

DECEMBER 14, 1974

PCCL REPORT

DINNER TRAVEL POOL

Ford in tuxedo made the trip to the dinner party aboard a French Navy launch, 35-foot, able to travel 25 knots, brought here aboard French aircraft carrier Foch for the official visit.

They made the 15-minute trip from the hotel dock across the bay of Ford de France on a calm, cool evening with two escort boats also from the Foch, passing back the anchored carrier on the trip.

Ford and the party were standing on the rear deck when it came ashore at Ford de France where French officials and Navy officers welcomed him. The U.S. presidential limousine flying U.S. and presidential flags waited at the dock with open secret service limousine behind it and five Peugeots made a 10-minute uphill drive to the imposing residence of the Prefect. Security tight, with military and police lining streets -- in some areas, a yard apart, and other scattered. Small groups of people stood and watched the motorcade. At one large traffic circle they applauded as the President passed.

The Prefect's house is in imposing setting of tropical trees and shrubs with a long driveway. It is a two-story white French colonial style with black and white marble tiled terraces and an 18-foot kidney shaped swimming pool.

The garden and terrace where a reception was held before the dinner overlooks the city of Ford de France and the harbor below -- a magnificent sweeping view.

The garden had hibiscus, bougenvilla, frangeipanni, and anthurium, which is a native impressive tropical plant which is native here and exported. New strains are usually named for visiting presidents.

There were 38 guests invited to the dinner, including three women -- Madame Giscard, the wife of the Prefect, Mrs. Christian Orsetti; and the wife of the U.S. Consul, Mrs. Robert Shackleton.

The guests were seated at a U-shaped table in the terrace dining room with the table decorated with anthurium and red candles and red pineapple holders. Mrs. Giscard wore a sleeveless, pink chiffon Dior gown.

The two presidents sat side by side at the head of the table.

On Ford's right was Madame Giscard. On Giscard's left was Kissinger and next to Kissinger, the French Foreign Minister. Next to Mrs. Giscard was U.S. Treasury Secretary, Mr. William Simon.

The dinner was served by girls in madras costumes with bow headdresses and satin madras skirts over many white eyelet petticoats.

At the terrace reception before dinner, Giscard turned to Washington Post photographer, Frank Johnston and introduced himself and said, "Could you tell me where David Kennerly is?" Johnston pointed to White House photographer Kennerly, who was taking a picture of Giscard at that moment.

Giscard smiled and said, "Your'e a good friend of David Burnett." Burnett is a photographer for the photo agency named Gamma. Giscard told Kennerly, "He (Burnett) covered my election. "

U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, a drink in his right hand, was amusing the French President, the French Foreign Minister and Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, at the terrace reception. A waitress in costume approached, saw the group was busy and turned away holding a plate of canapes. Kissinger, in mid-joke, leaned across Giscard and with his left hand plucked a canape from the plate.

Fran Lewine - AP
Richard Growald - UPI
Pointeau - Agence France Presse