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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 3:37 P.M. EDT

JULY 5, 1975

SATURDAY

(Camp David, Maryland)

MR. NESSEN: First of all, let me tell you how the meetings went, what the schedule of the meetings was.

First of all, the President met with President Suharto in the Presidential Office, the small Presidential Office in the Laurel Lodge. The only other two people present were an interpreter and General Scowcroft, who were taking notes. That meeting lasted for one hour and 20 minutes.

While that was going on there was a separate meeting in which Secretary of State Kissinger, and Foreign Minister Malik and the other officials on the two sides took part. I will give you those names in a moment. That meeting lasted one hour and 10 minutes. It was simultaneous with the President's private meeting with Suharto.

Then the entire party adjourned to the patio of the Laurel Lodge for lunch, and the President sat on President Suharto's left, and they continued their discussion during lunch. You heard the toasts, I believe, and the toasts do contain some statements which I think are probably of interest to you.

The lunch menu was gaspacho soup, to start with, beef tenderloin en broche -- in other words, similar to shishkabob -- steamed rice, vegetables, hearts of palm salad vinaigrette. Dessert was vanilla ice cream ring with blueberries on it.

After lunch, the President and President Suharto resumed their private meeting with only an interpreter, in the lounge of Laurel Lodge, and Secretary Kissinger and Foreign Minister Malik, and the others, continued their meeting informally in the conference room of Laurel Lodge, and that lasted 15 or 20 minutes.

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Then, President Suharto and President Ford walked alone back to Aspen Lodge, the President's lodge, and continued their talks there. That brings us up to date.

President Suharto will be leaving shortly.

Now, as for the discussions, I think ---

Q How much time did they spend in meetings?

MR. NESSEN: Let's say the President and Suharto spent one hour and 20 minutes in private meetings. Let's say an hour and 10 minutes at lunch, and another 20 minutes in the lodge and walking back.

Q What were they primarily discussing?

MR. NESSEN: They held a wide-ranging discussion on issues of mutual concern, including the current world situation, the Asian situation, in light of the recent events in Indochina, U.S. economic and security assistance to Indonesia, and the global energy problem. The meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere.

The two leaders had a very useful exchange of views. President Ford attaches particular importance to Indonesia and to the contribution it is making to peace and stability in Southeast Asia, and in Asia as a whole.

Now the members of the two parties included, along with President Suharto, his Foreign Minister Mr. Malik; the State Secretary, Mr. Sudharmono; and the Economic Affairs Minister, Mr. Widjojo.

On the American side, there was Secretary of State Kissinger, along with the President; the Assistant Secretary of Treasury, Charles Cooper; the President of the Export-Import Bank, William Casey; the Director of the Agency for International Development, Daniel Parker; the Assistant Secretary of State, Philip Habib; and the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Robert Ellsworth.

Now, Mrs. Suharto also accompanied her husband here and Mrs. Ford had an informal luncheon at the Aspen Lodge for Mrs. Suharto, Mrs. Kissinger, the wife of the Chief of Protocol, Mrs. Henry Catto, and other wives accompanying the Indonesian party.

That is about all I have to tell you.

Q Did the trade bill limitations on aid to OPEC countries come into the conversation?

MR. NESSEN: I think I would say only that the President discussed with President Suharto the world energy problem, including the question of oil.

Q Did President Suharto make any suggestion that military, technical, economic aid which has been reduced in the last year or two should be increased?

MR. NESSEN: Well, the two leaders did discuss American security assistance to Indonesia.

Q Did it go up or down?

MR. NESSEN: And they also reviewed the impact of Indochina on Asian security. President Ford assured President Suharto that the United States would continue a security assistance program to Indonesia. I am not going to be able to say anything about the amount.

Q You know both military and economic aid has shrunk quite drastically in the last few years, for whatever the reason.

MR. NESSEN: I am aware of that.

Q And I just wondered if possibly a request for more aid in either category has been made?

MR. NESSEN: I am not able to go into any more detail on the military aid, Ralph. On the subject of the economic aid, the President told President Suharto that the United States is now studying some recent findings by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on the economic assistance needs of Indonesia.

The President told President Suharto that the United States is studying those reports and that within the framework of the intergovernmental group for Indonesia -- which I think some of you are familiar with -- that the United States would continue its economic and technical assistance program to Indonesia. Again, I would not be able to talk about specific amounts today.

Q Did the meeting of the other officials concern matters related to the same issues?

MR. NESSEN: I think their talks probably paralleled the President Ford-President Suharto talks, and the same subjects that I mentioned came up.

Mr. Cooper, for the United States, also spoke at that meeting as did the economic affairs minister, so you can get some idea of the matters discussed there.

That is about all I really have.

Q When will President Suharto leave?

MR. NESSEN: I would think if he stays on his schedule he would be leaving within 15 to 20 minutes.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 3:47 P.M. EDT)