

POOL REPORT - Pool 4

May 31, 1975

Meeting with Generalissimo Franco at Pardo Palace

President walked up the stairs to the meeting room, followed by several staff members, including Hartmann, Kissinger, Scowcroft, Hartman, Kennerly, Rumsfeld, Nessen, Stabler.

He paused at the entrance to the Goya Salon for the photographers, then walked into Franco's office for the meeting.

Mrs. Ford followed soon thereafter, accompanied by Senora Carlos Arias, wife of the Prime Minister. Mrs. Ford was wearing a shirtwaist dress of salmon or coral (fashion coordinator Helen Thomas says both would be OK), a scarf about her neck.

The President, meanwhile, posed for photos with Franco in the Generalissimo's office, a room with red hangings on the wall which made it look like a museum. They stood there not saying a word to each other, and the President looked grim. He was wearing the same clothes as he had on for the arrival at Madrid, and Franco presumably wore same uniform with red sash.

The President sat on Franco's left, each on a chair, while there was a couch arranged in an "L" shaped grouping. Kissinger sat on the President's left, and Stabler next to the secretary.

Two interpreters sat behind the Heads of State.

In the background of the office was a desk, Franco's desk, piled high with books, papers and what looked like reports. Fashion coordinator Thomas remarked that it is difficult to describe the hangings in the office, or the Goya room which is merely an anteroom, "unless you were a poet."

In the Goya room, Mrs. Ford sat with Mrs. Franco, who was wearing a red, gray and blue dress, with a choker of three strands of pearls, and matching pearl earrings. Other ladies grouped around the two First Ladies.

At that point, we were hustled out and the staff members, Nessen, etc., followed. They all went to Moncloa we came back here.

Nessen said he would brief some time before the dinner at the Press Center, but not before the three meetings are completed. Enroute to Plaza, Hushen confirmed President would go to church Sunday morning pre-leaving for Austria, but couldn't say where or what time, except it will be pre-8:45 when he is scheduled to depart.

The Pardo Palace is a magnificent 18th Century thing built as a summer residence and hunting lodge for the Bourbon kings. Still have deer on the spacious grounds.

Military barracks for army signal corps near palace, virtually on the grounds but outside the gate.

The President left the palace at 2:05 with Kissinger and Scowcroft.

Saul Kohler

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