

NOVEMBER 21, 1974

POOL REPORT
THE JAPANESE TEA HOUSE AT NIJO CASTLE
(Pool #476)

Seven girl musicians dressed in silk kimonos and four seeming attendants (girls) also dressed in colorful silk kimonos made several passes at positioning themselves on a small stage that was set up in an open space near the tea house where they were to give their musical rendition. The showers kept driving them back inside the tea house which was the traditional small building set aside a lovely pond. The musical instruments were finally put out for the last time and covered with plastic against one last shower. All this had been going on for some 45 minutes before the President's party arrived and the sun came out as he arrived, complete with double rainbow. The girls played several melodies while he stood by admiringly. For the last number he asked if he could stand with the girls who seemed to be acting as attendants. Then when they finished he asked to try his hand at the koto, which is a 16th century musical instrument. It is a long stringed instrument that the girls play with metal picks attached to the fingers of one hand. Ford tried to get the picks on his fingertips but they wouldn't fit. He finally took one between the thumb and forefinger and managed to strike a few melodious notes while the girls giggled appreciatively.

When he finished his demonstration he thanked the people who had "made this afternoon so interesting". He said, "the culture of Japan certainly is an inspiration. Something about its simplicity inspires you to see what can come from hard work and make the most of what you have available, which is the history of Japan." He was asked how the trip was going and said it had "been a wonderful trip -- couldn't have been better."

Asked what he had enjoyed the most, he said seeing Japan's government officials and also a great deal of the culture and history of the country. He said it had been a productive three days.

From outside the castle grounds could be heard loud voices over loud speaker systems, apparently coming from demonstrators, though none were seen except a few who were carrying flags after they had broken up when reporters were enroute back to the hotel.

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DALLAS TIMES HERALD

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