

December 15, 1974

POOL REPORT
ON AFTERNOON MEETING

The pool was taken in the same octagonal-shaped room at 4:35 p.m. Nessen had already explained that the meeting would be about a half hour late getting started. The four principals, plus General Scowcroft, were seated as follows: From left to right, Scowcroft, Kissinger, Ford, Giscard d'Estaing and the French Foreign Minister.

The translator sat behind the French President but the conversation that we heard was all in English, as in the previous meetings. They were casually dressed, all in shirt sleeves. Ford was wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt, the French President in a gray, long-sleeved shirt, Kissinger in a white shirt. They faced a picture window overlooking Fort-de-France Bay.

On the table in front of them were glasses for juice and what appeared to be an artificial floral arrangement.

As we came in, President Ford was talking about the luncheon trip to the plantation. We heard Giscard say something inaudible. A reporter asked Giscard, "How did you like plantation life?" And he responded, "It was just one day."

Then President Ford said, "I will tell you, Mrs. Ford would have liked it."

There were some further exchanges about the plantation, some of them inaudible, but we heard Ford said, "It was very beautiful. Coming back, we went along the coast. The city was very impressive." This referred to the helicopter flight back from the plantation, over Fort-de-France.

Secretary Kissinger and the President leaned together and chatted briefly. Kissinger, when questioned about briefing reporters after this session nodded and then said he would work it out with Nessen.

James Deakin, St. Louis
Post Dispatch
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