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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JACK HUSHEN

AT 4:45 P.M. EDT

OCTOBER 17, 1974

THURSDAY

MR. HUSHEN: President Ford and the Pakistani Minister of State for Defense and Foreign Affairs Aziz Ahmed met in the Oval Office for 50 minutes, starting at about 3:40 this afternoon. You have a list of the others attending that meeting.

They discussed international and regional matters of mutual interest in line with our long-standing and close friendship with Pakistan. President Ford welcomed this opportunity to review the whole range of our bilateral relations. He assured Mr. Ahmed of continuing interest by the United States in Pakistan's economic development and well being, and our continuing support for Pakistan's independence and territorial integrity.

As you probably know, the Foreign Minister has been in the United States in connection with the U. N. General Assembly meetings in New York.

That is it.

Q Did he extend an invitation for the President to visit Pakistan?

MR. HUSHEN: There is nothing I can give you on that.

Q Did they talk about resumed arms aid?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, they discussed a whole broad range of things, but I can't give you specific subjects.

Q Jack, is the President getting his contact lenses this afternoon?

MR. HUSHEN: Is he getting them this afternoon.

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Q Yes.

MR. HUSHEN: Not that I am aware of.

Q Is he going at all to the doctor this afternoon for anything?

MR. HUSHEN: Again, not that I am aware of. You mean leaving the White House grounds to go to the doctor?

Q He was scheduled to go at 2:35, but then they disbanded the pool that was to go with him. The question is: Is he scheduled to go later this afternoon?

MR. HUSHEN: I will check on it.

Q How is his cold? Is he better today?

MR. HUSHEN: His voice is better today than it was last night.

Q Does he have a cold?

MR. HUSHEN: I'm not sure.

Q Is this in the form of a briefing or is it an informal readout? Can I ask a question?

MR. HUSHEN: I didn't get up here for a briefing session.

Q Ron said he would have figures on public response to the President's appearances. Have you seen anything on it?

MR. HUSHEN: As far as I know, there has not been enough to tell, at least earlier. We can check and see if there is anything yet.

Q What is Secretary Kissinger and Secretary Simon seeing the President about?

MR. HUSHEN: Both are seeing the President separately about their respective trips to Russia and the Middle East.

Q Is there going to be a fill after those two meetings?

MR. HUSHEN: No, there will not. The only thing left to put out would be tomorrow's schedule.

Q Do you have any idea what is on that other than the Portuguese President?

MR. HUSHEN: That is about all I know for sure.

Q There will be a briefing tomorrow, won't there?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, there will.

Q What about the White House response to the cattlemen?

MR. HUSHEN: I have nothing I can give you on that.

Q Is there anything on the Turkey aid bill, which is nearing a compromise?

MR. HUSHEN: I can confirm that we have worked out an agreement, but that is about all I can tell you right now.

Q Can you say whether there will be a bill signing this afternoon?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't right at this moment.

Q What are the terms of the agreement?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

Q What do you mean by a compromise on the Turkish aid?

MR. HUSHEN: No, it is on a continuing resolution.

Q On a continuing resolution minus the Turkish aid amendment?

MR. HUSHEN: No, there is something in there on that, but I am not sure what it is.

Q Will there be some information on that later this afternoon?

MR. HUSHEN: I hope so.

Q There is no lid?

MR. HUSHEN: Right.

Q How can they compromise a bill that comes from Congress? Wouldn't it have to go back there?

MR. HUSHEN: He vetoed it again this morning.

Q Oh, he vetoed it this morning?

MR. HUSHEN: Correct. I would look for something to come out today.

Q Do you have any idea what time of day the Saturday trip is going to start?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, very early. I believe the President's departure is at 7:40 a.m. He returns to the South Lawn at about 11:20 p.m. The departure on Monday for Nogales, I believe the President departs at 7 a.m. And that will be an overnight, Monday night, in Oklahoma City.

Q You are expecting a press departure about a half hour ahead of him?

MR. HUSHEN: A press plane departure?

Q How long do they stay on the Mexican border?

MR. HUSHEN: Most of Monday.

Q Will there be a press bus from here to Andrews?

MR. HUSHEN: On early morning trips like that, the answer has generally been no.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 4:52 P.M. EDT)