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Mrs. Ford: First Lady Betty Ford will remain in Washington when President Ford travels to Japan next month, the White House announced. Rudd said she will stay in Washington because of her recuperation from cancer surgery.

Nov 1

Mrs. Ford Seen Unlikely To Join in Asia Trip

United Press International

Betty Ford's doctor says it is "highly unlikely" she will be able to accompany the President on his trip to East Asia in three weeks.

Mrs. Ford is anxious to make the trip, and no final decision has been made. If she does not go, her daughter Susan, 17, may go instead.

Mrs. Ford is recovering from breast cancer surgery last month, and Rear Adm. William Lukash, the White House doctor, said that he doubted Mrs. Ford would be well enough to make the trip to Japan, South Korea and Vladivostok in the Soviet Union.

But Lukash said she is progressing well.

Campaigning in his home town of Grand Rapids, Mich., yesterday, Ford told a crowd that his wife is "doing great, just coming along fine."

He quipped that she has had "a few harsh words" for him, a sure sign that "she's getting better and better."

UP-656

(NAMES IN THE NEWS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- BETTY FORD MADE IT OFFICIAL YESTERDAY -- SHE WILL NOT ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO JAPAN LATE NEXT WEEK.

THE WHITE HOUSE SAID PREVIOUSLY THAT MRS. FORD, WHO IS STILL CONVALESCING FROM BREAST CANCER SURGERY, PROBABLY WOULD NOT MAKE THE ASIAN TOUR, BUT NO DEFINITE DECISION HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED.

"SOMEBODY HAS TO MIND THE STORE," SHE TOLD REPORTERS WITH A SMILE YESTERDAY DURING A NEWS BRIEFING IN WHICH SHE INTRODUCED HER NEW PRESS SECRETARY, SHEILA RABR WEIDENFELD.

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10/31/74



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FIRST LADY

SUBJECT: Announcement of Your and Susan's
Japan Trip Intentions

I had word of your and Susan's decision about the Japan trip and immediately thereafter participated in a meeting with Warren Rustand and others discussing the general Japan advance preparations.

The only remaining question concerning you is the timing of the announcement that you and Susan will not be going.

The Japanese have to make a Cabinet Announcement about the whole trip on Friday and should know today (for the Cabinet) about your plans.

Options:

1. Notify the Japanese in confidence at the end of today that you and Susan will not be coming.
2. Tell the Japanese that the plans are still as originally announced, but then cancel your plans later.

Warren and I and the others at the meeting did not favor Option 2 and our recommendation is Option 1.

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ See Me _____

We further recommend that you authorize Mr. Nessen to make this announcement on our side here at the White House at his noon briefing tomorrow.

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ See Me _____

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The First Lady
October 29, 1974

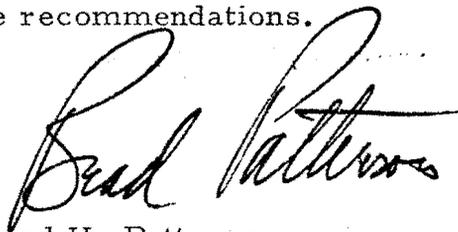
The only other background I should add here is that we estimate that Mrs. Kissinger will follow your and Susan's declination with one of her own, and that the Japanese will then largely follow suit, making the visit into, in effect a stag affair on both sides.

In order to help Ron handle questions which may come up following his announcement, I have drafted the kind of oral announcement he might make.

We solicit your concurrence in it.

Approved _____ Revised/Disapproved _____ See Me _____

Sheila Weidenfeld concurs in these recommendations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brad Patterson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brad H. Patterson

cc: Nancy Howe
Sheila Weidenfeld
Nancy Lammerding
Susan Porter
Dick Cheney

DRAFT

(Oral Statement by Mr. Nessen)

With respect to the forthcoming Japan trip, we have one change to announce: that the President will be going personally without Mrs. Ford or any of the Ford children.

The Japan trip has of course been lengthened: it now includes not only Tokyo and Kyoto and Seoul, but also Vladivostok. The pace of the schedule is also very full, with a series of luncheons and dinners just about every day, as well as the working sessions which the President will hold. Since Mrs. Ford's recuperation is her and our first priority, it is the doctors' judgment that the heavy schedule of the now-lengthened trip would not be consistent with that recuperation and so with regret she is going to decline the invitation to be with the President.

