

JUNE 27, 1976

POOL NO. 3 - DORADO BEACH - SUNDAY MORNING

The President's first event this morning was attending church service at the Dorado community church, which serves the Dorado Beach Hotel guests, members and area residents. It is interdenominational and services are held in a wing of the dining room every Sunday. Ford arrived shortly after 9 a.m. dressed in a light blue suit, open white shirt, black socks and white shoes. He was escorted by Mr. Philip Czechowski, presiding elder of the church, and sat in the third row.

The pastor, the Rev. Ronald Smeenge (who grew up in Grand Rapids) preached a sermon entitled, "Instead of Swords." The pastor said it was not intended to be a political service, but it was laced with the theme of peace. In his prayer, the pastor prayed for the hungry, for those without jobs, and for those in high positions responsible for making "momentous" decisions. Without referring to the conference, he prayed that there not be a display of "rivalry or arrogance." Outside the church, Mr. Ford chatted with Rev. Smeenge for about 5 minutes and was presented with the bible used in the service by the pastor.

The President then returned to his villa where he greeted San Juan Mayor Carlos Romero Barcelo. The President and the Mayor, along with Jim Cavanaugh of the Domestic Council, sat on the lawn behind the villa, their backs to the sea, discussing Puerto Rican affairs. Mayor Romero is a candidate for Governor in November, running against the incumbent Governor Hernandez. Local reporters said that the Mayor was telling the President not to believe what he was told by the Governor yesterday, to wit, that Puerto Rico would like more autonomy from Federal regulation.

Several members of the U.S. delegation, including General Scowcroft, Helmut Sonnenfeldt, and L. William Seidman, were observed lounging about, not appearing to be doing any particular preparatory work for this afternoon's first session.

PHIL JONES - CBS
JOHN BERRY - TIME
PHIL SHABECOFF - N. Y. TIMES

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