

NOVEMBER 21, 1974

POOL REPORT #474 AND #475

The garden at the rear of the Nijo Palace is a classic Japanese creation, with pond and water fall, ducks, huge goldfish, the typical pines and rocks.

At 2:40 p.m. the poolers at the rear of the Palace saw workers run about the Palace with large wooden trays covered with shoes, indicating the official party had entered the Palace. Five minutes later the sliding panel doors at the rear opened and the President appeared with his interpreter and official escort. He was accompanied by Secretary Kissinger, the only member of the party who was wearing a raincoat, and Ambassador Hodgson. For several minutes the President studied the scene while chatting with the interpreter. "Is this the original garden?" He asked. After some discussion among the Japanese he was told, "Yes." Your poolers suspect there was a failure of communication here.

All of the official party wore the sandals provided for the tour of the Palace, but those of the Americans seem to be of a distinctive suede.

The party went back inside the building and reappeared at the opposite end of the building five minutes later. There the shoes were waiting. They had been laid out around a red carpet spread on the ground at the bottom of the steps. But it began to rain, and there was much scurrying around to pass the shoes up on the porch. The President balanced neatly first on one foot and then the other as he slipped on his shoes.

The party then set off through the rain with umbrellas provided by attendants.

Hank Trehitt
Oswald Johnson

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