

October 21, 1974

POOL REPORT

Tucson to Nogales to Magdalena

The President arrived a few minutes early at Davis-Monthan AFB. Several hundred were there along the fences, mostly servicemen and their families. President worked the fence for five minutes, largely thanking people for turning out.

Then, the President left by helicopter for Nogales, an uneventful 30-minute trip to the border area. The choppers landed in a field about six miles from Nogales near a Catholic Hospital.

The President then traveled by motorcade for 15 minutes to the border station, where the ceremony of welcome was held. Along the route, Ford stood in the open-top limousine and waved to the crowd. The crowds along the way waved pictures of both Presidents and flags of both countries. (All of this on the U.S. side of border.)

Echeverria greeted Ford and Kissinger with the traditional abrazo. The two Presidents walked through the crowds, smiling and waving for about a block to a raised red-carpeted platform in the middle of the street. Several thousand people jammed the area, standing on roof tops as well as lining the streets. Echeverria delivered the opening greeting. It was translated along the way by a female interpreter. The Ford made his remarks without stopping, largely following the text. When he finished, an interpreter read the speech in Spanish.

The two stood for pictures and the crowds surged in. The two Presidents then walked about one block to lay the wreath at the monument of Benito Juarez. No effort was made to control the crowd and they surged in from all sides.

From this point, the two Presidents then walked nearly three quarters of a mile through the streets of Nogales on the Mexican side. The scene was chaotic. The crowds fell in behind the two Presidents and security men were pressed to keep them from running over them. Several thousand people lined the streets. They shouted greetings, many of them had matracas -- noise-makers. There was periodic band music along the way.

Near the end of the walk, Ford shed his suit coat. The President, perspiring freely, was smiling and waving all along the way. From time to time he turned to Echeverria to say something but the crowd noise prevented us from hearing any exchange.

The whole procession was a tumultuous one. It lasted anywhere from 30 to 40 minutes.

Finally, the two Presidents stopped and boarded a bus. The motorcade then sped out of the city to the airport and the helicopter trip to Magdalena.

MASHEK
HERBERS
MCMANUS

#

#

#