

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT
TO
KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
SPANISH STATE
REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
ITALIAN REPUBLIC
STATE OF THE VATICAN CITY

MAY - JUNE 1975

PRESS NOTES

The PRESS NOTES binder should prove to be a convenient reference including the schedule for the President's trip to Belgium, Spain, Austria, Italy and Vatican City. The volume includes biographical information of officials of host countries, country facts, background information for the countries to be visited with color information on places and sites the President and Mrs. Ford will visit in each country, and information on the United States party and foreign travel of United States Presidents. Detailed press schedules for the visit to these countries will be made available prior to departure from the United States and may be updated on a day-to-day basis. The book has been designed so that schedule and background material to be issued during the trip can easily be inserted in the book.

There is an American Embassy in all the countries to be visited. USIA personnel from the respective embassies will be on hand at the Press Center to assist you in whatever way they can. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance in meeting your personal as well as business needs.

SCHEDULES

All schedules must be strictly adhered to. Unless special arrangements have been made with the Press Office of the Transportation Office, pool assignments and plane assignments must be kept. As details

of the President and First Lady's schedules are updated and confirmed, they will be published so that you may incorporate them in your PRESS NOTES.

ACCREDITATION

Special White House Press Corps accreditation will be issued to the press accompanying the President. A representative of the United States Secret Service will be aboard each of the press aircraft and accompany the press throughout the trip. They will distribute special credentials for the traveling press party enroute Brussels. Those joining along the way may pick up their credentials from the representatives of the Secret Service assigned to the press party.

The host countries will accept our White House trip credentials, however, NATO headquarters and the Spanish Government will also supply trip credentials which must be displayed. No additional photos will be necessary for these credentials. NATO credentials can be picked up with room keys at the Press Center in the Sheraton Hotel in Brussels and the Spanish credentials will be distributed upon arrival in Madrid.

Pool credentials, when necessary, will be distributed to pool members when they assemble for coverage of events. At events controlled by host governments, last minute substitutions will very likely mean exclusion from events, so poolers must meet their pooling obligations. Poolers should contact a member of the Press Office should any conflict arise.

TRAVEL STATISTICS

By the time the President returns to Andrews Air Force Base aboard Air Force One, he will have travelled more than 83,960 miles since taking office in August 1974. He will have travelled 31,815 miles on international flights, visiting 10 countries.

The following represents the estimated number of miles and hours the President will travel aboard aircraft during his trip to Europe:

	<u>Statute Miles</u>	<u>Flying Time</u>
Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland to Brussels, Belgium	3,950	7:10
Brussels, Belgium to Madrid, Spain	890	2:00
Madrid, Spain to Salzburg, Austria	1,000	2:10
Salzburg, Austria to Rome, Italy	520	1:15
Rome, Italy to Andrews Air Force Base	<u>4,750</u>	<u>10:00</u>
TOTALS	11,110	22:35

PRESS AIRCRAFT

The members of the press accompanying the President and Mrs. Ford to Europe will travel aboard two specially configured Boeing 707's. The aircraft are chartered from Pan American and Trans World Airlines. All seats are first class, to provide maximum comfort during the trip.

Individual aircraft assignments will be made prior to the departure from Washington. They must be kept throughout the trip unless changes are cleared in advance with the Transportation Office. Plane manifests are provided in advance to authorities in each country and passports for the members of the party traveling on each plane are carried on board. In the event of a diversion, it might present difficulties if you were on one plane and your passport were on the other. The passports will be handled by a United States Customs official who will be aboard each aircraft. In addition, they will be glad to assist you in immigration and customs formalities.

The TWA plane will be the first off on each leg of the trip. The photographers and technicians who must be on the ground well before a Presidential arrival, will be manifested aboard TWA.

Most correspondents will be manifested aboard Pan Am. If you need to be aboard one aircraft or the other, please notify the Transportation Office - 456-2250.

Every effort will be made to keep those traveling on board the press aircraft advised of events on board Air Force One - particularly on the longer flights from and to Andrews Air Force Base. When needed, and when possible, pool reports will be dictated from the President's plane to the press aircraft. All written pool reports from Air Force One will be made available to the press traveling on board the press planes as soon as Air Force One lands.

PASSPORTS, VISAS, CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

A valid passport is, of course, essential for the trip. Visas have been waived in all countries to be visited for those traveling with the White House press party. Those joining or leaving the trip for independent travel should check host governments for visa requirements.

Those members of the press planning to leave the trip before returning to Washington should contact a member of the Transportation Office staff, explaining departure plans, so that their passport will be available for return at the appropriate time. Otherwise, all passports will be carried from country to country by the staff to expedite procession. Should you need your passport within a country, it may be obtained from a representative of the Transportation Office.

LUGGAGE

All baggage will be specially tagged in accordance with aircraft manifests when first checked for the trip. All other tags should be removed. Please limit your luggage to one large suitcase, plus one small overnight bag or garment bag.

