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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
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THE WHITE HOUSE

ANNOUNCEMENT
BY
RON NESSEN

8:15 A.M. PST

Dr. Lungren called Dr. Lukash at approximately 7:35 this morning and said, "The former President is in the best condition since his operation. A visit from President Ford would be a tremendous boost to his morale." So President Ford will visit the former President.

The President will leave the hotel by motorcade at 9:35. There is not to be any filing during the briefing. Does everybody understand that? There is no filing during the briefing. We will have to police ourselves, so I think you should hang up the phone.

The President will leave the hotel by motorcade at 9:35. He will drive to a helicopter pad at the FBI Building nearby, a drive of approximately seven minutes. He will arrive at the FBI Building, helicopter pad, at 9:42.

There will be two helicopters. Those on the President's helicopter will be the President, Robert Hartmann, Ron Nessen, Dr. Lukash, Lieutenant Colonel Sardo, David Kennerly, and two Secret Service agents.

Those on the other helicopter will be Dick Cheney, four members of the Secret Service, and a press pool consisting of the UPI, the AP, and Tom DeFrank of NEWSWEEK Magazine.

The President's helicopter departs at 9:45 for a flight of 20 minutes to the Long Beach, California Airport, arriving at 10:05. He will go by motorcade from the Long Beach Airport en route to the Long Beach Hospital, a drive of eight minutes. He will arrive at the hospital at 10:15.

He will remain at the hospital as planned now for approximately 20 minutes. This means he would leave the hospital at about 10:35. He will go back to the airport at Long Beach by motorcade, arriving at Los Angeles International Airport by helicopter, a flight of approximately 15 minutes.

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This is a flight from Long Beach Airport to Los Angeles International Airport, West Imperial Terminal, a flight of approximately 15 minutes, arriving at Los Angeles International Airport shortly before 11:00 and taking off in Air Force One for Fresno, California, at 11:00 as in the original schedule.

The press which is going on the press plane as well as the remainder of the Air Force One pool for the flight to Fresno will leave the hotel at 9:30 which is, I believe, a half hour earlier than originally scheduled.

Q Later, we were supposed to leave at 9:00.

MR. NESSEN: How long a ride is it to the airport?

The press and the remainder of Air Force One pool will leave here at 9:00 as originally scheduled.

There is not much I can add to that.

Q Do you know which entrance of the hospital, or whatever?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about the hospital.

Q Ron, did the possibility of a visit to the former President first arise last night when the President called Mrs. Nixon?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q Why were the Secret Service over there the day before that checking it out?

MR. NESSEN: Bob, I am told that was the Secret Service detail assigned to the former President, and they were simply making preparations for his stay in the hospital.

Q Ron, was there some other reason, then, that a hole was left in the President's schedule this morning?

MR. NESSEN: So he could catch up on his sleep due to the time change, Russ.

Q Thank you.

END (8 20 A.M. PST)