

POOL REPORT

TRAVEL POOL

November 19, 1974

As the motorcade left the Akasaka Palace Grounds for the ten minute drive to the Imperial Palace, there was a small crowd of well wishers waving Japanese and American flags. Most of this group seemed to be women -- many of them in traditional Japanese kimonos and a large group of school boys shouting "long life". All of them were waving Japanese and American flags. The entire area had been closed off, thus these apparently had some kind of clearance.

The route to the Imperial Palace was lined with uniformed police and plain clothes officers. The uniformed officers were stationed at about 15 feet apart.

The motorcade went via expressways. There was no other traffic or crowds to be seen. Inside the walls of the palace grounds a military band played Stars and Stripes Forever as the official party arrived; as they left the same band played Anchors Aweigh.

The Presidential party remained at the Imperial Palace (other pools will report details there) for 10 minutes beyond the scheduled time. President Ford left at 10:45 a.m. As he drove out of the Palace grounds, he stopped to greet a group of about 2,000 who had been admitted to a section within the palace park. He got out of his limousine to work the ropes. The crowd was almost altogether adult, again a number of the women in traditional kimonos, but most of them in Western dress. A few Americans were in the crowd.

Ford was enthusiastically greeted by the crowd who pressed against the ropes; sometimes 3 and 4 of them taking his hand at the same time. After about 5 minutes he went back to his car and gave them a big wave. Their response to him was ecstatic.

He drove back to the Akasaka Palace from there.

Bonnie Angelo - Time