

August 2, 1975

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POOL REPORT #4

STATE DINNER, MARBLE DINING ROOM, PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC.

Dinner started about 2 hours late due to extended meeting with Brezhnev and an overcrowded schedule according to aides. It was held in the former royal throne room in a venerable huge structure that portion of which is almost entirely marble colored gold and natural. The building was constructed between 1930 and 1937.

It was the scene of President Ceausescu speech denouncing soviet invasion of Czechslovakia in 1968.

The head waiter ran his 30 waiters through their entrance twice, shouting out commands. It was a pretty sloppy performance both times. Places were set for 160 persons, including 8 at the head table. The settings for the 2 Presidents and the 2 wives were covered with cellophane. Secretary of State Kissinger's was not, however, he was seated to the right of the President.

Guests entered at 9:30 p.m. The head table came in at about 9:40 p.m. David Kissinger entered with his father but did not sit at the head table. President Ford appeared in very good spirits, joking with both President Ceausescu and his wife. Your pool was unable to get within ear shot of the head table, consequently could not overhear the banter.

BOB STEINBRINCK
JOHN WALLACH

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