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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:39 P.M. (Brussels Time)

MAY 28, 1975

WEDNESDAY  
(Brussels, Belgium)

MR. NESSEN: I don't have very much to add to what the poolers had to say. The poolers took you through to what point -- getting back to the residence?

Q Just pictures, nothing that went on inside.

MR. NESSEN: As you know, the President met after the 15-minute meeting with the King and the Queen. The President joined Secretary Kissinger; the Prime Minister, Mr. Tindemans; the Foreign Minister, Mr. Van Elslande; Ambassador Firestone, and Brent Scowcroft, who had been waiting in another room, and they began their private bilateral meeting.

The meeting ran about ten minutes longer than shows on your schedule. It ran ten minutes longer than scheduled. During the meeting, they were served champagne and fruit juice again.

The subjects discussed were bilateral relations and European relations, and I am not going to be able to provide any amplifying details other than to say that there were a range of matters discussed in the two categories.

After that, the President and his party left and went to the residence. Have the poolers given you a general description of the residence?

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: The exterior is somewhat modest and on the ground floor of the residence there is a dining room and reception hall and so forth. The President and Mrs. Ford planned to stay there for the evening and have a private dinner by themselves.

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Secretary Kissinger stayed behind just a couple of minutes to talk with the President before leaving and going to his own residence.

The President and Mrs. Ford are staying on the third floor of the Ambassador's residence. They share a bedroom. Mrs. Ford has a sitting room; the President has a dressing room; Mrs. Ford has a dressing room.

Also on the same floor there is a guest room where Colonel Blake and Dr. Lukash are staying. On the second floor of the building the President has a sitting room, and there is a private dining room on that floor, and there is a guest bedroom on the second floor where Don Rumsfeld and Mrs. Rumsfeld are staying.

For tomorrow, I would think that we really have not locked up precisely when and where the briefings will be held, but what I anticipate is a briefing of some kind about midday. Following that would be a report on the bilateral meetings that have been held up to that point, and then another briefing at the end of the afternoon NATO trip.

We will just have to keep in touch with you and tell you where and when precisely those meetings will be held.

Q Are those here or what?

MR. NESSEN: We will post here and also tell the pools and so forth. Everybody will know. We will not hold the briefing without letting everybody know.

For the people who came here from Washington, I want to run through very quickly a list of actions that were taken and announced at the White House today. They are being put out at the White House, but if there is an interest here in knowing what these were, I can run through it very quickly for you.

The President signed a special supplemental food program for women, infants and children. This is part of the Child Nutrition Act.

The President also signed a bill increasing the 1975 fiscal year appropriation authorization ceiling for the Trust Territories of the Pacific islands.

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He also signed an increase in the allowances for Congressional delegates from Guam and the Virgin Islands.

The President vetoed a bill which would authorize appropriations of \$98 million, approximately, to the Secretary of Commerce for promotion of tourist travel. That is a veto.

The President signed the proclamation carrying out the action he announced last night of the \$1.00 per barrel additional import fee on oil imports.

The President proclaimed the week of June 8 to be Flag Week, and also issued a statement paying tribute to the late General George Lincoln for his dedicated service, most recently as head of the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Q Ron, has Belgium advised us about their decision on the Y-16 plane?

MR. NESSEN: I am just not going to be able to give you any more details of the meeting, Larry.

Q There has been a report that Belgium decided to buy the plane. Do you know anything about that report?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that there has been anything --

Q Have they told the United States?

MR. NESSEN: At this meeting tonight?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think it is public knowledge that they have expressed their feeling that that is the preferable plane, but I don't have anything beyond that.

Q Ron, Tindemans said that the Y-16 plane was discussed when they held their press conference. What was discussed?

MR. NESSEN: I just can't amplify beyond what I have said, Phil.

Q Ron, are you going to be equally uninformative on all the bilateral meetings?

MR. NESSEN: We ought to wait and find out,  
I think.

Q All right.

MR. NESSEN: Well, remember Martinique. All's  
well that ends well.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 10:35 P.M. Brussels Time)