

POOL REPORT**From Pool # 480****Dinner at the Tsuruya Restaurant**

The President came out of the hotel smoking his pipe and drove to the restaurant closeby, where the party entered through a graveled garden courtyard into the Jenko or Outer Room, where the President and others removed their shoes. This was done before the poolers arrived, and after a hassel over the limitation on coverage, removed their own shoes and were shown to a waiting room where they could get a peek through the windows into the main dining room.

The party was seated at a low table on leg-less padded chairs -- a geisha girl between each of the gentlemen. The President was smoking his pipe and talking to a girl on his right who, from her dark kimono, was a senior geisha. While the press was waiting to be shown in, 4 younger geishas walked past them and joined the party at the table. Unlike the girls already at the table, the new arrivals were porcelainfaced, delicately painted girls wearing light pastel kimonos and their hair piled high and decorated with combs and ornaments.

One person, who was in the room earlier, said the girls on either side of the President spoke some English but it was poor. He said the President used chopsticks and was pretty good with them, much better than Nixon.

The Press was admitted for its 3 minutes and saw that 3 of the young geishas were seated between the President, Hartmann, and Ushiba, the host. The 4th young geisha was seated beside Henry Kissinger on the other side of the table.

The men were laughing animatedly. The chalk-faced girls showed no expression. Food was on the table and the President was eating with chopsticks. He said "I wanted to show off for the press".

The room was hung on one side with red and white lanterns. There were flower arrangements of mums. The only other decoration in the room was a large painting of a red fish on a blue and white plate.

The poolers saw a couple of minutes of a classical Japanese dance performed by 2 young geishas to the accompaniment of string instruments by 2 older geishas. We couldn't get an explanation of the dance but it was moody rather than gay, and had something to do with fall maple leaves, which the girls carried in a basket and on branches.

The menu has already been put out. The poolers retrieved their shoes and returned to the hotel, leaving the traveling pool to tea and cakes. The restaurant was closed to the public for the evening. The President's unofficial party was having dinner upstairs while Scowcroft, Hartmann, Rumsfeld, Nessen, Habib, Kissinger, Catto and Hodgson were eating with their Japanese hosts, downstairs.

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