

DECEMBER 14, 1974

POOL REPORT
ON
DINNER AT THE PREFECT'S RESIDENCE

The menu appetizer consisted of barbecued chicken with pineapple and bananas, cocoa leaf salad and lobster. For dessert, Charlet Antilles and cheeses.

The toasts were delivered from a podium behind the head table. As the toasts were being translated, President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing had whispered conversations. Giscard speaks fluent English.

The President also conversed several times with Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing. Nessen reported later that at one point he overheard the President telling Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing that Mrs. Ford was sorry she was not able to come.

After Giscard had finished his official toast in French and sat down, Nessen reported Ford saying to Giscard, "I understood some of it but not all of it."

After dinner they retired to the terrace where chairs were set across the front for the official party, and the dancing began. During the first dance girls in colorful dresses and head scarves appeared with baskets of flowers. The men followed with coconuts and other food. The dance was Marche, described as going to market on Sunday morning and buying fruits and flowers.

During the dance President Ford smiled, sometimes nodding his head in time with the music. Giscard appeared to be explaining the meaning of the dance to the President.

At this point your pool was asked to retire.

The traveling pool remained. The official party sat on the terrace behind a row of tropical plants and the performers danced on the grass beneath flamboyants, beneath floodlights. The dancing included five other colorful numbers, including a dance of the sugar cane cutters as it was done in the olden times to the rhythm of the drum and the Ti-Bois, with the men carrying machetes. It wound up with a gay, exuberant carnival number.

At the end, as the dancers danced by in rhythm, President Ford and President Giscard came down from the terrace and stood shaking hands with the moving dancers as they passed.

They left a little after 11:00 P.M., and made the boat ride home.

Steve Bell - ABC News
Fran Lewine - AP