

December 10, 1974

Air Force One Pool

The departure ceremony at Lamentin Airport was about 45 minutes late. President d'Estain arrived first, followed ten minutes later by Ford. There were no speeches. The two presidents shook hands with the respective delegations and then paused in front of the honor guard for the playing of the national anthems of the two countries. Air Force One took off at 1:05 p.m.

Kissinger came back midway in the trip home for some questions and answers. It was for background and he should be identified in the usual way--senior american official.

First, he described the French president as an "extremely civilized and extremely intelligent man." He said President Ford was "very pleased" with the summit results. He said the personal relationship between the two men started slowly. He said you wouldn't expect a French intellectual aristocrat and a man from Grand Rapids to have an immediate chemical mixture. But he said President Ford has a manner which inspires confidence and good will. For instance, he said the two presidents agreed at the conclusion of the conference to call each other on the phone on mutual problems. His conclusion: "I think the mood was a constructive one. It remains to be seen whether various bureaucrats (French) could try to undo it. It is awfully difficult to undo the problems of the last ten years."

Asked about the results of the meetings, Kissinger said to compare what he said were our positions prior to the meeting (last Saturday's senior american official pool) to how it turned out. He said "it is substantially what we said should be achieved."

On the consumer-producer question, Kissinger said we said from the beginning there should be no consumer-producer meeting unless consumer solidarity had been achieved on a common position. He said the French agreed to our proposed sequence of events. Originally, the U.S. idea was to have consumer solidarity before a preparatory meeting. We now agree on the need for a preparatory meeting prior to reaching common ground. Unless you know the agenda, he said, you can't have a common position. "This was the more logical way to do it."

The major thing, he said, is the four stages to be followed. The first step is to establish consumer solidarity, then go to the preparatory conference, then review common consumer position and finally to hold the conference.

Kissinger said the IEA will work on conservation and alternative sources of energy. The G-10 group would deal with financial solidarity and you have to work out some negotiation between the French and the IEA so their efforts will be parallel. He said the French were part of the G-10.

(more)

(For guidance) Compidou refused to join the IEA. For Giscard to join at this time would get him into trouble with Gaullists at home. Giscard has a "helluva domestic problem." The only thing Gaullists and Communists agree on is anti-Americanism. (End guidance only)

In preparation for the summit, he said U.S. had told West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt about our positions. Kissinger had also talked to NATO allies and the French foreign minister at Brussels last week. But he said there was no firm agreement until Martinique and that took shape at the end of Sunday morning's head-to-head meeting. Both sides agreed to do a position paper and three men on each side worked throughout the day and late into the night. The positions were checked by the negotiators for possible problems. Then, Kissinger and the French foreign minister got together at 9:15 this morning and in an hour or so there was a settlement.

On other issues--

The 100 million dollar settlement on NATO displacement out of France. In the last phase, he said the French came toward the U.S. He said the U.S. had been willing to settle for 100 million for some time while the French at ^{one} point wanted closer to 50 million. He said the NATO agreement had been primarily settled before Martinique.

On the European Security Conference, he described it as "not all that big of a deal" to the U.S. He expects it to be concluded in the first half of '75.

On British Prime Minister Wilson and a summit meeting, he said he expects Wilson will come to Washington at the end of January. While he predicted a quiet month for the Secretary of State, he said he may go to Brazil, Argentina and Peru "but that's not settled yet."

Questioned about criticism of the President's travel schedule, the senior American official said it was a mistake to assume domestic policy is made by sitting home and pushing buttons. He said the foreign trips by Ford have been "essential." He said the mood in Japanese-U.S. relations had improved.

On the Middle East: "We've got a lot of work to do. But I'm still basically hopeful. There's no basic change in policy."

Nessen said for guidance that the Rockefeller swearing is likely to come Friday or Saturday. He said it would likely be on Capital Hill in the Senate chamber after the final confirmation vote unless it comes too late in the day. Also for guidance on Vail (off record) departure, Nessen said he had "strong vibes" that it would be 8 a.m. Sunday for both President and Mrs. Ford

(Off guidance) Nessen said Dr. Lukash talked with Mrs. Ford last night and she is feeling better and responding to treatment. But Nessen does not know whether the First Lady will attend the national Xmas tree lighting ceremony Tuesday night since she will be going to the black tie Xmas ball later that night.

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For Tuesday's schedule, Nessen gave the following: At 9, there will be a briefing of the congressional leadership (bipartisan). There is no agenda but ~~Mike~~ Ford will probably report on Martinique. At 11:15, there is an economic review with Simon, Greenspan and Siddman. At 2 p.m., Roy Ash and the OMB staff will go over the FY budget for '75. At 3:30, the domestic council will meet with the President to ~~give~~ review issues for the State of Union speech. At 5:27, Ford's motorcade leaves the South grounds for the Ellipse and the annual Xmas Pageant of Peace. At 5:30 the ceremony begins and the President will ~~have~~ brief remarks before lighting the tree. He ~~then~~ returns to the White House at 6. At 9 p.m., he will be at the black tie Xmas ball for members of Congress and spouses.

AF One arrived Andrews at 4:15 p.m.

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pool' report addendum

Several minutes before Air Force One landed at Andrews, President Ford ~~wanted~~ came back and chatted briefly. He characterized the meeting as "very successful, extremely beneficial." It made progress, he said, "for both sides!"

He predicted Congress will be "very pleased," that members will understand the progress made at Martinique and that ~~ignoring what they~~ they will respond positively.

Mr. Ford said he and President Giscard got ~~along~~ along well both socially and in a business sense. ~~It is not only interesting but I think~~ "It is not only interesting but I think constructive the way we proceeded with the negotiations," the President said.

~~Mr. Ford said~~ The President said, "I think our ^{two} countries have great mutual interests. I am optimistic about the future.

Of Martinique, "The people were delightful, ~~the~~ ~~atmosphere was~~ ~~great, the~~ ~~entertainment was just wonderfl.~~ I wish Mrs. Ford had been there; she would have really ~~enjoyed~~ enjoyed the dancing and singing.

Of Vice President designate Nelson Rockefeller, the President said as he departed, "We'll find ~~an area to~~ an area to keep him very busy."

S BELL

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