

POOL REPORTS #6 and #7

May 31, 1975

President Arias left the Palace at approximately 4:52 p. m. local time. President Ford and Secretary Kissinger accompanied him to the car.

While he was waiting to bid farewell to the Spanish officials, President Ford turned to U. S. Ambassador Wells Stabler and said, "...went on and on like a brook." (By putting together the length of the discussion and the partial quote, your pool reporters can only surmise that the President felt the Spanish delegation had a great deal to say.)

At the same time, Secretary Kissinger was overheard joking with a Spanish military official through an interpreter. Kissinger said, "If the Foreign Minister is so tough, what is the military like?" Kissinger then jokingly asked to have his comment translated.

The Arias party had barely departed when Prince Juan Carlos and Princess Sofia arrived in their own motorcade, in a blue Mercedes, at 4:57 p. m. local time.

In greeting the Prince, President Ford said, "It's a real pleasure to see you in better circumstances this time." (an obvious reference to his previous trip to Madrid in 1973 for the funeral of Luis Carrero Blanco.) Appearing somewhat uneasy, Mr. Ford then said to the Prince and Princess, "Mrs. Ford will be here in a moment." It appeared that Mrs. Ford had been late for the arrival. However we were told later by members of Mrs. Ford's staff that she was waiting in the Reception Hall just a few feet from the doorway unobserved by the President.

The two couples then retired to the Library to begin their discussions. Outside the Library door, Secretary Kissinger, questioned by your reporters, described the Arias talks as "very cordial and very constructive." He was asked constructive in what way, and the reply was, with a laugh, "Come on now, you don't expect me to go into details."

Steve Bell
Bill Ringle

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