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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:57 A.M. (Martinique Time)

DECEMBER 15, 1974

SUNDAY

(Martinique, F.W.I.)

MR. NESSEN: I did want to give you a couple of odds and ends from this morning.

President Ford got up at 7:45 this morning. He went down almost immediately to have a swim, getting there at 7:55 at the pool and he was wearing a dark blue bathing suit. He swam for about ten minutes.

He then returned to his suite on the 7th floor where he had breakfast consisting of pineapple, English muffin -- although he had been urged to have French toast -- that's a joke -- and tea.

The President studied some documents and briefing material from 8:30 until 10:00. Secretary Simon arrived at 10:00 for a brief discussion of his own separate meetings with the French Finance Minister. Dr. Kissinger arrived at 10:15 at which point, Secretary Simon left and the President and Dr. Kissinger met for approximately half an hour immediately prior to the start of the meeting upstairs.

The French President arrived in the meeting hall at 10:39 and the President came in five minutes later. They shook hands and the French President apologized for being a few minutes late and said that he had gone to church this morning and that that was why he was just a few minutes late. He said -- and this is a quote -- he explained he had gone to church and he said, "The people prayed for you." I think what he really meant is that the people prayed for us, but he said, "The people prayed for you."

The President said, "I got up this morning and saw the beautiful sun." And then they walked over to the little grouping of chairs, which those of you in the pool saw, and at that point, the pool was admitted, and I think perhaps the best way to do this is to have the poolers come up here now and pick up the briefing at that point.

We hope we will have at least some information immediately following the conclusion of the morning meeting of the Presidents and a somewhat longer briefing after the afternoon meeting of the Presidents.

I don't know who the briefer will be.

Q Do you have any idea of what time it will finish this morning?

MR. NESSEN: I have no reason to believe they won't stick to the schedule, but I would suggest that you be here at least at the scheduled time of the morning meeting, and certainly here at the end of the scheduled time of the afternoon meeting

END (AT 11:05 A.M. Martinique Time)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:40 P.M. (Martinique Time)

DECEMBER 15, 1974

SUNDAY
(Martinique, F.W.I.)

MR. NESSEN: The meetings began, as your poolers told you, at approximately 10:50 A.M. and lasted until 12:26 P.M. The participants were the two Presidents, the Foreign Minister of France, the Secretary of State of the United States, General Scowcroft, and a translator from the French Government named Christopher Thiery.

The subject of energy was discussed in an amicable fashion and in depth. The meetings were conducted in English. At the same time a separate meeting was going on between Secretary Simon and the Finance Minister of France on three subjects: international monetary problems, gold, and the recycling of Arab oil money.

The two Presidents and the two Foreign Ministers will be going soon to Leyritz for lunch. They will return here and have their second meeting beginning at 4:00 and I will give you the topics of that meeting as soon as we know what they are.

That is basically all I have at the moment. For a more detailed briefing on the substance of this afternoon's meeting and this morning's meeting you should plan to be here immediately following the break-up of this afternoon's meeting.

Q Ron, was this morning's session a one-topic meeting? Was energy the only topic discussed?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Has the conversation ended now or will they continue talking about energy?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to give you the subject of this afternoon's meeting when one is clear what it is.

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Q Approximately when, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: As soon as they return here and it is clear what they are going to talk about this afternoon, I will let you know.

Q I mean, will it be after the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Hopefully it will be shortly after the beginning of the meeting.

Q Did the two Presidents reach any agreements this morning?

MR. NESSEN: I think we will just leave the statement where it is, Gaylord, and give you more details this afternoon as to what went on.

Q You said a more detailed briefing later; I thought you meant after the 4 o'clock meeting.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, but so you will understand what the afternoon meeting is about, I will try to give you the subject matter close to the start of the meeting.

Q How long is the meeting supposed to last?

MR. NESSEN: What does the schedule call for?

Q It leaves it open-ended.

MR. NESSEN: I think we will just have to see how the meeting goes.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:44 P.M. Martinique Time)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 4:00 P.M. (Martinique Time)

DECEMBER 15, 1974

SUNDAY

(Martinique, F.W.I.)

MR. NESSEN: What Mr. Beauchamps has just informed the French press, and this also reflects the views of the American side, is that the contacts between the two Presidents so far have been very good. On the level of their personal relations, they have been very relaxed.

The meeting for this afternoon will begin at 4:30.

Q What will the subject be this afternoon?

Q Mr. Beauchamps mentioned lunch.

