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Fitz Jacksonville Trip

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NEWS CONFERENCE

#363

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:53 A.M. EST

OCTOBER 31, 1975

FRIDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me give you a few details of the Jacksonville trip. This is kind of a rough outline. It is not complete, but we will get the detailed schedule to you in plenty of time.

The President will leave the White House -- this is a tentative schedule -- tentatively at 9:10 or 9:15 Sunday morning and leave Andrews at 9:35. He will arrive at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Jacksonville at 11:15. He will then go to a boat dock, where he will board a motorlaunch and take a motorlaunch to a place called Epping Forest. It is a 20-minute ride..

Epping Forest is the place where Sadat is staying. It is a private residence that has been borrowed for the day.

Q What is it? An island? What is it?

Q Will there be a pool launch?

Q Do you know what home that is?

MR. NESSEN: It is the home of a gentleman named Ray Mason.

Q Does he make jars, or what? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: He makes oil. (Laughter)

Q Isn't he staying there the whole weekend? You said borrowed for the day.

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry, borrowed for his visit to Jacksonville.

Q Is it an island, or what?

MR. NESSEN: It says the St. John's Riverside Estate of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Mason. We will find out what the topography is.

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The first event, after the President arrives, will be a working lunch at that residence, which will last for two hours. Then the President will go by motorcade to a nearby home, which he is borrowing, and I don't have the name of the person who owns that home yet.

Then he will have about an hour and a half to himself, part of which will be taken up with a television taping. He has been requested to take part in an interview with a group of stations in Florida. It is for release Monday night, so you will have plenty of time to handle it, but we will have a transcript available.

Then Sadat comes to his house, and they will have an hour and a half meeting there, beginning at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. After that, the President has another hour and a half of free time before going to a dinner, which is hosted by Governor Askew of Florida at the San Jose Country Club, which is quite near where the President is staying.

Q What time is that?

MR. NESSEN: The President leaves his residence at 7:20 and gets to the place at 7:25 and dinner begins at 7:30. There is a little informal mingling, and the actual sitting down is at eight o'clock.

There will be press pools for all of these events, incidentally, if I didn't mention it.

The dinner concludes at 9:30 and the President departs at 9:50. President Sadat departs first, I should say, at 9:50, and President Ford leaves almost immediately after that for an 18-minute drive to the Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

Air Force One departs the Jacksonville Naval Air Station at 10:15, arrives at Andrews at 11:15 and arrives back on the South Lawn at ten minutes after midnight.

Q Sadat is attending this dinner, and will there be remarks by the two?

MR. NESSEN: There will not be remarks. There will be a toast by Governor Askew, who is the host. According to the schedule, no responses are planned.

Q Ron, will Kissinger be present during these meetings?

MR. NESSEN: I anticipate he will.

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Q Will Sadat be present at that dinner?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q At the Askew dinner, too?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Will he see him at Camp David before he goes?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Where will the bulk of the press be? Won't they be in the city?

Q Can you say, if they are not going to meet at Camp David, will there be another meeting after this?

MR. NESSEN: I would anticipate there would be another opportunity for them to meet before President Sadat leaves, and that would be here at the White House.

Q Does that mean there will not be a communique issued in Florida?

MR. NESSEN: I can't say one way or the other, Jim.

Q Here at the White House, when?

MR. NESSEN: Probably next week, about the middle of next week before Sadat leaves.

Q This has to do with the travel of President Sadat. I am wondering if there is any truth in the report President Sadat is seeing Dr. DeBakey in Houston?

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea.

Q What is the name of that river? Is it the St. John's River, where he will make his 20-minute boat ride?

MR. NESSEN: The estate is described as being the St. John's Riverside Estate, so I guess that means it is on the side of the St. John's River, but we are checking.

Q Will Kissinger be there?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q But he won't boat back?

MR. NESSEN: No, which would lead you to believe it is not an island.

Q Ron, how many people at the dinner? Is it a small dinner or big dinner?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have a guest list yet on the dinner.

Q Is it 100 people or 20?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know at this point.

Q Is it \$100 or \$500?

MR. NESSEN: This is a free one.

Q Who is paying for it?

MR. NESSEN: Governor Askew.

Q The State of Florida is paying for it?

MR. NESSEN: Governor Askew is the host.

Q Is it to honor Sadat or the President?

Q Ron, does the President consider this in any way a political trip?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Why is he taking the interview?

MR. NESSEN: Because he was asked to and he decided to accept it.

Q Is there any chance at all for a joint appearance with the two Presidents with the press, as they did it in Salzburg?

MR. NESSEN: It is not on the schedule.

Q What time does the working lunch start Sunday?

MR. NESSEN: The working lunch starts at 12:05.

Q Will Sadat see President Ford on Wednesday?

MR. NESSEN: That sounds like a very possible day.

Last night, some people asked me about a story that the New York Daily News ran, which was in response to a remark that the President made in his San Francisco speech yesterday, saying the reconstruction was not a Federal bailout, it was a local undertaking.

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Flash Star
11/3/75



—United Press International

President and Mrs. Ford, followed by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, arrive in Jacksonville, Fla., for talks with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat yesterday. In a weekend move, President Ford took away one of Kissinger's jobs.