

July 28, 1975

POOL REPORT - POOL TWO

Pool Two's original assignment was to begin with coverage of the toasts at the Palace of Council Ministers luncheon. However, upon arrival, the pool was told there would be no coverage of the toasts except by Polish Television and we were moved to the garden behind the Palace where the luncheon guests were to take their after dinner coffee and brandy and watch entertainment.

Mrs. Ford who had planned to attend the luncheon did not.

Nessen told us she "was tired and had a late night last night and decided to take a nap during the afternoon." He said she was not sick.

Nessen gave us the menu of the luncheon as follows: cold salmon, cold sausage, cavier, crab soup, perch in wine sauce and mushrooms, pheasant with cranberry sauce. Several wines were served and dessert was wild strawberries and ice cream. Nessen said, however, that the dessert arrived at about the time of the toasts so few had an opportunity to eat it.

The group went to the palace garden after the dinner and were seated on park type benches which had been arranged on a slope behind the palace. Coffee and what appeared to be brandy were served by waiters in black tie from small tables which had been placed in front of the dignitaries.

Mr. Ford sat on the front row between Mr. and Mrs. Gierak, with Secretary of State Kissinger to Gierak's right and a man believed to be the Polish Foreign Minister was to Kissinger's right.

Ford sipped coffee and Kissinger had brandy.

The program was presented by a group of Polish folk dancers known as the Mazowsze troop.

Polish officials told us the dances were authentic Polish Folk dances, some dating from the tenth century. The female dancers wore long flowing, colorful flowered dresses with aprons during several of the numbers. The men wore tunic style garments with boots.

During other numbers the men switched to costumes that resembled high school band uniforms with fringed epaulette. The dancers performed on an open air stage, a concrete area surrounded by a moat on three sides with willow trees and other greenery forming a back drop.

Some of the dances resembled polkas. Others were much like American square dancing. An orchestra in black tie provided the music for the 20 minute program. Polish and American flags in stands similar to those seen elsewhere around the city today were placed at each side of the stage.

Jack Ford was among those in the audience which included ranking Polish government officials and several members of the White House and Kissinger staffs.

Kennerly told us that Mr. Ford saw the motorcade incident earlier in the day when the Polish photographer fell from the photo jeep. He made no comment Kennerly said. Kennerly also reported that when the photo jeep broke down during that motorcade, he jumped into another official car whose occupants introduced themselves as "the Prime Minister and his wife."

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Mr. Ford was presented some small dolls by two of the dancers. The dolls were dressed in long flowered dresses similar to those worn by the dancers.

Mr. Ford watched the program through blue tinted dark glasses and grinned throughout.

After this your pool was ushered out of the garden and was taken to a motorcade in front of the building. We proceeded behind the President's car to Old Town.

Old Town, we were told, was completely restored after being leveled during World War Two. It is a group of what we took to be 17th century, two to three story buildings.

Mr. Ford was accompanied by a man that Polish officials identified to us as the Mayor of Warsaw, Jerzy Majewski. We were told he is also the town's chief architect. White House official Bill Roberts reported, however, that one official accompanying Mr. Ford on his tour was a "Mr. Szumielewicz", first name unknown, occupation believed to be town architect. (The correct name is Tadeusz Szumielewicz, City Architect of Warsaw.)

Mr. Ford and his group walked down the cobblestone streets of old town and into a small square where 500 to 1,000 people, many of them obviously tourists, applauded and gave him a friendly reception.

Several hundred people also lined the streets where Mr. Ford strolled. In the square, the President bought what was identified as "a July Pear" from a vendor. He ate it and proceeded on.

BOB SCHIEFFER

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