MR. NESSEN: Your own poolers will give you a fill on the lunch. I cannot give you a subject on the afternoon meeting right now. I will pass them to you as soon as I have them.

Q Who do we attribute this to, the Press Secretary?

MR. NESSEN: You mean about the meeting and the personal relationship between the Presidents?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, you can attribute that to me.

Q Can you say whether energy will continue to be discussed this afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know, Russ.

I have one other announcement: As some of you who were out at the lunch know, there were pictures taken by the personal photographers of each President of the Presidents swimming, and also the Foreign Minister and Secretary Kissinger, and at the request of the Presidents, there were no news photographers there. However, because of the great interest in the subject and because it is possible that some news photographers did get some pictures, Mr. Beauchamps has graciously agreed to distribute some of his official photographer's pictures of the Presidents swimming. There will be prints available here for both the French and the American news services in several hours, however long it takes to develop and print the pictures.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 4:02 P.M. Martinique Time)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 6:15 P.M. (Martinique Time)

DECEMBER 15, 1974

SUNDAY

(Martinique, F.W.I.)

MR. NESSEN: I really only came to say that we are still awaiting the conclusion of the afternoon session, so we don't have a briefing yet. The afternoon session began at pretty close to 4:30 and I don't have the subject matter for you yet, but at 5:58, after approximately an hour and a half, Secretary Simon and the French Finance Minister adjourned their own private meeting and joined the two Presidents and the Foreign Minister and Secretary of State, and that meeting now continues.

So, the meeting, since 5:58, has consisted of the two Presidents, Secretary Kissinger, the Foreign Minister, Secretary Simon and the Finance Minister. There is really nothing more I can give you until the meeting is over and I don't have a clear idea how long that will be, although we might think vaguely in terms of another half hour.

Q Is Dr. Kissinger going to brief?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Helen.

Q The French have been told that Kissinger and his counterpart will not, that you and your counterpart will.

MR. NESSEN: Let's wait and see.

Q Can you even tell us for guidance?

MR. NESSEN: Dr. Kissinger has been in the meeting and I have not been able to talk to him about who is going to do it.

Q When are we going to get the toast?

MR. NESSEN: That is a good question. I will find out.

Q If he does brief, would you expect it to be immediately after the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 6:17 P.M. Martinique Time)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 7:28 P.M. (Martinique Time)

DECEMBER 15, 1974

SUNDAY

(Martinique, F.W.I.)

MR. NESSEN: I have a very brief report for you on today's meeting and I don't think we really need to have a film or tape of this.

The afternoon meeting ended at 6:30. As some of you saw, who were in the pool, the two Presidents, the Foreign Minister and the Secretary of State were dressed casually in sports shirts. The subject of the discussion at Leyritz was the Middle East and Indochina. The subject of the afternoon meeting was the European Security Treaty and the international economic situation.

As you know, Secretary Simon and the French Finance Minister joined those talks for the last half hour or so.

The next meeting will take place at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The meetings were conducted in an amicable and friendly manner and the atmosphere was very good.

The toasts tonight will be brief and spontaneous and of a non-substantive nature, so there will be no advance text of the toasts. There will be an as-delivered prepared for later in the evening.

Q Why can't we have them piped in here?
We are right next door.

MR. NESSEN: Is there some reason to believe they are not going to be piped in here?

Q I don't know.

MR. NESSEN: I know of no reason why they can't be piped in here.

The French President has requested that the toasts not be filmed or recorded for television or radio.

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Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: You will have to ask his spokesman, Helen.

Q Isn't that just a little bit odd?

MR. NESSEN: Basically, that is all I have to give you.

Q Ron, is Henry going to brief tonight?

MR. NESSEN: He will not.

Q Can you define Indochina? They talked about that. What about that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any more details to give you, Phil.

Q What changed the plan to give us a substantive briefing tonight?

MR. NESSEN: We never said there were any plans for that, Ralph. We said we would try.

Q You did earlier today.

MR. NESSEN: There is still another day and meeting to go.

Q Can you explain why you would come out here and say what the President is going to say tonight has no meaning?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I said that, Helen.

Q Is there some sort of agreement with the French President that nothing important be said at the toasts and why?

MR. NESSEN: I know of no such agreement. I am just telling you what the contents of the toasts will be.

Q How do you know, if they are going to be spontaneous?

Q What can you tell us about the outcome of the discussions? There are a lot of people here who are trying to find out what is happening.

MR. NESSEN: I feel sure by the time you leave Martinique you will know what is happening.

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Q There will be a joint communique?

