

October 21, 1974

POOL REPORT

ABOARD AIR FORCE I FROM
 ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE TO
 TUCSON, ARIZONA

Nessen brought Kissinger back shortly after 9:00 am and he talked for several minutes on background -- a Senior White House official.

On the possible meeting with Brezhnev during the Japan trip. "There is nothing definite that I know of now, but we are discussing it." He said it was at their initiative and should be settled in the next 10 days, when he is over there. "It will be a very brief meeting if it takes place." He said even if nothing is accomplished the meeting would be valuable just for making contacts. He said the Soviets wanted to be assured of continuity with the new Administration.

On the meetings today, he said it is traditional for the two new Presidents to get together on either side of the border. "I think we will have a fairly satisfactory meeting." He said he did not expect any agreements to result today. He said that a commission may be set up to study the migrant worker problem, but he did not say whether that would be today or later. He said the Mexicans want to establish a quota of migrants to the U.S. and the U.S. would be willing to agree to something along this line of the Mexicans would do something to stop the illegal migrants.

Kissinger said Echeverria was likely to bring up the issue of "patrimonial sea," which he defined as a concept permitting a nation to exploit the resources of the sea up to 200 miles from its shores without necessarily claiming a 200 mile territorial limit. Kissinger said the U.S. was concerned less Mexico act unilaterally to stake such a claim and noted this would close off the entire Gulf Of California. He said the U.S. would have to challenge any such rule because if Mexico did it others could, too. He said the Mexicans considered this a very sensitive issue. The U.S. urges the matter be negotiated internationally at the "law of the sea conference" and said in that event we would probably adopt 90 per cent of the Mexican position.

On oil, Kissinger said this was not a meeting about oil. The Mexicans are looking primarily at unexploited fields. "We are not going to press that issue at all and it is not a major topic." He said the subject may be given five minutes if it comes up at all. "My instinct is he (Echeverria) does not want to talk about oil until domestic production goes much higher." He suggested he would have domestic problems if he did.

He talked on Cuba for deep background (say it on your own). "We have a lot of folks offering to help us on the Cuban problem" and was sure something would be brought up by the Mexicans on that. He said basically there is much the U.S. can do for Cuba but there is nothing Cuba can do for the U.S. "The next development will be in the Quito foreign ministers meeting." That is on November 8.

(MORE)

Nothing was said on the drug traffic problem, which is one of the major U. S. concerns.

Kissinger suggested he was along because of his friendship with the Mexican leaders and he further indicated the meetings would be largely ceremonial when he said, "The President could handle this with his left hand". Reminded that Ford is left handed, he said, "I mean his right hand."

(Others besides Kissinger aboard were, Rumsfeld, Burch, Cheney, Scowcroft, Rustand and Lukash of the White House Staff; Rep. Morris K. Udall, (D. Ariz.) Protocol Chief Catto, Asst. Sec. Rogers, Dr. Jose Juan de Olloqui, the Mexican Ambassador to the U. S., and others.)

On the Japan trip, Kissinger said he felt sure it would come off. He said he had read about some opponents cranking up demonstrations against the meeting. But he said if it were cancelled it would be the second cancellation of a Presidential trip, referring to the aborted Eisenhower visit, and this should not be.

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John Mashek, U.S. News
Frank Cormier, AP
Richard Lerner, UPI
Jim McManus, Westinghouse
John Herbers, New York Times

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