Susan has exams at her school and the other Ford children are also committed, so the President will personally represent his family as well as the nation.

file

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

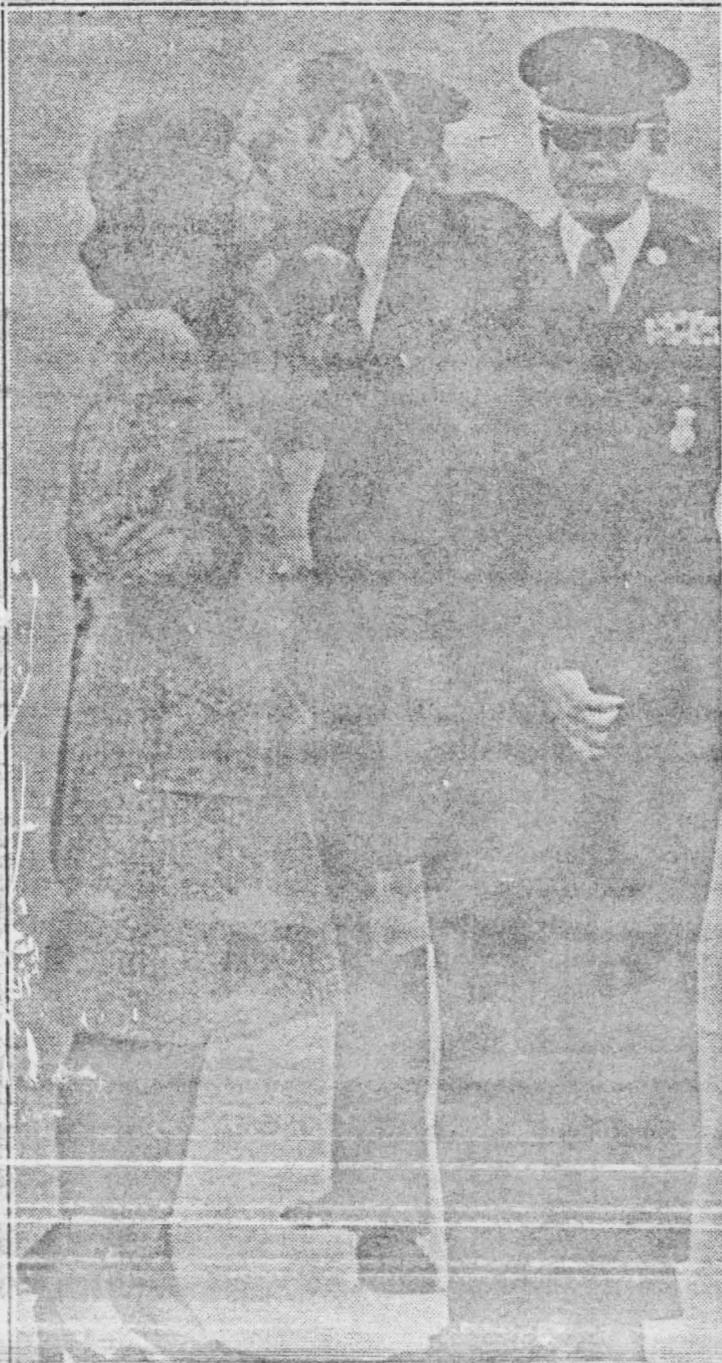
fyi...

call from a woman who wanted to protest Mrs. Howe's remarks in Macine's piece re kimona. Says that would be like saying any Oriental visitor who came here wld be required to wear a cowboy hats and boots, and she thoroughly resents the insensitivity and tastelessness of her remarks, and says it is poor example diplomatically for someone connected with the First Family to be setting.



FORD BEGINS FAR EAST TRIP

Japanese Leftists Protest



First Trip by a Pres

Waving flags, placards and angry fists, left the visit of President Ford outside the U.S. President left yesterday morning (←) to

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7

MR. NESSEN: I did not ask him that. Did we post some answers back there?

Q No.

Q Is the campaign reform bill in the House yet? It was not this noon. Has it come in?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check. I have been away myself this afternoon. I will find out.

Q Is there any chance he will sign it over the weekend?

MR. NESSEN: The campaign reform bill?

Q Over the weekend.

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure. I think it might be possible.

Q Would you tell us now what you are going to post?

MR. NESSEN: I have to see how many answers they have dug up so far. They had some answers. I thought they posted them already. The other one, does he endorse Mrs. Petty, and the other was --

Q Campaign reforms?

MR. NESSEN: When is he going to sign campaign reform.

Q And any gift from Rockefeller.

MR. NESSEN: Did he get any gift from Rockefeller?

Q When he is going to veto?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to be able to get you that answer today because he is not going to make that decision today.

Q I would like to ask one thing more about Betty. What kind of schedule is she going to be following now? Do you have any guidance on that?

MR. NESSEN: No, I do not have any guidance on that.

Q Is she going to be spending a lot of time in bed?

MR. NESSEN: We will have to check with the doctor and see what he has gotten up for her. I don't know.

Q Do you have any idea when she will resume traveling with the President again; in other words, might she take the Japanese trip or is that too soon?

MR. NESSEN: Didn't we announce she was going on the Japanese trip?

Q Before she had the operation.

Q The guidance was she probably would not go --

MR. NESSEN: Where did you get that guidance from?

Q I got it from the wires. I don't know where anybody else got it.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is there is no change in her plan to go on the Japanese trip.

Q The East Wing says there is no official schedule until --

Q Ron, on this continuing resolution --

MR. NESSEN: The campaign reform bill has not gotten here yet.

Q On the continuing resolution, the question is when it will be vetoed, not whether it will be vetoed. Is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

The campaign bill has not arrived here yet, and as far as I know, she is still scheduled to go to Japan.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 4:28 P.M. EDT)