

POOL REPORT

Meeting of President Ford and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt
July 27, 1975

President Ford and Chancellor Schmidt arrived at Schmidt's office at 9:40 a.m., posed for photographs with Secretary of State Kissinger and German Foreign Minister Gentsher. Ford and Schmidt in very amiable conversation. "Is this your private office?" Ford asked. Schmidt indicated yes. Kissinger asked: "Is this the one that Adenauer used? I haven't been here since seeing Adenauer. I usually met Brandt at Venisburg." Schmidt's office quite simple, white walls and parquet floors, rosewood furniture (contemporary), oriental carpets and walls hung with paintings by Emil Nolde, two lithographs by Chagall and one wall of photos from world leaders, including two color photos together with Ford at White House.

They took their seats around a conference table. There was a centerpiece of orange roses, bowls of cigarettes and equipment for the two pipe smokers. Schmidt took out his pipes and offered one to Ford. Ford indicated he had his own along and said "I always feel comfortable with my pipe out." Ford then showed Schmidt a pipe (square briar carved rough and smooth) and told him it was Russian. But Ford smoked another pipe, leaving the Russian one on the table in front of him. Ford and Schmidt sat opposite each other, with Kissinger and Gentsher on either side. General Scowcroft joined the meeting. Meeting lasted until 11:15 (30 minutes longer than originally scheduled).

They then moved down the hall to the "small cabinet room" where they were joined by ten other officials, including Ambassador Martin Hillenbrand, Counselor Helmut Sonnenfeld, Assistant Secretary Hartman, Ambassador Von Stadten. Before the leaders entered the room, the following conversation took place between David Hume Kennerly, White House Photographer, and Frau Gisela Libal, assistant to Herr Horst Juergen Winkel, Chancellor Schmidt's Press Secretary. She apparently was trying to throw Kennerly out of the room because he lacked proper credentials (gold card with "pool" identification). Kennerly: "But I'm the President's photographer." Libal: "I kindly ask you to leave the room". Kennerly wouldn't leave. Finally another German official came over and said "Don't you understand? She wants you to leave." Kennerly then left. He later said it was a misunderstanding that he shouldn't have been there because there already was one White House photographer present.

Kissinger, coming into room after Ford, shook hands with pool press and quipped: "If I'm not sitting to the right of the President, you know I'm in trouble." Kissinger then sat to President's right and told Ford: "I just wanted to make sure that this plaque (nameplate) is to the right of you." There was mineral water (bottled) in front of each place except for Schmidt and Ford, who each had a bottle of Coca Cola in front of them. A box of cigars also was placed before the two heads of state. The box in front of Schmidt was called "Prasidant" (President).

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and JOHN WALLACH

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