

POOL REPORT

ON THE DINNER AND RETURN
TO THE RESIDENCE

June 1, 1975

I was the only pooler at the dinner and I don't have too much to give you. I'll start from the back.

The President and Mrs. Ford returned to the Residenz about ten minutes ago. They left the party early.

At one point Tom told me the schedule was running about 20 minutes ahead of schedule when we got around to the toasts and dinner.

Just before we left, I had a chance to speak with Dr. Lukash, who spent the evening in a big hall outside the dinner chamber. I talked to Dr. Lukash outside the dinner just as the pool was leaving after the toasts, and asked him specifically if he had examined President Ford. He said he had talked to President Ford.

I said, "It seemed to me, after watching the video tape, that the President took quite a tumble, and is it possible that he fell the way he did without hurting himself, without scratching his hands or bruising his shins?" I said, "Did he have any bruises on his shins", and I believe -- I can't quote exactly -- but I believe the answer was along the lines of, "If he had bruised his shins, he would have shown me."

I asked about his hands. He said, "No, he did not scratch his hands."

The doctor said something along the lines of, "Oh, come on, he is a former football player. He was an all-American."

I said, "He's a 61-year old former all-American," and Dr. Lukash indicated he thought the President was doing fine.

That, again, was substantially saying what he had before, that he had talked to the President, who did not seem to be hurt.

I would add one other note. During the toasts, President Ford delivered his toast almost exactly as it was written.

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Mrs. Ford -- I want to be careful the way I phrase this, too -- Mrs. Ford appeared tired to me. She seemed to be a little sleepy at dinner during the toasts.

President Ford sat at the same table with President Sadat, Chancellor Kreisky, Mrs. Ford and several other guests I could not identify.

President wore a dark blue suit with a vest, white shirt, navy club tie. Mrs. Ford wore that long, lime-green gown that she has.

President Sadat did not deliver his toast in English, nor was it translated to English.

President Sadat made his toast with water, not with champagne as everyone else at the table did.

It was a large, high-ceilinged room with red brocade wallpaper and large murals painted on the ceiling, and four crystal chandeliers.

The 20-car motorcade left the President's Residenz just about on time. There was one local police car that followed directly behind the President's limousine and then there was the car full of Secret Servicemen.

I was told during the evening there were no American Secret Service in the Austrian police car that followed right behind the limousine. I was told the local authorities had said that the President's presence in Austria was their responsibility. His safety was their responsibility, that is why they wanted their car directly behind his.

We did not see Ford at all, either leaving his residence or arriving at the dinner.

Kissinger was apparently in the limousine several cars behind the President's.

It was a long motorcade but it didn't meet yesterday's in Madrid, which had 47 cars and busses, today it was only 20.

That's about it.

Ann Compton, ABC

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