwhile, not only the Russian part but the whole thing. But the Russian part was the real nuts and bolts of the whole trip."

Nessen said the President feels the Congressional reaction will be favorable. Asked if Kissinger had talked to Jackson about this, he said, "Not to my knowledge."

"We now have a SALT agreement," Nessen said.

DEEP BACKGROUND: Ford is waiting for a written Soviet statement setting forth the terms of what is now a verbal agreement before making a public announcement. They did agree they would have numbers written on paper within a week.

Nessen said budget cuts will be announced proposed Tuesday, and Monday the President will have a free schedule and hasn't even set up staff appointments.

O'Rourke, Hansen, Schieffer, Thomas, Cormier

One touched down at 7:21 a.m. Anchorage time. Your pool as told me would be allowed off the aircraft because "we had not been cleared through customs." During the argument that ensued, Terry O'Donnell showed up at the rear of the aircraft and said the object was to limit the number of people on the ground. He said Thomas and Cormier could leave but no one else. Hearing this a crew member hurried forward to check with someone unknown and returned with instructions to keep everyone on the plane. The pool asked four times during this period that Nessen be contacted to aid us. ~~XXXXXX~~ However, Nessen was not seen until four hours later. He said he had been asleep. The pool had prepared to drop a report off for you at Anchorage but we were unable to do so because of the restriction. About a ~~hour~~ half hour after touchdown at Anchorage, the pool noticed a knot of people moving toward the aircraft. The knot appeared to pause ~~near~~ near what appeared to be a press³ bull pen. We subsequently learned that this was President Ford who had gone into a nearby building ~~to~~ to have coffee with a General Hild and a Jack Kim and family. Kim reportedly made the wolf skin parka that Ford gave Brezhnev. It was said he will likely send Ford a replacement. The general and the Kims toured the aircraft just before departure. This was the first time in memory that poolers had been kept on the aircraft during a stop.

Nessen received a ~~the~~ teletype message in flight from Kissinger reporting the following sentence was "inadvertently omitted by a secretary in typing" the communique: On page three, end of fourth graph, should read: xxxon the basis of the united nations resolution 338, taking into account the legitimate interests of all the peoples of the area, and respect for the right to independent existence of all states in the area."

It was pointed out to Nessen that a similar phrase was dropped "inadvertently" from the 1974 Nixon-Brezhnev communique. We did not see Ford except out the window during any part of the trip from Vladivostok. Regarding the communique, Nessen said the quotes "peoples of the areas" refers to the Palastinians and the phrase "right to independent existence of all states" refers to "Israel".

Nessen announced there would be an arrival ceremony open to ~~full~~ coverage and that it would be open to full coverage.

--schieffer, o'rourke, hansen, cormier, thomas.

Pool ~~REPORT~~ Report Number Two Anchorage to Andrews

Shortly before landing Nessen cameback to give another correction to the communique.

The relevant portion now should read "taking into account the legitimate interests of all the peoples of the area, including the Palestinian people, and respect etc."

Total hours flight time: 33 hours, 45 minutes

Total statute miles covered: 16,555

Hansen, Schieffer, O'Rourke, Cormier, Thomas