

November 23, 1974

POOL REPORT

Start of Formal Talks at White Stucco
Conference Hall

The formal talks between President Ford and General Secretary Brezhnev were underway at 6:10 p.m., a delay of an hour from the pre-scheduled time.

While waiting for Ford to arrive, Brezhnev leaned over the balcony of a stairway where photographers were waiting to take pictures of the first session. He kibitzed a while, posed and exercised his legs in a little jig.

Before the cameramen were summoned to the upper floor, loud laughter could be heard and Brezhnev greeted Ford with a "hello," "hello," "hello."

Ford himself was roaring with laughter at the excitement his attire caused. He was wearing the wolf skin parka and hood which had been presented to him during the AFL refueling stop in Anchorage, Alaska on the way to Japan.

"I'm a sheep in wolf's clothing," quipped Ford. "I told the first secretary I'm going to get him one and he already has it."

But then Brezhnev said he had a parka with a fur collar, but not like Ford's.

"I'll see that you get one from Alaska," said Ford.

"Maybe he will ask you to give him Alaska," joked a reporter.

Ford grinned and said "Maybe I shouldn't have mentioned it."

Then Brezhnev tried on the parka, and modeled it for photographers.

"See if it fits," said Ford.

"I had a swim in your swimming pool," said Ford. "It was delightful. I thank you very much. It gave me some good exercise."

During the banter, Brezhnev teased Kissinger apparently about the weather and said he was being "persecuted in the line of duty for the sake of detente."

HELEN THOMAS

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