

June 1, 1975

## POOL REPORT #9

Receiving Line Before Kreisky  
Dinner at Residenz

The receiving line was formed in a second floor hall about 50 yards long by ten yards across. There are three very large paintings on the 40-foot high ceiling. The receiving line was formed under a painting or fresco showing a man in a chair watching two other men swing John Henry-type pile-driving hammers. Watching this was a woman sitting on a chariot in a cloud while angels and white doves flit about.

At the far end of the hall is a curving double flight of steps, about 15 steps to each side. Sadat was eventually to walk down these steps and walk three-quarters the length of the hall to reach the receiving line.

Midway down the hall, with no steps, is an entranceway through which entered all the dinner participants except Sadat and his party. The Austrian officials invited to the dinner, the official U.S. party, and President and Mrs. Ford came through this door.

The floor of the room is a shiny dark red marble. Running through the center was a red carpet. It was by the carpet at one end that the line formed.

The room passes into another room, where the reception was subsequently held, and that connects with another room set for dining.

Various guests arrived and headed to the reception room before the Kreiskys and Kirschlaegers arrived. They stood 15-20 minutes talking with each other and the Austrian press. The American guests then trickled in. And then slightly after 8:30 came Mr. and Mrs. Ford.

Clare Crawford will describe the menu and the Fords' dress in a separate document.

The Fords and Kreiskys chatted under television lights for ten minutes or so. The pool heard only scattered hunks of conversation. Mr. Ford was heard to say: "I've got to get back and work on the Congress." He talked about going to West Point to make a speech after he got back, wasn't sure about the date at first, saying Thursday, then saying Wednesday. Then he said he will attend his daughter's graduation, later this week.

They chatted about the room. Mrs. Ford looked at the paintings on the ceiling. Then the Egyptian party arrived through the aforesaid far door. Sadat, preceded by a military aide, came down the red carpet, greeted the Austrians, and then got to the Fords. The President said, "My wife, Mrs. Ford, Mr. President." The pool could not make out their chatter. We overheard the President saying something about Sadat visiting the United States.

After 3-4 minutes of this, they turned to walk toward the reception room. But the Austrian photographers objected, shouting that they hadn't enough pictures. So Kreisky lined up Mrs. Ford, Sadat, Mr. Ford, and himself, left to right, and they looked to the right and to the left and laughed for two more minutes. Then they finally left, Mrs. Ford first. Sadat put his left arm around the President's back. The President said something to Sadat about catching up with his wife. They did, and entered the reception room.

(MORE)

Members of the pool were then taken to the dining room for a quick look. The dominant color is red. Four chandeliers hang from the ceiling. Crystal mirrors and paintings adorn the walls. Tables were of various shapes and setting numbers. The Ford-Sadat table had nine. At least two tables were set for only four.

Jeff Skov, Golden West  
Phil Jones, CBS  
Larry O'Rourke, Philadelphia  
Bulletin  
Clare Crawford, People Mag.

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ADDENDUM TO POOL REPORT #9

Mrs. Ford was wearing an A shaped, lime green dress with sequins and brilliants and long dangling diamond or rhinestone earrings. It had a mandarin collar, deep plunging neckline and long sleeves. She was carrying a white beaded purse, white kid gloves and wearing a white fur cape which she took off. The President was wearing a blue suit with vest, white shirt and a patterned blue necktie. He was also wearing dark oxford shoes. It was not clear whether these were the shoes he tripped in this morning and had repaired or another pair he had brought with him. The receiving line was very informal by White House standards with the Chancellor conducting a television interview and one man passing through carrying a newspaper.

They later dined on poached salmon, consomme, veal steak, asparagus, hearts of lettuce, and three Austrian wines including the champagne.

Clare Crawford

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