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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:15 A.M. WARSAW TIME

JULY 29, 1975

TUESDAY

(Warsaw, Poland)

MR. NESSEN: You have the menu, and you have the guest list. When the guests arrived in the entrance hall, there was a Polish-madrigal group of five people, dressed in medieval costumes and singing Polish madrigals.

Everyone then went into dinner. During dinner, there was a flutist and a harpist who played in a small alcove. After dinner, the President and the guests adjourned to a small chamber at the other end of the building, where they were entertained by a group called the Friendship Ambassadors, 75 American young people who are just concluding a three-week tour of Poland.

There was an orchestra, a chorus, an American madrigal group and also a group of bell ringers, and some soloists, both musicians and singers. This is an international program this Friendship Ambassador program, in which young American musicians visit various countries.

It is privately financed. It is not Government money. This group happened to be in Poland and was invited to entertain tonight. The President enjoyed it enormously. He clapped and laughed and so did the First Secretary.

The music ranged from popular to classical, a little opera, two violin solos. The concluding number was "America the Beautiful."

The President introduced the group to the Polish guests, and at the end thanked them, and First Secretary Gierek also thanked them, and in the translation of his remarks, he spoke of music as being the language of friendship.

The guests then went home, and the President adjourned to his quarters. I went down there with him to see whether he had finished working on the various speeches and toasts and so forth tomorrow. He decided to do that on the plane going to Krakow, so we are not going to have any printed material to give you tonight in advance.

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Q Except for the guest list?

MR. NESSEN: The schedules. That is right. We will have an office in Krakow. I hope to get the market square speech done on the plane and ready to pass out as soon as we land.

The only other thing I can tell you is that Mrs. Ford did not attend the dinner tonight. However, afterward I did go back with the President, and she was up. Dr. Lukash says she is feeling much better, and she seemed fine and rested and looking forward to tomorrow.

Dr. Lukash said that a good night's sleep and she will be just fine tomorrow, so there is no problem there.

Q Does she plan to meet her original schedule tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: I don't even know what her original schedule is tomorrow, but according to Lukash, a good night's sleep and she will be fine and ready to go on with the trip.

Q You say she will be fine with another good night's sleep. What has been wrong?

MR. NESSEN: Tired.

Q Just fatigue?

MR. NESSEN: That is all.

Q Ron, you say she has not had any problem with her back?

MR. NESSEN: Absolutely none. Absolutely none.

Q Why hasn't she had any sleep?

MR. NESSEN: Have you? (Laughter)

Q She is not on my schedule.

MR. NESSEN: She was yesterday.

Q Not completely.

MR. NESSEN: Yesterday was a very hard day, and she was up late last night and she was very tired today. Everyone who asked the President about it tonight, that is the same answer he told them. Then, as I say, I went in and talked to her myself and she said she had been very tired today but was feeling fine now and the doctor said she would be fine tomorrow, after a good night's sleep.

Q So, you do expect her to go to Auschwitz, to go to market square?

MR. NESSEN: I assume.

Q Ron, Sheila said the doctors had not examined Mrs. Ford. Is that wrong now?

MR. NESSEN: Dr. Lukash talked to her this morning, or early this afternoon, when we got to the Palace, and that is when she decided she would rather take it easy today than keep her schedule. He talked to her again tonight, when I was there, after the dinner. As far as I know, those were the only two times he talked to her.

Q He didn't examine her, though?

MR. NESSEN: Not as far as I know.

Q You say she was up. Do you mean in her bedroom?

MR. NESSEN: No, she was out in the sitting room. She came out in the sitting room. She had been in the bedroom when we arrived.

Q Was the schedule that was planned for her just a little too ambitious?

MR. NESSEN: Yesterday?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I think the schedule planned for everybody yesterday was too ambitious.

Q I am asking about specifically her.

MR. NESSEN: She was tired from a busy day yesterday, as we all were. She was tired and she rested today and will get a good night's sleep and will be back on track tomorrow.

Q Is the President going to get some rest?

MR. NESSEN: I think you know he does not need quite as much as some of the rest of us. He is turning in now between 12:00 and 12:30, and he is going to meet Cheney for staff time at 8 o'clock, so he will get six or seven hours sleep tonight.

I think we will do it for here. We will have nothing but the schedule to put out tonight, and we will get the other things to you as fast as possible tomorrow.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:25 A.M. WARSAW TIME)