

December 1, 1979

POOL REPORT NO. 2 FROM AIRPORT TO GUEST HOUSE NO. 18

For first few miles of long drive in on Airport Road, there were only scattered bystanders along the road. Blue-uniformed militia were at intervals of about 100 yards along the curbs. Coming into the outskirts, the number of onlookers grew in apparent proportion to the villages and factories along the route. The militiamen kept most of them back about 50 yards from roadside. As the motorcade came toward the center of the city along the Street of Eternal Peace, there were what could be called crowds at several corners, occasionally as many as several hundred persons, two or three deep at intersections. To your pooler these seemed no more than the normal passersby who had been halted for some time by the traffic police spotted at close intervals along the curbs and at mid-avenue. Many were on bikes. At one or two spots there were gatherings of young people as if a school or two had been turned out to watch. As the motorcade passed through Tien An Min Square, before the Great Hall, several hundred blue-coated people were along the right (north) side. Your poolers were way back in the motorcade, thus if there were any waving or smiling at the President it could not have been seen. The mood of the people as we passed them was of restrained curiosity. Not a wave, not a smile.

The President arrived at Guest House No. 18, set in a compound of gardens overlooking a reflecting pond, at 4:15 p. m.

FURGUERSON

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