

Pool report Number 5—part two: Corregidor to Manila to Honolulu

The head to head meetings on the boat lasted a total of one hour and

five minutes. For the first half hour, President Ford and President Marcos were alone. For the last 35 minutes they were joined by (US side) Kissinger, Scowcroft, and Ambassador Sullivan and (Phillipine side) Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo, Defense Minister, Juan Ponce Enrile, and Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Manuel Collantes. The Presidential yacht tied up at Corregidor at ~~10:35~~ 10:35 a.m. (Pool number 6 covered the Corregidor events). The meetings were held in a salon, off the upper deck where the breakfast took place. The Presidents sat in two large armchairs, in front of a speckled mirror. There were two divans on each side, all covered with what appeared like white naugahide. The salon, brown walled, had an extensive hi-fi system, a television set, a coffee table, with Phillipine and US flags on it. There was a brightly decorated Christmas tree.

The trip back was probably the most fun party a President of the United States has attended for a long time. President and Mrs. Ford, both obviously tired from the trip, had what appeared as a marvelous time. If I describe the party in too much ~~and~~ detail, you will forgive me, but it was a completely relaxed two and a half hours, and if any business was ~~transacted~~, it was in that atmosphere.

~~President and Mrs. Ford~~ Mrs. Marcos and Mrs. Ford returned *to the boat* first. Mrs. Marcos had changed dresses into a dark green, below the ~~waist~~ knee job, with a magnificent string of pearls and a jeweled American flag ~~was~~ pinned on. She stayed on deck in that dress for about ten minutes, ~~then~~ then decided it was the wrong attire and went down and changed again into dress number three, a multicolored, long jersey dress. Henry Kissinger arrived next: "Any man who has seen the Alaska ~~and~~ pipeline and Corregidor on one trip cannot die unfulfilled," he quipped. He noted that he had already lost one button on his barong. "Now I'm working on the ~~second~~ second." What did you do in ~~the~~ the tunnel, he was asked? "What can one do in a tunnel? What are one's options." Mrs. Marcos came up and explained that just past Corregidor was the China Sea. ~~We~~ "We're between two superpowers. China across that sea and the United States across the Pacific." Kissinger said to her: "Now you'll play us off against each other." "You're giving us ideas," Mrs. Marcos retorted. Kissinger kind of plaintively-complained about Mrs. Marcos putting him down. "Mr. Secretary, how could anybody put you down," Mrs. Marcos asked? "It's difficult," the Secretary answered. "But you're ~~giving~~ giving it a good try." We got to talking about the US Senate and a reporter asked Henry: "Have you ever thought of running for Senator?" "No," Kissinger replied, "but I've threatened a few Senators that I might. I still have hopes for that Constitutional amendment. There is nothing wrong with a foreign born running for Vice President." While all this was going on there was a ~~small~~ relaxed conversation going on at a table between ~~the~~ President Ford, ~~and~~ Kissinger, Scowcroft, Joe Sisco, and Ambassador Max Sullivan. President Marcos had gone below for a few minutes. Lunch (duck, lobster, crab, beef ham and piles of fruit) was served: President Ford was at a table with Mrs. Ford, ~~and~~ Marcos, Mrs. Marcos and Kissinger. The ~~party~~ party then got under way in earnest. The band struck up some good old ~~50s and~~ 50s and 60s songs, with Carmen Patena ~~and~~ singing "People Will Say We're in Love", "Bill Bailey Won't You Please Come Home", "Hello Dolly", and "Chicago"—just to name a few, and the dancing began. President Ford danced with Mrs. Marcos,

Marcos with Mrs. Ford, Romulo, started ~~handing~~ jokingly to dance with Kissinger, Ron Nessen danced with Mrs. Ford, Henry with Mrs. Marcos. Everybody was doing a sort of a poor imitation of the jitterbugging of the 1950s. Joe Sisco and Phil Habib also took turns dancing with Mrs. Marcos. Then the Baranggay Folk Dance Group came on for about an hour of first class entertainment. This was topped off by the traditional Tinkling Dance, that's the one where ~~the~~ two fellows keep bringing these big bamboo sticks together trying to trap the dancers feet between them. After showing the crowd how it was done, the dancers invited President Ford, Mrs. Ford, and Secretary Kissinger to give it a try. It was hilarious good fun. As the only Tinkling critic aboard I must make a judgment on the relative merits of the dancers. The clear winner was President Ford. President Johnson ~~was~~ was obviously wrong about ~~the~~ the caliber of President Ford's footwork and coordination. Mrs. Ford came in second, despite her past dancing experience. I think on any other day but the last day of a long trip, she probably would have won. The booby prize goes to Secretary Kissinger whose Tinkling footwork is not in a league with his diplomatic footwork. The performance came to an end with a dazzling exhibition of Angklungs, a kind of a bamboo instrument that is beyond ~~your~~ your pooler's ability to describe. ~~However,~~ However, the rendition of the lead theme of the "Sound of Music" is an event never to be forgotten. As the ~~boat~~ boat docked, just before 2 p.m., Ambassador Sullivan and Carmen Patena were singing ~~a~~ a ~~duo~~ duo of "Some Enchanted Evening." It was a marvelous party and from the look on President and Mrs. Ford's faces, ~~I~~ I doubt if they have had a better time in a foreign country since he became President.

The motorcade to the airport was uneventful. There were still substantial crowds along the way, but nothing like Saturday. Air Force One was off the runway at Manila International Airport at 3 p.m., Manila time, 9 p.m. (December 6) Honolulu time.

Time Salvo

P.S. Somewhere, somehow, God only knows, MR. MARCOS CHANGED INTO A FOURTH (LONG WHITE) ORLESS ~~ON THE~~ ~~AT~~ ~~THE~~ ~~BOAT~~ JUST BEFORE CLIPPING OFF THE BOAT—