

POOL REPORT #1

December 5, 1975

Motorcade drive to the Presidential Palace and guest quarters.

The Presidential motorcade left Jakarta International airport at 4:40 p.m., local time. Ford rode in President Suharto's limousine, which was preceded by the camera truck and followed by Secret Service convertible flown in from Washington. Your poolers in wire car 1 and wire car 2 were about one-half mile behind the head of the motorcade. Most of the approximately 10 mile motorcade ride, we were unable to see the Presidential limo.

The crowd began at the airport gate and stretched with a few gaps, all along the route. Police estimated the crowd at about 100,000 and that is a little high. The crowd was predominantly young, mostly elementary and high school students, it appeared. Many of the youngsters waved small American and red and white Indonesian flags. We were unable to see how they reacted to Presidents Suharto and Ford, but they were very friendly towards wire car 1. Many of them waved and shouted hellos and good-byes. At several places along the motorcade route there were large colored picture billboards of President Ford, President Suharto and their wives.

Security along the motorcade route consisted of one military helicopter which hovered overhead for the entire ride, rifle bearing military police, some mounted, were spaced at about two per block with occasional larger concentrations at busy intersections. They arrived at the Presidential palace at 5:10 p.m.

The Presidential palace is a white, one story building. It has a large front porch with six doric columns... it somewhat resembles the White House. It is beautifully landscaped with fountain out front. President Ford, Mrs. Ford and daughter Susan were escorted into the palace by President and Mrs. Suharto and the chief of the Palace Household. They went to the Credential Hall and sat down for a few minutes to pose for photographers. The credential room had bright red Indonesian carpets...white walls decorated with ornate teak wood carvings. The Presidential party and their Indonesian hosts sat in gold brocaded overstuffed chairs...arranged in a square. They were served refreshments...Mrs. Ford talked with Mrs. Suharto... President Ford with President Suharto.

From here they walked out a rear door under a canvas awning to the guest quarters located about 100 feet behind the Palace. There they met other local dignitaries. The pool was not inside so have no idea what went on at the reception.

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