

November 21, 1974

POOL REPORT  
IMPERIAL PALACE  
POND GARDEN  
(Pool #471)

Ford and his party entered the area on schedule -- 2:15 p.m. Within sight, but out of our hearing range, Tadashi Ishikawa described one wing of the palace, which I took to be the Kogosho Hall (Ceremonial Den).

Kissinger was at the President's side throughout the discussion as the rest of the party milled around a step back.

From there, with Kissinger still at his side, the President walked to the edge of the pond and stood with his arms folded in front of him as an interpreter described the setting. Again, we couldn't hear, but the obvious features were the thick stand of carefully trimmed pine trees that framed three sides of the water -- two arched bridges at either end -- and a small island in the middle adorned with miniature pines and a stone lantern.

President Ford crossed a stone block bridge at one end of the pond and disappeared from our view for three minutes or so. He returned to the bridge a few minutes later accompanied by Kissinger and Ishikawa. Ford began to clap his hands and point at the water, obviously hoping to attract the golden carp swimming there. Although the carp are trained to respond to the sound of applause, apparently they're indifferent to imperial commands when they come from an American. None swam toward the President. He laughed and tried again. Still no carp. Finally, the President, Kissinger and Ishikawa moved to an arched wooden bridge at the other end of the pond where Ford clapped several times. Finally, a carp came within range. Carp commanded, the President's party moved out of our view.

TOM BROKAW  
NBC

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