

For immediate release  
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 1975

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

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The President and Mrs. Ford will host a white tie dinner honoring the Emperor and Empress of Japan Thursday, Oct. 2 at 8 p. m. Pianist Van Cliburn will entertain in the East Room following the dinner.

This is the first time there has been a State visit in the US by a reigning Japanese emperor.

The accent in the State Dining Room will be in deep crimson red and sterling silver. The tables will be set in a formal E-shaped arrangement and draped in white linen.

A collection of 12 handcrafted American silver art pieces will be the focal point of the table, with other silver highlights provided by two dozen candlesticks and candelabras. The candleholders, all 24" high, will be filled with long white tapers providing candlelight at eye-level as guests enter the room.

The sterling art collection and candleholders will be entwined by a full garland of crimson blossoms down the center of the white tablecloth. The garland will festoon the candelabras as well, and flowers in crimson hues will also highlight the silver collection pieces. The wall sconces in the State Dining Room will also be decorated with the garland effect. The Johnson china and Morgantown crystal will be used.

The decorative silver pieces are part of a collection handcrafted by Samuel Kirk & Son of Baltimore, America's oldest silversmith. The collection includes Federal, Empire and Victorian designs from 1815. One of the most important pieces -- to be displayed at the center of the E between the President and the Emperor -- is one of two goblets commissioned from Kirk in 1824 by the Marquis de LaFayette. Other pieces range from a wine ewer to a milk jug.

The Cross Hall will hold tubs of fresh crimson chrysanthemums arranged in a clipped hedged effect. Accents will be provided by round top ficus trees and white chrysanthemums. The stage in the East Room will be surrounded by a garden setting of ficus trees and a chrysanthemum hedge.

The menu: Lobster en Bellevue; Medallions of Veal with wild rice and green beans Nicoise; Endive and watercress salad with Port-Salut cheese; Fresh strawberry Mousse and Petits Fours; Demitasse.

Howard Devron and his Orchestra will entertain in the Grand Hall following Van Cliburn's performance.

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