

NOVEMBER 20, 1974

POOL REPORT
Tour of the President's Quarters, Akasaka Palace

Following the morning head-to-head session between President Ford and Prime Minister Tanaka, Nessen took a group through the President's quarters in the Palace. It is a suite of ornate rooms just to the left of the second floor salon where this morning's meeting took place.

First, there is a sitting room decorated in ivory and gold woodwork. Ceilings about fifteen feet high. Marble fireplaces with big mirrors above the mantles. Pink and white tapestry panels. Empire furniture, including a writing table on which White House writing paper was laid out. The President's pipes were in various crystal ashtrays, and a package of Cavendish 79 tobacco was on a small table between two chairs. Large, old-fashioned TV set.

The bedroom is about twice as big, dominated by an enormous pinkish canopied bed, described by one writer as Emperor sized (it is actually twin beds with a single pink cover). There was more Empire furniture in the room, including a table in a corner with an ice bucket, and various bottles, including Gin and Vermouth, and a bottle of stuffed olives. Two call buttons, a telephone and a note pad are at the bedside. There is a tape deck under the night table. The view is over a small balcony and shows a large fountain, trees and the skyline of Tokyo. Beyond the bedroom is a pink dressing room and a marble bath. All very fancy.

Nessen said the President was up at six, did some exercises, had breakfast at seven (melon, muffin, tea) and went over his briefing books prior to the meeting. He said Kissinger occupies quarters of similar size on the other side of the Palace.

John Chancellor - NBC