

After arriving at the Presidential helipad, the Ford party was about 20 minutes late lifting off because some of the heavies apparently got lost enroute. The chopper ride was uneventful to Otis AFB, where ~~a small crowd of~~ about 50 persons were on hand. The President, Mrs. Ford and Susan waved to the crowd but didn't work the ropes. wheels up at 11:40 p.m.

Your pool was treated to two guest briefers during the trip home. The first was chief of staff Richard B. Cheney who claimed he had come only to show his wife Lynne the steerage compartment but who promptly allowed his arm to be twisted into a discussion of the President's delegate count. He said ~~the~~ the final count in Colorado was twenty for ~~President~~ Reagan, for the President and one uncommitted. The best Ford projection had been for three ~~using~~ delegates, he said.

Considering the better-than-expected showing in North Dakota and the fourteen uncommitted delegates shifting to Ford this week (as announced by the President Ford Committee), Cheney allowed, ~~Cheney~~ "all in all it was a good week...I think we widened our lead in the last three days and I expect we'll widen our lead even further in Connecticut and Utah next week." Cheney also said a decision had not been made on a possible Ford trip to woo Mississippi delegates or an invitation to have them to the White House.

In a more somber vein, Secretary Kissinger came back a bit later and was asked about the gearhart execution. Asked if the U.S. government would now discourage American citizens from signing on as mercenaries he said, "it's against the law to recruit mercenaries in the united states."

Kissinger said the Administration would publish on Monday a list of all the organizations to which ~~it~~ it had appealed on gearhart's behalf. "I think you'll agree we did what was possible."

Kissinger pointed out that gearhart had only ~~been~~ ^{been} in angola three days when he was captured. Though he acknowledged that in such situations mercenaries are "on their own," he added, "Still an American citizen...and there's no evidence whatever he did an ~~asked~~ asked about the ~~status~~ status of relations between angola and the united states, he said, "this didn't help it (sic

Before returning to the front of the plane, Kissinger described the queen as "a very interesting lady with a lot of savvy."

FYI, the president will not be attending church tomorrow but leaves the white house about ~~1:30~~ for golf at Burning Tree with Mel Laird, Stuart Spencer and Ohio Governor James Rhodes.

reinhold/walker/defrank

P.P.S. Because of the lightning in the area, it was decided to have the President motorcade to the White House instead of helicoptering. 1 p.m.

P.S. For about the last 20 minutes of the flight Air Force One flew through moderately severe turbulence with a considerable amount of lightning and turbulence.