NOVEMBER 15, 1975

POOL REPORT #5

Delegates Dinner

The meeting lasted for two hours and 45 minutes. It ended at 9:15 p.m. which made the cocktails and dinner one hour and 45 minutes late.

The press pool was hassled⅃ by the French hosts which has become standard operating procedure for the first day of this Summit. The press pool stood outside in the rain for several minutes, finally allowed inside where we were given the honor of waiting another 45 minutes.

During the 45 minutes, the only contact the pool had with people who might have been involved in the Summit were those who forced their way through the pool to go to the bathroom. The press pool made several efforts to talk to the people as they walked through the pool. The comments received included:

From Jean Sauvagnargues, Minister of Foreign Affairs: "The meetings went very well."

From Bob Hormats of the National Security Council who smiled and said: "Good, thorough meeting."

Finally press pool went in the ballroom with a fire burning in the fireplace and President Ford was seated at the middle of the table with Miki to his left and Wilson to his right.

Whilethe press pool was in, most of the President's conversation was with Wilson. President making small talk asked Wilson if he had a big press group here. Wilson's response inaudible. Ford also said he was "very impressed with the statistics (Wilson's statistics) on oil." The pool could not hear the rest of the President's questions or Wilson's answers.

Secretary Kissinger told the pool the meetings "went very well."

Secretary Kissinger was also asked by a French reporter who did most of the talking. Kissinger responded, "It wasn't me because I'm shy."

Secretary Simon talked to the French Foreign Minister while we were there and Kissinger had an adimated conversation with Schmidt.

The menu included: filet sole St. Germaine; poulard (chicken) de farcie gatinee, mushrooms, mixed salad, cheese, and for dessert an apple tart. Three kins of wine were served.

Phil Jones
John Mashek
Helen Thomas

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