

POOL REPORT

Pool # 4

Travel pool from Quirinale Place to  
Villa Madama

President departed at 4:35 pm for the 15 minute drive to Villa Madama. The crowds along the way were quiet and appeared to be no larger than usual sidewalk throngs at this time of year.

The President was greeted by Prime Minister Moro at Villa and after waves to photographers entered through wrought iron and glass door, through a large domed hall into a reception room with fireplace and paintings. Party was seated on two sofas. Ford, Moro, and former Italian Ambassador to the United States Ortona were seated opposite Kissinger, Rumor, and U.S. Ambassador John Volpe. There were interpreters beside each damson sofa.

Pool quickly ushered out. Five minutes later pool enters much larger room where the meeting took place. Italian and American participants seated on each side of long table in high-back chairs and other chairs for aides behind the chief officials. The high-domed room was adorned with paintings and tapestries.

The President was seated between Kissinger and Volpe and was engaged in animated but inaudible conversation with the Ambassador. Kissinger was smiling and talking across the table to various Italian officials. Others on the American side included Sonnenfeldt, Scowcroft, Nessen and Hartmann and Arthur Hartman.

The only conversation the pool heard was in the first anteroom where Kissinger was telling an anecdote about his interpreter when pool ushered in. The President said, "That's a story we'll hold in reserve." Kissinger said he met the Prime Minister 15 years ago and the President said we should explain (to the Prime Minister) the interpretation we got from some friends of ours. Pool has no idea what that meant. Although White House listed Rumsfeld as a participant, he was not present. A pooler later saw him outside in the staff car. He appeared exhausted.

Bill Greener gave the following report on the meeting:

Topics discussed included the Middle East, Mediterranean area, Portugal, energy, raw materials and nuclear power. The Prime Minister presented the Italian views. The President reported on the talks he had in Brussels and Salzburg. There was a full exchange of views and both sides found themselves in basic harmony. Our governments will continue close consultation on all these matters. The meeting began at 4:50 pm and ended at 5:45 pm.

At 5 pm Mrs. Ford arrived at Villa Madama and was greeted by Mrs. Orlandi Contucci, wife of the Italian Chief of Protocol. After posing for pictures, Mrs. Ford smiled broadly; was taken to a terraced garden in the rear of the Villa where she walked among the traditionally costumed guards before being seated with 9 American Embassy wives and others in her party for refreshments consisting of iced tea, coffee, juices, and chocolates.

Mrs. Ford had on a blue dress with a white scarf at her throat, partly tucked into the jewel neckline of the dress. None of the animated conversation could be heard by the pool.

The Fords left Villa Madama for uneventful ride with sparse crowds along route to The Vatican. Crowds outside Vatican were normal size for tourist season and many enthusiastically waved at President's car. As cars entered Vatican grounds, this pool departed and pool #6 took over.

John Cochran  
Saul Kohler

# # # #