

AUGUST 19, 1974

POOL REPORT
ON MOTORCADE FROM O'HARE FIELD
TO CONRAD HILTON HOTEL



The crowds started building up shortly after the Presidential motorcade left the expressway at the Ohio Street exit. There were crowds one and two deep from about State Street over to Michigan Avenue. And shortly after turning on to Michigan Avenue, the motorcade stopped and the top was lifted off of the President's car. He stood up, waving to crowds that were five or six deep on both sides of the street.

As he crossed the Chicago River, the Chicago Fire Department fireboats shot up turquoise and lavender sprays of water that shot 100 feet in the air. There were four separate streams of water streaming from the boats.

At the same time, somebody unknown set off a string of firecrackers from the other side of the bridge lasting for about 20 seconds. There were aerial flags.

About one block South of the river, the President stopped his car and shook hands with people along the sidewalk for about two minutes. Several young girls ran up and kissed him almost as soon as he left the car. It was a hassle and his hair was mussed, but he seemed to enjoy it. He came back to his car with a smile on his face. At one point, a burly man shook his hand and said, "Don't make it Rockefeller, don't make it Rockefeller."

Ford said, "Thank you," and kept moving. Most of those he shook hands with said, "Good luck, congratulations." He remained standing up in the car heading toward the Conrad Hilton, waving both hands, sometimes clasping his hands like a winning prizefighter.

Mrs. Ford stayed in the car the entire motorcade and did not stand up. As the motorcade approached the Greek demonstrators, the President ducked back inside the car and waved at the demonstrators through the side window. The windows were closed. There was no noticeable increase in speed when the motorcade came upon the demonstrators but there were agents surrounding the car.

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The demonstrators were very, very loud as we drove by. One large sign held by the demonstrators said, "Kissinger, give back your Nobel prize." Another sign said, "Ford, Fire Kissinger." Another one said, "Cyprus, an international Watergate." Several signs referred to the Secretary of State as "Killinger."

Among the things the crowd was chanting was "Independent Cyprus," "CIA get out," "NATO is a joke," "Kissinger the Turk," "Give the Nobel back," "Kissinger resign," "Kissinger get out," "Greece out of NATO," "Napalms are killing brothers," and "Hands off Cyprus."

Ford was waving toward the demonstrators. When he arrived at the hotel, he was greeted by Senator Percy: There was a crush of people around him. Police and agents tried to open the way for them as they walked into the hotel. Governor and Mrs. Walker, who were in the car behind the President, were crushed in the crowd with Governor Walker showing some irritation at the crush.

Also, staff aides were caught in the crush and were not allowed in momentarily.

Aldo Beckman, Chicago Tribune
Tom DeFrank, Newsweek