

June 3, 1975

POOL REPORT #3

QUIRINALE PALACE

President Ford met with President Giovanni Leone in one of the many salas in the palace, identified as the Studio Del Singor Presidente for about half an hour.

They were scheduled to move to the adjoining Sala Degli Arazzi di Lilla for an expanded meeting with Prime Minister Aldo Moro, Foreign Minister Mariano Rumor and other officials (identified in the day's schedule).

To the pool, thoroughly bemused by being moved in and out of salas, like the gent consigned to limbo in Dante's Inferno, the expanded meeting seemed to be taking place in the same place as the tete-a-tete between Ford and Leone.

The only noteworthy aspect of the morning was the art work in the palace and the various salas -- rugs on the wall, vast murals on walls and ceilings, floors of marble and parquet.

The two Presidents, for example, sat on a flowered divan, flanked by interpreters, before a large painting of turkeys and bird, with a huge jackass poking around amidst the fowl.

In the hall in which your dutiful pool lounged endlessly, the murals on the ceiling consisted of nude male artists, painting, sculpting, playing the flute. The men compared favorably with Charles Atlas, muscle-wise, and the women were cut from a Shelley Winters mold. The center frame depicted a heavenly scene with flying angels and kindred nymphs having a high old time in lush pastels. In another sala, the walls and panels of odd scenes -- one showing an elephant and a horse, with black natives among a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables, including watermelons, or a reasonable facsimile of same.

A Tarzan type dominated another panel. He sat under a pear tree, surrounded by lizards, crabs, turtles and turkeys. Another panel showed a camel, with a monkey on its back picking apples off a tree, so help me, while a robust horse looks on, transfixed. The ceiling features lovely half-nudes. And so it went.

There was much hustling about by tall functionaires, and not a discouraging word was heard before lunch.

Peter Lisagor

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