

OCTOBER 2, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

---

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The official state visit of the Emperor and Empress began with their arrival at 10:30 a.m. this morning at the White House. This is the first official visit to the United States by a reigning Japanese Emperor. It is an historic occasion symbolizing the close ties between the United States and Japan.

After the arrival ceremony, the Emperor and Empress and the President and Mrs. Ford retired to the Red Room for tea and an informal conversation. Following the tea, the President and Mrs. Ford showed the Emperor and Empress the Rose Garden and the Oval Office. The Emperor and Empress then returned to their car for the drive to Blair House.

The House and the Senate have passed concurrent resolutions welcoming the Emperor and Empress and the President has signed a proclamation designating October 2-13 as Japan-United States Friendship Period.

The official state dinner will be held tonight at 8:00 p.m. Portions of the banquet will be televised by satellite direct to Japan. In light of the interest of the Royal Family in classical piano, Van Cliburn has graciously agreed to provide the entertainment in the East Room following the dinner.

###