December 3, 1975

PRESS POOL #19 (Part I) Travel Pool Guest House to the Great Hall

Before leaving for the dinner at the Great Hall, Ron Nessen told us that President Ford had a second meeting with Budget Director Lynn and Dick Cheney on the budget at the guest house for about 45 minutes. The President then took a rest for about a half hour. Susan Ford is not going to the dinner tonight Nessen told us. She is very tired and decided to skip the evening's events. He quoted Dr. Lukash as saying that there was absoultely nothing wrong with her but that she was just tired. The trip to the Great Hall was uneventful. The President arrived there about 6:10 p.m.

P. Salinger - New Times

PRESS POOL #20 - Informal Dinner, Great Hall of the People

Upon arrival at the Great Hall, the President shook hands with Teng in the hallway just before entering the room where the dinner was being held. Nancy Tang apparently on behalf of Teng said, "I heard that your daughter was not feeling very well." The President did not respond immediately but when he was seated at a round table inside with the interpreter on one side and Teng on the other he said, "She ate too much and travelled too much and can't keep up with us younger people." The table at which the President, Teng and other members of the two leaders' party ate had a large green fern centerpiece dotted with red and yellow and pink blossoms. The menu included instant boiled mutton, mustard greens with mixed chicken and mushrooms, pastries, fruits, and lotus seed porridge. Ford was wearing a brown suit and Mrs. Ford a long grey evening dress with a high collar. Kissinger, seated at the table talked to one of the party praised the agricultural program that he had seen this afternoon saying, "The use of space is extraordinary." Ford also spoke about the agricultural program through the interpreter saying, "The agricultural program was very interesting to me." Both Ford and Kissinger complimented the food in words that your pooler couldn't hear but when Nancy Tang translated them Teng laughed and Kissinger patted his stomach.

Lou Cannon - Washington Post