

POOL REPORT

Air Force One - Andrews AFB to Bonn
July 26, 1975

The President and the Vice President and Mrs. Ford flew in the same chopper from the White House to Andrews AFB. Bob Hartmann said it took a special order from Ford himself to get this done because of the Secret Service rule against the two flying together. It is not the first time a President and Vice President have flown together, according to one source aboard. He believes that on one occasion LBJ and HHH flew aboard a chopper together. I do not remember such an occasion.

Rocky stood beside the President while he (Ford) read his farewell statement.

Air Force One off the ground at 8:30 am EDT.

Jack Ford came back and talked easily with the pool. Seemed to be eager to talk. Talk started with comment on a letter he wrote to the Star, published a few days ago, then Helen asked if he would like to be President. "I'd rather be Vice President," he replied. "You don't have to work as hard and you get the benefits." Said he really wanted to go back out west, "but I'm going to try to stick it out in Washington for the campaign." He said he would make some speeches for his father. Doesn't like Washington weather at all. Would be willing to go into politics if he could live where he wants (Wyoming, Idaho, Utah are his favorites) and not have to stay inside all the time.

When asked if he agreed with his father's philosophy, he said "overall I agree very much so, but I admit that if anything I may be more conservative." He said he definitely believed in a pay-as-you-go policy but recognized it could not always be achieved at the federal level. He said "people are really getting tired" after "throwing money around for 20 years it hasn't solved all the problems."

He said his college experience was more responsible for his conservatism than his father's influence. He told how easy it was for students to borrow \$350 and then squander it in a day or two. He said he was referring to what was called an emergency loan.

He said that this was "a good -intentioned high cost program and a nuisance."

He said his conservatism also stemmed from the fact "I never had any money. I have worked every summer since I was twelve." He said he got some help from family and mentioned getting \$10 a week at times.

Asked what he liked about the White House, he said: "Someone makes my bed every morning and does my laundry."

Asked what he did not like, he said: "I don't like the way people are so awed by the White House. I don't like living in an institution. I see the need for it, but it doesn't sit well with me. If I had my way, I'd like to see more of the house opened up." He said he thought it might be possible at this time when family is away to open some of the family quarters. He noted that the White House visiting hours already have been extended.

When Helen asked when he was going to get married, he laughed and said he "preferred not even to think about that."

He was reminded that last year he said he didn't think his father should run next year and he said "personally, I would rather he not run, but as a citizen, yes, he should run because he's doing a very good job."

Jack is 23 and graduated this year in forestry from Utah State University.

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The following is background from a senior American official:

There won't be "spectacular announcements" every day on the trip. The President has close relations with Chancellor Schmidt and they will have a review of Atlantic and East-West problems. Schmidt recently sent teams of officials to developed and underdeveloped countries to discuss economic interrelationships. "I'm confident that this will be an important part of the conversations." They will also discuss "the world situation and the Middle East."

Edward Gierak, Polish First Secretary, was one of the first foreign leaders to call on Ford after he became President and U.S. Polish relations are "good." They will primarily discuss East-West relations and bilateral relations.

In Helsinki, the President will have two two-hour meetings with Brezhnev and also meet with Giscard, Wilson, Caramanlis and others. Turkish P.M. Demirel "may not agree" to a meeting, but it is a possibility they will meet. If Ford-Demirel do not meet Kissinger and the Turkish F.M. expect to meet. Kissinger will hold a number of meetings with foreign ministers in addition to meetings the President will have. There will be a four-power luncheon of heads of government: U.S., France, Britain and Germany, to discuss Berlin and other matters.

The official was interrupted here and began talking about the Turkish vote. He said the President was making phone calls from the plane to see what the situation is in the House. (Nessen said the President had talked to Friedersdorf, Jack Marsh and others "to explore legislative steps that might be taken to reverse the vote on Turkish aid.")

The senior official went on to say that any action on Turkish vote is dependent on the President's assessment of the situation and whether it is possible to bring it up for a vote next week.

The compromise defeated in the vote Thursday was the "absolute minimum -- it was at the very edge of what would have worked" -- suggesting there's little more the Administration can compromise on.

He said the vote would have a major impact on other countries dependent on us for military assistance.

He said it is not practical to move some of these bases elsewhere and get same results. Already some House members have expressed concern about the results to Administration, but the situation for new action is clouded. We understand that up to now U.S. personnel may stay at the bases but cannot operate the facilities, and the bases are under Turkish control.

He said chance of a Cyprus settlement was greatly damaged by the House action. Our interest is in a Cyprus settlement.

Very vague comments on the Middle East: There's "a chance" for an Israeli-Egyptian withdrawal agreement. There is talk of various schemes for an American presence as monitors but nothing definite and Congress would be consulted before any agreement for monitors. Kissinger will see Eilts, the American Ambassador to Egypt, tomorrow in Bonn to give the Ambassador the latest report on the Israeli position. Kissinger saw Ambassador Dinitz yesterday.

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Will Kissinger return to the Middle East next month? He will go when agreement is 90 per cent sure, but would not go unless he thought he could wrap it up in 10 days. He rates chances of agreement 51-49 now but failure is still possible.

The official emphasized that the trip is going to be a "very useful trip." The visit to Yugoslavia and Rumania will largely involve bilateral issues, but Yugo has strong interest in Middle East that will be discussed.

He dodged all questions on SALT. But said the talks with Brezhnev would be important and on the plus side.

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