

POOL REPORT

JUNE 20, 1976

IN THE ROSE GARDEN, BEFORE DEPARTING FOR BURNING TREE, THE PRESIDENT SAID: "THE EVACUATION WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND ALL OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED. THE EVACUATION WAS WELL-PLANNED AND WELL-EXECUTED. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE COOPERATION OF OTHER STATES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT COOPERATED TO RESTRAIN ANY VIOLENCE OR TO KEEP THE AREA SECURE WHILE THE EVACUATION WENT ON. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE ITS ROLE OF PEACEMAKER IN LEBANON. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR ROLE AS A PARTY TO TRY AND ACHIEVE THE LONG SOUGHT PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

QUESTION: WOULD YOU MAKE CLEAR THE ROLE OF THE PLO IN THE EVACUATION EFFORT?

"THE PLO AND ALL OTHER PARTIES IN THE LEBANON AREA COOPERATED COMPLETELY IN MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO EVACUATE THE AMERICANS AND THE OTHER NATIONALS WITHOUT ANY INCIDENT WHATSOEVER."

TRIP TO BURNING TREE WAS UNEVENTFUL. THE OFF TIME WAS ~~XXXX~~ 2:18 p.m. PRESIDENT PLAYED WITH MEL LAIRD, TOM KLEPPE, AND BURNING TREE PRESIDENT ED PARKINSON.

MOTORCADE ARRIVED BACK AT WHITE HOUSE AT 6:50 p.m.

THORNTON, CBS NEWS