

May 29, 1975

Pool Report #4

Meeting Between President Ford and Greek Premier Constantine Caramanlis at the Reception Room of the Ambassador's Residence

Also present were: Greek Foreign Minister Dimitrios Bitsios and Chief of Cabinet Ambassador Molyviatis and Secretary of State Kissinger and General Scowcroft.

It was difficult to understand Caramanlis and, on two occasions, the President asked him to repeat himself.

The reception room they met in was dominated by a huge Chinese screen and a very large gilt mirror. The President and Premier sat in blue chairs at one end of the room and the other participants sat on two red velvet sofas.

Caramanlis commiserated with the President on the time change. Mr. Ford said he had about five hours sleep. Caramanlis asked the President if he was next going to Spain. Ford said, yes, then to Salzburg, where he is to meet President Sadat of Egypt. Caramanlis said he would be seeing Sadat first. (A Greek journalist later told poolers that Sadat will stop in Athens enroute to Belgrade before going to Salzburg). Ford said, "please tell him I am looking forward to meeting him...to very serious talks. We hope we can be helpful in achieving some success on the stalemate there. We feel very strongly."

Caramanlis, in a grey suit and vest, blue tie and off white shirt, said he understood there were about 2 million persons of Greek ancestry in the United States. Mr. Ford said he understood it was closer to 3 million and that they (the Greek community in the U.S.) "have been by tradition a leader of almost every community in which they live... business, industry." The President said, "the first job I ever had was given to me by a man of Greek background in his restaurant. I was very lucky." Pool ushered out.

John Cochran, NBC  
Phil Shabecoff, New York  
Times

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