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PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

OMISSION OF REFERENCE TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES

Q. Why didn't the President mention Japan or Thailand specifically in his press conference last night? Do events in Indochina indicate that a change in our relationship with those countries may be evolving?

A. You will recall that the President used the term "other Pacific nations" in referring to our desire to work closely with our friends in Asia. As to the countries you cite, the President has stated and reaffirmed on numerous occasions (directly and through this podium) our commitments to our allies throughout the world, and his intention that we will maintain and strengthen these commitments. As a reference for the future, I don't think that any significance should be drawn on a specific reference or omission of a country on any given occasion.

No intention signal change
main policy by what he
said last night

PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS

1. The Vice President

The President met this morning with the Vice President, who briefed him on his trip to Riyadh Saudi Arabia to extend U. S. condolences to King Khalid and the Saudis on the death of King Faisal and to reassure the new government of continued U. S. cooperation in the search for peace in the Middle East.

While there, Vice President Rockefeller met with President Sadat of Egypt and reviewed the recent breakdown of talks. It was the first time the Vice President and Sadat had met.

2. McAuliffe

The President will meet today at 12:30 p. m. with Eugene McAuliffe, U. S. Ambassador to Hungary. This will be a courtesy call, as Ambassador McAuliffe prepares to depart for his post in Budapest. Ambassador McAuliffe is a career foreign service officer; this is his first ambassadorial post.

3. Schlesinger

If asked, you may say that Secretary Schlesinger requested this meeting. It is one of the frequent and regular exchanges President Ford encourages among his Cabinet officials.