

November 23, 1974

POOL REPORT
ARRIVAL AT SPECIAL DEPOT
(POOL NO. 3)

The green train bearing the official entourage pulled up at the 'special depot' at 4:10. It is an open platform beside the two tracks, with white bannisters to keep people from falling off.

The General Secretary and the President stepped off the train, Ford first. There was no official greeting party, only a cluster of 11 security men and aides. They walked together down eight steps to an asphalt plaza area which had been cleared of snow. It was cold, but no wind, not uncomfortable. Ford said, "It was a very nice train ride." Then he asked Brezhnev, "Is this a beautiful rest camp in summertime?" Since there was no interpreter with them, we'll never know.

Ford was wearing dark blue overcoat and mink hat given by Ambassador Dobrynin at White House; Brezhnev in gray overcoat and gray astrachan hat. They walked about 20 yards to Brezhnev's official limousine, a long black Zil-114, bearing the flags of both countries. Kissinger and his opposite number got into second limousine, followed by two security cars, and then at least 30 small cars bearing members of the two entourages who had been on the train. All roared up the hill to the compound.

The conference building in which talks will begin at 6:00 p.m. is quite modern, white stucco, with stained glass window featuring white doves and two buildings. The compound is enclosed by 10-foot tall green wooden fence, with military guards and border guards posted at close intervals. (Border guards wearing smashing uniforms--cossack-type coats of fur trimmed suede, double breasted with brass buckles, fur hat, boots. Wow!)

About 70 military officers of one kind and another were present at the train platform, but there was no ceremony of any kind.

Brezhnev's dacha is green frame, like a farmhouse, a few yards away from the conference center.

Everything snowy, bridges over icy stream, view of bay beyond.

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