

POOL REPORT

JULY 30, 1975

Mrs. Ford's Walking Tour

As advertised, Mrs. Ford toured a dockside, open-air food and odd items market. Her retinue included Mrs. Mark Evans Austad, wife of the U.S. Ambassador and Mrs. Walter Stoessel, wife of U.S. Ambassador to the USSR.* Mrs. Ford was also accompanied by Navy Nurse Jeanie Stouffer. Patti Matson said the nurse's presence was not unusual. Using Dr. Lukash as her authority, Patti said nurses normally accompany First Ladies on trips or long overnights and Patti noted that nurses also serve medical needs of staff.

* Also included on the tour was Mrs. Leo Tuominen, wife of the Finnish Ambassador to the US.

When Mrs. Ford got out of her car at the market, Mrs. L. P. Frederick of Westerly, Rhode Island said with a catch in her throat, "Betty, God Bless You." Mrs. Frederick's husband is the chaplain on a cruise ship in port here.

As Mrs. Ford walked among the stalls, tourists and townspeople snapped pictures. She bought with Mrs. Austad's money a pair of twisted wire earrings (Mrs. Ford - "Oh, these are pretty") and a pinkie ring... both for her daughter Susan. The young male vendor said, that the price for Mrs. Ford for the items would be 10 marks. That was the market price as well. She also bought a fabric wall hanging with an imprint of a black reindeer on orange backing. As she walked past produce and flower stands, vendors and others brought small children to her to give her five bunches of flowers, and a man gave her a rose. As Mrs. Ford walked past the market and across the street to a more formal shopping district, she told Mrs. Austad she didn't have any marks. Informed a bank was nearby she said, "Maybe I can exchange some money." Mrs. Austad said "Do you have any identification?" Mrs. Ford said "I've got a ton of that, and I've got a man too." After looking through the window of a rug store she continued on to another block where she was interviewed by the pooler and wire reporters. Asked how she was feeling after reports that she was tired earlier on the trip, Mrs. Ford said "I feel marvelous. I just had a little jet lag, I think." Pooler: "I think we all had". "A little worn out from too little sleep, and so I took a little time off and got some sleep, and I'm all caught up, and I feel marvelous," Mrs. Ford responded.

Mrs. Ford said she hoped to get in some more sightseeing on other stops on this trip. She then went to lunch at the Kauppakilta restaurant with her party. They dined on artichoke hearts, with asparagus Princess, medallions of veal with cream morels and strawberrier with whipped cream, followed by coffee.

John Cochran, NEC