Carry-on items should be available for inspection. Inspect your luggage thoroughly everytime it is re-packed and turn it in personally to designated personnel at baggage points only at those times specified. Baggage should not be given to bellmen or to unaccredited people unless it is accompanied by owner.

There will be little space in the cabin of the aircraft to accommodate fragile objects and purchase of gifts should be limited. Gifts should not be wrapped as they may need to be opened for inspection.

The two press aircraft will be secured while on the ground and will be boarded only by authorized airline ground maintenance personnel; therefore, if you would like to leave personal belongings of no great monetary value aboard the aircraft during stops, you may do so. However, it will not be possible to obtain gear left on board, so be sure you take everything with you that will be needed for each stop.

HOTELS

Single accommodations have been assured in Brussels and Madrid and every effort is being made to secure single accommodations in Salzburg. However, due to the size of the press party, this may prove to be impossible in Salzburg. In the event doubling should become necessary, please notify the Transportation Office of your preferences.

The Transportation Office is making reservations each night for all those in the traveling party. You will be expected to pay all personal charges including hotel rooms. It is recommended that the members of the press party make every effort to settle their hotel accounts the evening prior to departure. You will be billed for your transportation costs subsequent to your return to Washington.

Room assignments will be available on press aircraft during flights or immediately upon arrival in the Press Centers of the cities visited.

PHOTO AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

As a precaution, it has been required that those transporting camera gear submit to the Transportation Office prior to departure a list giving the serial number and manufacturer's name of all equipment. This is done to avoid a customs dispute at home or abroad -- particularly if similar equipment is purchased while on the trip abroad.

European two prong (round) plugs are used in each city visited.

Brussels	220 volts/50 cycles
Madrid	220 volts/50 cycles
Salzburg	220 volts/50 cycles
Rome	220 volts/50 cycles

A good supply of fresh batteries is recommended for cameras. It will not be possible to charge batteries, unless you are carrying special conversion equipment.

It is recommended that photographers bring very long lenses and, if they wish, ladders for coverage of some events where a camera platform is not provided.

HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

Rear Admiral William Lukash, USN, the President's physician, advises that those accompanying the President on his trip to Europe and following his itinerary, require no immunizations. Those joining the party or departing before return to Washington, should independently determine immunization requirements in areas outside the President's schedule.

This is the period of the year for seasonal allergies in the areas being visited. Pollen levels were noted and reported to be high. Those with known "hay fever" should bring a supply of the antihistamine that works best for them.

No special precautions are necessary concerning food for those accompanying the President. However, it is always good practice to avoid foods which are often not fresh or have not been stored properly. Specific examples are antipasto, smorgasbord and similar tables of salads, fish, and hors d'oeuvres as these foods are frequently prepared in advance and then not refrigerated adequately. Shellfish (especially mussels) should be avoided during this time of year. In Spain and Italy it is best to avoid milk and milk products.

The water in all the cities is safe to drink.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

It is Spring in Europe and the weather is much the same as we have had in the Washington area recently. Minimum temperatures during the evening range from 45 to 53 and the maximum temperatures range from 63 to the mid-70's. There have been intermittent rainshowers in all the cities to be visited so a light raincoat will suffice for the cooler evening temperatures and possible rain. Dress for press coverage throughout the trip will not require anything more formal than dark business suit for men and appropriate dress for women. Vatican City will pose special dress considerations for women, requiring that women cover their heads, wear a dark colored dress with sleeves past the elbow and of the appropriate length.

PRESS HOTELS

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Brussels Sheraton Hotel
Rogier 3
1000 Brussels
Belgium

PRESS CENTER: Salle de Nations
Telephone: 219-3400
Telex: 26887
Cable: SHERATONHOTEL BRUSSELS

The Salle de Nations (Sheraton Hotel Ballroom) is located one level above the lobby.

MADRID, SPAIN

The Hotel Plaza
Plaza de Espana #2
Madrid, Spain

PRESS CENTER: Hotel Plaza, Level "N"
Telephone: 247-1200
Telex: 27383 Hotelplaza
Cable: HOTELPLAZA

The Press Center is located on Level "N", two floors above the lobby. Take elevators to the "N" level and turn right.

SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

Members of the press party will be staying in several hotels in Salzburg, all centrally located and within easy walking distance of the Press Center located in the Kongress Haus on Auersperg Strasse.

ROME, ITALY and VATICAN CITY

Cavalleri Hilton
Via Cadlolo 101, Monte Mario
Rome
Italy

PRESS CENTER: Cavalleri Hilton
Ballroom
Telephone: 3151
Telex: 61296 Hiltrome
Cable: HITELSROME

The press party will not overnight in Rome, therefore, no arrangements have been made for accommodations at the Cavalleri Hilton. The Press Center at the Cavalleri Hilton will serve for events taking place while in Rome and at Vatican City.

PRESS FACILITIES

Details of press filing facilities in each city will be made available separately when arrangements have been completed.