

Pool report, Air Force One, Honolulu-Andrews

Your poolers did not see the President during the flight.

Nessen and Cheney indicated that the President's plans for Vail during the holidays were being compressed into "no more than a week." The stated reason was the continued press of business with Congress. Nessen said Mr. Ford had "a full plate with Congress," and that was the reason for his hurrying home on this long flight.

Plans for the State of the Union were for it to be general, with the specifics coming in legislative proposals.

Nessen said the President's session with Mao was longer than anticipated, and was not mere courtesy, but a real discourse. He also said the President was deeply impressed with Philippine hospitality. ~~There were offers to the No. 1 and 2 highlights of the trip for him.~~

Nessen said that when the President and Mrs. Ford parted in Honolulu, he kissed her once, then thought it over and kissed her again.

Jim Lynn said the President had made some decisions during the trip on questions on which he had been briefed before, and some new subjects had been brought up for later detailed briefings. Concerning the budget, he emphasized that the ~~max~~ effort was to "limit the increase." Appeals from depts said, about to start.

Background:

A White House official chatted about the most important substance of the trip. He said the most important development was the identification of parallel interests with the Chinese. The material of this was there before, but the expression of it developed during last week's talks.

The official said it was clear that Mao and Teng spoke with one voice, that Mao clearly continued to guide Chinese policy. He said there is nothing wrong with Mao's mind, although there is with his voice.

Overall, the official said, more was accomplished with the Chinese than expected, and detente was not as large a problem as it might have seemed. He said he still was not in a position to spell out details of the talks, but that as described in the earlier statements, they "covered the waterfront."

Nessen said no appointments for the President except staff on Monday. Said Mr. Ford would sleep as late as felt like, then go to work.

Barbara Walters, NBC News
Ernest B. Furgurson, Balt Sun