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NEWS CONFERENCE #76

AT THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 5:10 P.M. SOUTH KOREA TIME

NOVEMBER 22, 1974

FRIDAY

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

MR. NESSEN: This is really just a few little details. The plan at the moment is this: you have the text of the toast embargoed. The meetings are still going on, and when they are over, we will have Philip Habib to do the briefing on today's meeting. Phil is the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. He was formerly the Ambassador here in Korea.

And we hope that that will be soon.

The other item you are missing is the joint communique which will be for release at 8:00 or 8:30 tomorrow morning. We hope to have it for you before Phil's briefing. If not, we will have it for you later tonight.

Now, about Vladivostok. Those of you who are going to Vladivostok, you should take one flight bag, no other piece of luggage. Is Walt Rodgers here? This is his flight bag briefing that he has been asking for all week and he is not even here to hear it.

It is a mechanical problem of transporting things from the airplane. When you pack tonight --

Q Typewriters are okay?

MR. NESSEN: Let me get on and explain the details.

When you pack tonight, you will not see your suitcases again until you get back to Andrews, if then. So take only a flight bag for those of you who are going to Russia. You may take your typewriters, cameras, tape-recorders, whatever it is you need for our profession.

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Q Briefcase?

MR. NESSEN: Briefcase, yes.

The TWA plane will fly those of you going to Vladivostok in, and the Pan Am plane will fly you out. When the Pan Am plane comes out, it will take you either to Haneda Airport in Tokyo or Yakota Air Base in Japan. We are not sure which.

Those of you who need a fair amount of filing time in Japan after you get back there should get off the Pan Am plane, do your filing, and then get aboard the TWA plane to go back to Andrews. That is the one that will stay behind to take you back to Andrews late.

Q Is there going to be clean-up filing time to Vladivostok?

MR. NESSEN: That I don't know yet, Frank.

We haven't really gotten the final schedule nailed down there yet.

Q How long will the TWA plane remain behind?

MR. NESSEN: Just a second.

Now, the flight from Vladivostok to Japan takes about two hours time, so you have two hours of writing time on the plane. When you get to Haneda or Yakota whichever it is going to be, you will have plenty of long distance lines there; we hope telex lines. In other words, a whole press facility is being set up at whichever airport you land from Vladivostok.

We would hope to keep the filing there to an hour. Obviously if you can't make it in an hour, we will stay a little longer than an hour. This is the second plane, the late plane back to Andrews.

As I said, the Pan Am plane--the one that comes from Vladivostok--goes to Japan, lands, lets off the people who need filing time, but it will refuel and take off immediately for Andrews -- probably no more than 30 minutes on the ground.

Some of you who have been flying on TWA all along but want to get back faster and don't have any filing to do, you can switch over to the Pan Am plane.

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If you are not going to Vladivostok, if you are staying in Japan, you will see your luggage Saturday night in Tokyo.

Now, rather than my getting into a lot of details about baggage, telex, and so forth, I would like you to talk to Ray Zook or Bob Manning -- they have all the details on this -- rather than take the time here.

I can see that is not going to work. Carroll.

Q Ron, what is the proper dateline? It is not Vladivostok because obviously we are not going to be there.

MR. NESSEN: I have a whole sheet here that I will read if you will wait a second.

Q When you say flight bag, do you mean an overnight flight bag, or what?

MR. NESSEN: I think a small handbag would be all right.

Q Do you anticipate a communique in Vladivostok tomorrow afternoon or at the end of the meeting Sunday, or when?

MR. NESSEN: The communique in Vladivostok,-- was that the question or statement?

Q Is that Sunday, or when?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know yet. I haven't focused enough on the schedule in Vladivostok to know. Let me tell you something about Vladivostok in case you want to write something about what is coming. We got an advance cable from the people in Vladivostok and it said those of you going there will need boots, flannel underwear, and a hip flask. And that is true.

The weather today was very bright sunny skies. There are 8 to 10 inches of snow on the ground, but there is no further snow expected in the next few days.

The meetings will take place at a place called --

Q What is the temperature?

MR. NESSEN: The place where the meeting is going to be held is called Okeanskiy Sanitarium. I don't have the correct spelling. I only have it phoenitically, but we will get it for you.

Okeanskĭ Sanitarium, 19 kilometers north of Vladivostok, overlooking Amur Bay. The complex is on about 100 acres on which are located numerous health facilities, three large residence buildings. The American staff will occupy Block No. 3 as well as a number of dachas.

The President's dacha is a semi-large building of white plaster.

Secretary Kissinger will have a small dacha located immediately adjacent to the President's. The Secretary's is described as "a picturesque and old-fashioned wooden Russian structure painted bright blue."

Secretary General Brezhnev's dacha is in the vicinity also, also an old wooden-style building painted bright green, surrounded by a wooden fence with a garden inside.

The sanitarium is owned and shared by the personnel of a number of Soviet agencies -- national and local -- for instance trade unions and the Ministry of Defense. I think some of you who are familiar with the Soviet Union know that trade unions and government agencies have these health resorts located around the country for their members, and this is one of them.

Q What besides the Ministry?

MR. NESSEN: The Trade Ministry and Defense Ministry share this one.

The meeting will take place in a meeting hall that consists of a conference hall, dining room, and other facilities. The conference room is very large -- split level. The lower level is a kind of an atrium, with plants and small trees, and the upper level is the meeting room for the conference itself.

The informal dinner tomorrow evening will be held in the dining room of this building. Also, if the President wants to, there is an indoor swimming pool.

The spelling of the sanitarium is O-k-e-a-n-s-k-i-y, 19 kilometers north of Vladivostok.

Q North or northeast?

MR. NESSEN: Northeast.

