

NOVEMBER 19, 1974

POOL REPORT
ARRIVAL CEREMONIES AT AKASAKA PALACE

The ceremonies follow the schedule.

The setting for the President's greeting of the Emperor was a main courtyard of the Palace. The stone surface of the courtyard, was laid with red carpet in the pattern to be followed by the dignitaries. Along one side of the courtyard the diplomatic corps, all in frock coats, gathered well before the arrival of the Japanese leaders.

As they waited, workers with small hand sweepers worked on the carpet to remove every speck of trash that collected.

The Emperor's black limousine arrived at 9:28. He stepped from the car, bowed to protocol officials and walked down the line of the diplomatic corps and government officials, including the Cabinet. Followed by Prince Akihito, he followed a route that took him to the front portico of the Palace, where he was met by the President. Mr. Ford in cutaway and wing collar towered over the Emperor. They spoke for 45 seconds, with the help of an interpreter. After their greetings, they turned to the front while a military band played the "Star Spangled Banner" and the Japanese anthem. Then there were mutual introductions on both sides, with the Emperor presenting the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Tanaka to the President. The President got a bit ahead of himself at this point and started to step away from the group, apparently overlooking the Crown Prince until the Emperor got his attention.

The President then stepped into the brilliant sunshine and walked to a small podium in the center of the courtyard to take the salute of the Japanese Honor Guard. The military commands of the Guard Commander were in English. Mr. Ford then reviewed the guard, with his long strides emphasizing that his trousers were considerably shorter than those of the others who were wearing formal dress.

His route then led him back to a corner of the courtyard where he presented Secretary Kissinger and other U.S. officials to the Emperor and Prince Akihito. The Chief of Protocol then led Mr. Ford down the reception line of Cabinet officials and members of the diplomatic corps, a considerable feat of memory since there were more than 75 in the group. To most, the President's remarks were, "It is nice meeting you Mr. X," or "It's nice to see you this morning." Secretary Kissinger followed saying over and over, "It is nice to see you." Kissinger spent more time talking to Foreign Minister Toshio Kimura, Finance Minister Masayoshi Ohira and International Trade and Industry Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

At the end of the line, members of the group chatted briefly before the President joined the Emperor and the latter's limousine for the drive to the Imperial Palace. The motorcade consisted of 29 cars not counting the police escort.

Henry Trewhitt - Baltimore Sun
Oswald Johnson - Washington Star-News