

MAY 29, 1975

POOL REPORT NO. 10

Lonely Embrey Newspaper Pool Report:

President Ford departed NATC's main gate 6:37 p. m. after saying good-bye to a group of officials on the headquarters' steps. A dozen children and women, several with U. S. accents waved and held small U. S. flags. President waved back. Some knots of spectators waved and smiled as the motorcade moved at slow speed--30 to 35 mph for a mile and a half. More individuals and small groups of people watched from apartment house balconies. Gendarmerie (state police) at 100 to 200 yard intervals and on overpasses. Larger groups of spectators appeared as motorcade entered North Side Brussels. Ten, twenty, as many as fifty or more in commercial districts near Common Market. Past CM building, five to ten persons at intersections. Arriving at U. S. Embassy, President entered ballroom to applause of some 150 staff members from U. S. embassies to both Belgium and NATC at 6:50 p. m.

Washington--President Ford Thursday called his NATO summit meetings so far "very successful and useful."

In a five minute speech to U. S. embassy staff members in Brussels, Ford said he had been looking forward for some time to his meetings here and wanted to "participate in a meaningful way."

"I can say to you all I was not disappointed," Ford said referring to "all" the sessions he had held up to that point with NATO nation prime ministers and other representatives together and in individual, private sessions, one nation at a time.

Ford said he has felt for a long time that the U. S. 'must play a very strong and visionary role in world affairs."

Ford recalled that after he was sworn in as a congressman January 3, 1949, the first vote he was called upon to make was on the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe.

The President said that effort led to the "right approach" the U. S. has taken in world affairs since then.

At several points, Ford praised U. S. embassy personnel for their help both in his current visit and to past administrations and congresses.

After his talk, first for which newsmen were permitted during his trip to Europe this week, Ford pushed past security guards to the laughter and applause of the embassy crowd and spent another five minutes shaking hands and saying hello before departing the ballroom.

George Embrey
Columbus Dispatch

###