The temperature was about 20 degrees Fahrenheit today in Vladivostok during the day.

The meeting at the Blue House is over. It lasted until 5:14, which makes it 2 hours and 1 minute long. Phil Habib will be here shortly to brief you.

The President after the meeting stayed to have tea with President Park. The communique is still being typed and when it is stenciled and run off, it will be handed out, and it is for immediate release. There is no embargo on the communique.

Q What did you say was embargoed until 8:00 tomorrow morning?

MR. NESSEN: I thought the communique was, but this has been a change of plans. The communique is for immediate release as soon as we get it off the machine.

Q Where is the press staying? What will be the proximity?

MR. NESSEN: I am told it is at a hotel about two kilometers from the compound.

Q Where is the landing strip in relation to all of this?

MR. NESSEN: The landing strip is about an hour and 45 minute train ride from the sanitarium.

Q Is that from Vladivostok?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check that. I am not sure which direction.

Q Is the President going by train?

MR. NESSEN: The President is going by train. I think Dr. Kissinger told some of you this morning that the meetings would begin on the train between the General Secretary and the President.

Q Kissinger didn't say that.

He didn't say that? I thought he did. I think he told the pool that. The pool should have reported it to you. Well, it is true. I am told it was in the pool report.

We will just take a little breather now until Phil Habib comes down.

Q Ron, why is the President going to Japan to pick up navigators instead of having them come here?

MR. NESSEN: Carroll was wondering why the President is going to Japan to pick up Russian navigators instead of having the navigators come here. I think the answer to that is obvious, Carroll.

Q Is it because the Russians won't send them here, or the Koreans won't let them in?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check that for you, Carroll.

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Q Do we land in or near Vladivostok? The reason I ask is that the complex is only 19 kilometers away, but it takes us two hours and 45 minutes by train.

MR. NESSEN: One hour and 45 minutes.

Q Excuse me, one hour and 45 minutes by train. So why are we not landing at or near Vladivostok?

MR. NESSEN: I think we are landing near, but I don't know how near.

Q Are we taking the same train as the President?

MR. NESSEN: There will be a pool on the President's train.

Q There will be two separate trains?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Here is a little more information for you. Phil Habib will be here in about ten or fifteen minutes. The name of the airport is --

Q Is it in the bible?

MR. NESSEN: Is it?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: That airport is 64 miles to the north northwest of the sanitarium. So, if you figure the sanitarium is 19 miles northeast of Vladivostok, you can work out the arithmetic yourself.

Q And what is the name of the airport.

MR. NESSEN: It is in the bible. I can't pronounce it. I can spell it for you.

Q Spell it.

MR. NESSEN: V-o-z-d-v-i-z-h-e-n-k-a.

Were you here for your flight bag briefing, Walt?

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: We gave it.

There is a possibility that the press will go from the airport to the sanitarium by bus or buses. We don't have all the details of that yet.

Q I have the pool report in which you presumed that Kissinger made the remarks about the train. There is nothing in this pool report about that and if Kissinger said anything else about Vladivostok, I would like to know what he said, please.

MR. NESSEN: That is your pooler's fault for not writing it down. Don't look at me; they are your colleagues.

Q Who packs their bag?

Q Ron, is there a town or village nearer the sanitarium than Vladivostok?

MR. NESSEN: Let me check that, Dick.

Q If the planes go into Yokota instead of Haneda, they are wondering whether the Okura press center will be open.

MR. NESSEN: Get together with Tom DeCair or someone in my office who can work out the details of that.

Q There is no town or village near there.

MR. NESSEN: The sanitarium is a suburb of Vladivostok and it is not near anything. The closest big town is Vladivostok.

Q If Vladivostok is close, why couldn't we land there?

MR. NESSEN: Don't ask me questions like, "Why couldn't we?" I am telling you what is going to happen, Walt.

Q My question is, it seems Vladivostok has a bigger air base.

MR. NESSEN: I am telling you where we are going to land. If it is unsatisfactory, you can drop off.

Q It seems to me there is a big military air base at Vladivostok and I want to know why we couldn't land there, and was it for security reasons?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the answer, but this is the way it is going to happen.

END (AT 5:35 P.M. South Korea Time)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:37 P.M. SO. KOREA TIME

NOVEMBER 22, 1974

FRIDAY

SEOUL, KOREA

MR. NESSEN: This is a brief announcement by the midnight briefer.

There were some questions earlier about requests by dissident missionaries for a meeting with some member of the President's party.

Q There is no sound.

MR. NESSEN: I know.

A member of the President's party will meet with the missionaries tomorrow morning at 10:00. The member of the party is Richard Smyser, senior member of the National Security Council. There will be five representatives of the American missionary community -- both Catholics and Protestants.

Mr. Smyser will pass on whatever information the missionaries have to the President.

Q May we have their names, please?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have their names. You will have to get them.

Q Would Richard Smyser have been going on with the President if this hadn't come up?

MR. NESSEN: No, Smyser did not intend to go to Vladivostok anyway.

Q Where is the meeting going to take place?

MR. NESSEN: I believe it is here in the hotel.

Q Ron, while the President was at the DMZ today, was he given a full and complete briefing on the tunnel incident?

MR. NESSEN: He was not at the DMZ today. He was at Camp Casey.

Q While he was at Camp Casey 15 miles south of the DMZ, was he given a full and complete briefing?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't hear one if he did, and I was with him most of the time.

Q Is it not correct that Philip Habib said that subject did not come up at the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't read carefully, but I believe that is what he said.

Q No, he was at the meeting with President Park, not Camp Casey.

MR. NESSEN: I said the Embassy incident did not come up in the meeting with President Park.

Q What time is this thing, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: 10:00.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END. (11:40 P.M. SO. KOREA TIME)