MR. NESSEN: That hasn't been decided.

Q Will there be an announcement before the Presidents depart?

MR. NESSEN: Gaylord, before you leave Martinique, you will know the substance of the meeting.

Q To repeat the question from this morning, are there any points on which the two Presidents agreed on anything, so far, in the discussion?

MR. NESSEN: I think you will have to wait for the end of the meeting.

Q Are the discussions on the energy question definitely closed?

MR. NESSEN: I have no reason to believe they are.

Q Is there a topic and agenda for tomorrow's meeting, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't got one for you, Dick.

Q You don't know if there will be a communique, but you say we will know what was discussed. How will we know it?

MR. NESSEN: There are a lot of ways to let you know, Helen.

Q No, but I mean this is a very mysterious summit meeting.

MR. NESSEN: I can't tell you at the moment. There is nothing mysterious about the meeting.

Q You haven't given us anything substantive but topics for two days. May I ask why?

MR. NESSEN: I am reporting to you on the subject of the meetings and by the time you leave you will know what the outcome of the discussions was.

Q Are the French and Americans having trouble agreeing on just how to deal with the media and make public the information from this summit?

MR. NESSEN: I have no reason to believe that. I am certainly not.

Q Ron, earlier this afternoon, you said a photograph of the Presidents swimming would be distributed. It has not been and we understand it will not be. Can you please explain why?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that the French President decided that he didn't want the photographs distributed.

Q Ron, have they more or less worked out a compromise on the energy question?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think anything is ruled out. There is another meeting tomorrow, so there is no reason tonight to rule anything out or in.

Q Can you give us guidance on tomorrow's meeting for subject, please?

MR. NESSEN: I said earlier I don't have that for you right now. I am not able, at the moment, to give you the subject of tomorrow's meeting.

Q Will Kissinger brief us at all on sound tonight or tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: Not tonight.

Q Will he brief us tomorrow on sound and film?

MR. NESSEN: Dr. Kissinger is aware of your interest in his providing a briefing.

Q Ron, was there any difference between the two sides on how to inform us about what happened at these meetings?

MR. NESSEN: There is no difference between the two sides.

Q Did the French President request that Dr. Kissinger, or any other American official other than you, not appear here tonight?

MR. NESSEN: I am not aware of that, Phil.

Q Ron, there seems to be a dispute on the photographs in that the French have said they are not being released because the Americans don't want it released at their President's request.

MR. NESSEN: That is not my understanding.

Q Does the American side have any pictures and are they willing to make them available?

MR. NESSEN: David has some picture but has decided they shouldn't be processed here because he had one roll of film ruined. The first roll he had processed was ruined and he doesn't want to endanger the rest of the film he has taken.

Q Is there any chance that the Presidents will meet after dinner tonight?

MR. NESSEN: At the moment I don't know of any plans, Pierre, but if there are, I will announce them down here.

Q When you said no recording of the toasts, do you mean both Presidents, neither toasts will be recorded?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is there will not be.

Q Can you explain why the Prssident of the United States decides to get up and make a toast and -- has he agreed that he should not speak of anything substantive?

MR. NESSEN: Wait a minute. We are talking about two separate things. I was asked whether there would be a recording of the toasts and I said no, at the request of the French President, who is our host.

Q Can you explain why he is against it?

MR. NESSEN: I think you will have an opportunity in just a moment to talk to Mr. Beauchamps who perhaps can answer some of the questions.

Q Can you say whether Mr. Kennerly will allow his film to be processed by French services?

Q We have run 100 rolls and haven't ruined any, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: I will find Mr. Kennerly and ask him that question.

Q Is there any chance that tomorrow's meeting might last more than one hour because of what happened today?

MR. NESSEN: It is scheduled for an hour. I would think the two Presidents would take all the time they need to finish their discussions.

Q Do you know of any plans for it to go longer?

MR. NESSEN: I know of no specific plan to extend the meeting beyond the scheduled time.

Mr. Beauchamps is anxious to brief the French reporters who also have deadline problems.

Q Will he take questions from American reporters?

MR. NESSEN: I think that could be arranged.

Q The photographs that are not being released, were those taken by the official French photographer only?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct, Dick.

Q How many hours of talks have they had now, four?

MR. NESSEN: This morning's meeting lasted from 10:40 until 12:26, roughly, and the lunch meeting lasted -- I don't have all the times written down, Helen -- two hours, and this

afternoon from approximately 4:30 to 6:30. You can add the numbers up yourself.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END

(AT 7:40 P.M. Martinique Time)