

May 31, 1975

## POOL REPORT #8

The President Speaking to Americans  
at Moncloa Palace and  
Dinner at Royal (Palacio de Oriente) Palace

Flanked on three sides by about 200 American mission (embassy and military) personnel and dependents, including children, President Ford -- in black tie -- spoke from West (not Front) Steps of Moncloa Palace. Sun was at a low angle, making it difficult for President to look directly ahead. Among those in crowd was 36 year old Navy Chief Yeoman Martin Bergin, wearing a western hat which he calls a 2 1/2 gallon stetson. Bergin, holding his five year old daughter, Bethy, said the word was passed to the American official community last night inviting them. Bergin is from Oklahoma City and originally from West Texas. When a pooler asked Bethy if she knew who the President was, she began to cry.

The rest of the crowd was in a gayer mood. Several embassy officials claimed to recall that when President Nixon was in Madrid he did not talk to such a large gathering of Americans, but that he did make remarks at the Embassy. Ford was introduced by Ambassador Stabler. President thanked employees for their work "from the bottom of his heart." At one point, he let out a big sneeze, laughed, and blamed it on the sun. The President said he was glad to come to Madrid to reassert the "essentiality" of relations between Spain and U.S.. He said staffers here have helped make the relationship effective since 1953 (start of Defense cooperation accord).

At Stabler's suggestion, Ford then worked the crowd, concentrating on children. President then left in medium speed motorcade with motorcycle escort on nine minute drive to Royal Palace arriving 9:00 p.m. There was a crowd of moderate size and moderately enthusiasm along the route. When poolers arrived inside Palace, Generalissimo Franco in dress uniform was accompanying Mrs. Ford in salmon colored gown with glittering spangles and spangled rolled collar, and President Ford was accompanying Mrs. Franco in a light green gown with pearl necklace, through reception rooms into State Dining Room. At a single long table, about 140 people were gathered under fifteen chandeliers. Table settings included floral displays of white, pink, yellow and red roses and other flowers and candelabras of silver with cherubic figures holding the candles. On one side of table, President Ford had Mrs. Arias to his left, Mrs. Franco to his right and President Arias to her right. On other side, Mrs. Ford had Gen. Franco to her left, Prince Juan Carlos to her right. Prince Carlos was in dress uniform. The pool was ushered out at start of dinner and returned for toasts which were piped into press room and will not be repeated here. Franco and the President spoke from gold plated microphones.

Pool then ushered out again, Jack Hushen gave up his dinner menu so that you may be apprised of the following: Crema de Esparragos, Lenguado a la Americana, Silla de ternera de Avila, Verduras de Aranjuez, Helado de frambuesa, Dulces. The vinos were: Jerez Fino Camborio, Blanco Yago Santiago Rva, Marques del Riscal Rva. 1962, Champan Perelada especial, Presidente Ford. (this was bottled especially for President Ford), Carlos I Domecq, Gran Reserva Eerry, 1883. The concert included pieces by Sousa, Mozart, Chapi, Strauss, Lecuona, Gimenez, Borodin and R. Vidal.

John Cochran, NBC