

For immediate release
Thursday, May 8, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will entertain at a White House State Dinner tonight, Thursday, May 8, 1975 at 8:00 p.m. His Excellency the Prime Minister of Singapore and his wife Mrs. Lee.

The President and Mrs. Ford will welcome their Guests of Honor at the North Portico and will escort them to the Yellow Oval Room. Preceded by the Color Guard, the President and Mrs. Ford will escort their honored guests down the Grand Stairway and proceed to the East Room where they will receive their guests. The United States Marine Corps Orchestra will provide background music in the lobby as the guests are being received.

Dinner will be served in the State Dining Room, with all guests seated at round tables. The table cloths will be in Scalamandre fabrics of taffeta and antique satin in pink tones. The Johnson china, the Gorham silver and the Kennedy crystal will be used.

On each table will be a pewter reproduction of the Annapolis Subscription Plate Bowl. It is a copy of the earliest surviving piece of silver made in Maryland, which commemorated the first recorded formal horse race in the state. The bowl is 4 1/2" high, 7 1/2" in diameter and 22.35 ounces in weight. The original is owned by the Baltimore Museum of Art, where it is on display. These reproduction, done by the Steiff Company of Baltimore, Maryland, are on loan to the White House from the Steiff Company.

Each Annapolis Subscription Plate Bowl will be filled with an assortment of summer garden flowers, including lavender and white sweet peas, white butterfly roses, sonia roses, dark blue and light blue delphinium, blue cornflowers, orange and yellow mid-century lilies, peonies, sterling silver roses and cut Boston and springari ferns.

Tonight's menu includes:

- Gazpacho
- Filet of Beef
- Bouquet of Vegetables
- Bibb Lettuce Salad with Watercress
- Bell Paese Cheese
- Vanilla Ice Cream with Strawberries Flambe
- Demitasse

Wines include:

- Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon, 1971
- Mirassou Brut, 1970

Following dinner Edward Villella and Violette Verdy will entertain the guests in the East Room. Dancing in the Grand Foyer to the Marine Combo will follow the performance.

* * * *

