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NEWS CONFERENCE

#284

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 7:37 P.M. (Warsaw Time)

JULY 28, 1975

MONDAY

(Warsaw, Poland)

MR. NESSEN: All right. Let me say this: We are going to have the general thoughts expressed by Hel Sonnenfeldt and the Ambassador translated into Polish here in just a moment, but I would like to go through a couple of brief announcements of my own before we do that. I think we could knock off the cameras and go to general briefing rules on this.

A number of you have expressed a great deal of interest in going to Auschwitz tomorrow. Until this afternoon or early this evening, we had worked for about a week to try to set up more transportation, and it did not appear possible.

After some of you talked to me over at the Ministry, our host very graciously has offered to provide us with more transportation. There will be five buses at the airport in Krakow; is that correct?

They will be for the White House Press Corps, the Polish press and the third country press. We are going to have to rearrange the schedule somewhat tomorrow so that you can get down there earlier, get on your buses and get to Auschwitz in time.

Our hosts have guaranteed that you will be back in time to see the Krakow market square speech and ceremony. There will be a police escort and we have a guarantee that you will be able to do it.

It is necessary for the TWA plane to leave promptly at 1:35 because of various problems getting into Helsinki. But as far as I can tell, our hosts have arranged this so that you will be able to do that. So everybody that wants to go to Auschwitz should get on one of those five buses.

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Q Is there any change in the President's schedule at Auschwitz?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, can you give us a little more detail? Will we see more than just the President? Will we have more than an opportunity to see the President, perhaps?

MR. NESSEN: You will get there ahead of time, I am told, and can use as much time as you have before the President arrives.

Q Does that mean the TWA plane leaves earlier?

MR. NESSEN: TWA is going to leave at 1:35 whether anybody goes here or not.

Q Out of here?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I say that later this evening the schedule will be recast so that you will get there on time to get on the buses and get down there.

Q Ron, will that change any of the pool arrangements?

MR. NESSEN: We will still take the seven or eight-man pool that we can on the helicopter.

Q We will be able to pre-position?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Number two, there are a large number of various kinds of statements for tomorrow. There will be, of course, the speech by the President in Krakow market square. There will be a toast at the lunch given by the Prime Minister in Krakow.

The President will have a farewell statement when he leaves Krakow although that may be off the cuff. There will be an arrival statement in Helsinki and there will be, as Hel told you, a joint communique issued hopefully in advance but for release at the time we leave Krakow.

We are going to work hard to get hopefully all or at least most of these to you in advance.

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The third and last item is dinner tonight. You know that the President is giving a dinner for the Polish officials at his Residence. We are taking a pool out there in about five minutes, and whatever they don't provide you in the way of details I will come back here after the dinner and provide you.

Mrs. Ford, as some of you know, did not come to lunch today because she was quite tired from a busy day yesterday and a long night last night, and a somewhat busy morning this morning. At last word, it was not entirely sure whether she would come to dinner tonight either, but that is up in the air at the moment.

Q When you say that these statements and speeches will be put out in advance, you mean tonight?

MR. NESSEN: As fast as we can get them, Helen. We are just going to turn them out as we can get them.

Q If this Krakow speech is so important --

MR. NESSEN: The Krakow speech was ready for the President's rewriting when he got back to the Residence, and hopefully I will bring it down with me tonight and have it typed up and put out tonight.

Q Can you give us guidance on what the subject is of that speech?

MR. NESSEN: I would rather not because I don't know how much the President did to it after he got ahold of it.

Q Ron, you say Mrs. Ford is tired. One of the pool reports suggested she looked ill. Could you tell us what actually is her state of health?

MR. NESSEN: I am simply reporting to you Dr. Lukash's assessment that she is tired.

Q Not ill?

MR. NESSEN: He didn't say anything about it.

Q Did you ask him?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q He said no, she was not.

MR. NESSEN: He said she was tired.

Q Ron, have we had any communications from the Turks today that you can talk about?

MR. NESSEN: I frankly have not had a moment to look into it, John.

Q Is there a meeting later on with Demirel?

MR. NESSEN: A possible meeting with Demirel in Helsinki is not --

Q Wasn't there something?

MR. NESSEN: That is one of those hectoring questions we get all the time.

. I don't know of anything new on Demirel.

Q Ron, is Ambassador Richardson being considered for Director of the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: We have a Director of the CIA.

Q Well, I don't mean we are going to have two of them. The report was that this one was going to be asked to resign.

MR. NESSEN: I know of no plans for Mr. Colby to leave.

Q Mr. Who?

MR. NESSEN: Mr. Colby, Director of the CIA.

Q Why not?

MR. NESSEN: Okay.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 7:45 P.M. WARSAW TIME)