

December 13, 1974

## POOL REPORT LUNCH AT PLANTATION DE LEYRITZ

The two Presidents flew by helicopter to the Plantation de Leyritz, a restored Eighteenth Century sugar, coffee and tobacco plantation to have lunch in the dining room of the plantation house.

The fifteen minute helicopter ride to the plantation, now a hotel, on the extreme northeast tip of the island, crossed lush pineapple and banana plantations and passed Mount Pelee, a now extinct volcano which last erupted in 1929.

Giscard arrived first in a French helicopter and was presented with a doll made from tropical leaves and dressed in the colorful native peasants costume. The French President was coalless and tieless with the sleeves of his tattersall checked shirt rolled well above his elbows. He shook hands with the hotel staff, many of them dressed in native garb.

Ford arrived about five minutes later. As he emerged from the U.S. helicopter, he buttoned the his gray suit coat. Ford received a doll similar to the one given to Giscard.

The two Presidents, accompanied by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and French Foreign Minister Jean Paul Sauvagnargues went for a brief swim in the hotel's pool. Photographers were hustled out of camera range, touching off an angry dispute in which the French photographers at first vowed they would take no more pictures but later relented.

Press Secretary Ronald Nessen later told your poolers that Giscard entered the pool first wearing a pink bathing suit. The French Foreign Minister followed in a blue and white suit, followed by Ford who wore a maroon robe over a red bathing suit, and last Kissinger in a blue bathing suit.

Nessen quoted the President, "this is beautiful. I love to swim."

After the four men splashed briefly, Giscard sat on the edge of the pool while the President remained in the water. The two men chatted but Nessen said he could not overhear what they said.

At the end of the swim Nessen said Ford said, "that's very refreshing."

The entire swim lasted less than fifteen minutes.

Nessen said the ban on photo coverage was ordered by Giscard who "wanted a private swim."

Following the swim, the two Presidents and the two Foreign Ministers walked several hundred yards up the hill to the plantation house for lunch. All four were now in shirt sleeves. Ford had changed his attire completely and was wearing a blue golf shirt, gray slacks and hush puppies.

The two President and the two Foreign Ministers dined alone on a menu of grilled suckling pig, avocados stuffed with seafood, hearts of palm salad, pineapple mousse and three kinds of wine.

Just before the lunch began four men carried two pigs into the house.

(MORE)

The plantation, once over a thousand acres, was restored in 1970 into a hotel.

Madame Yveline de Lucy de Fossarieu, the wife of the manager, said it took two years to restore the buildings. The plantation now consists of 12 acres where bananas are grown commercially for shipment to France.

Madame Lucy said rooms rent for \$51 a couple per day including breakfast and dinner.

When the two Presidents arrived, a steel band sponsored by a Martinique brewery performed.

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