

May 29, 1975

POOL REPORT # 6

President's lunch with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of the
Republic of Germany

There were 7 at lunch. Representing the United States: The President, Secretary Kissinger, Brent Scowcroft and Helmut Sonnenfeldt. Representing Germany Chancellor Schmidt, Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and a third official with the name approximating Dr. Lanne.

When the pool walked in, the President and Schmidt were discussing pipe smoking. Schmidt asked the President: "How many pipes do you have?" The President said, "I have about 50." He added, "I should stop pipe smoking but I thoroughly enjoy it." Schmidt said, "I don't think it does any harm." The President said, "I believe the doctors when they say it is the least harmful."

Schmidt, who was wearing a gray suit and vest, commented when he saw the number of photographers and technicians: "I see why you need 4 or 5 American planes."

The President, addressing the press, said: "I hope you're enjoying this visit." Then he said hello to Cleve Ryan referring to him as Mr. Postmaster. Ryan responded that he was waiting for his chair in the Cabinet Room, which was greeted by much laughter.

When the West Germany and Belgium photographers encircled the lunch table, the President commented: "We're going to lose you over there, Henry."

There was a cry for more lights and Schmidt told Ford of some story that a man asked for more light on his death bed. The President responded, "It was kind of late to ask for it, wasn't it?"

John Mashek
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