

APRIL 4, 1975

POOL REPORT

Air Force One -- Palm Springs to San Francisco

President left residence at 8:17 a. m. enroute for Palm Springs airport. Took off at scheduled time of 8:35 a. m. Weyand due to arrive in Palm Springs at 11:45 a. m. , Nessen told us. The first meeting between Weyand, Kissinger and the President is at 7:15 a. m. Saturday at the Presidential residence. Nessen said he would bring Kissinger down for briefing afterward at about 10:00 a. m. Reporters on the pool also asked to be briefed by Weyand. "I'm working on it," Nessen replied, but made no commitments.

President, Kissinger and Weyand will meet again at 2:30 p. m. on Saturday. Ford and Kissinger met from Thursday night at 11:45 p. m. until 1:00 a. m. Friday morning. Mrs. Kissinger arrived with her husband and went directly to the Hal Wallis home, where the Kissingers are staying.

Nessen distributed a statement by the President on the crash of C-5A plane carrying the orphans. He said there will be two statements that will be distributed about the time of the Governors' luncheon, both on domestic policy. President's reaction to unemployment statistics will be in speech tonight.

Nessen was asked about apparent conflict between President's statement about Thieu at Media breakfast Thursday and Weyand's statement that withdrawal of South Vietnamese forces was "sound strategic action". Weyand was talking about a strategic decision, Nessen replied. "It was good strategy to go to defensible lines." The President was talking about how it was carried out tactically. There's no conflict in these two things." Rephrasing the same idea, Nessen said: "It was sound strategic decision but the President thinks that tactically it was improperly carried out."

Nessen said it still uncertain whether President will fly back to San Francisco area from Las Vegas to greet planeload of orphans. This is because plan of orphan flights not known. Nessen described a flight from Vegas to greet orphans as "a possibility."

Lou Cannon
Dean Fisher
John Cochran

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