

DECEMBER 6, 1975

POOL REPORT
PRESS POOL NO. 1

Laying Wreath at Rizal Square

The motorcade arrived at Rizal Square, a finely manicured open park area on the same street as the motorcade, at 5:30 p.m., 20 minutes later than scheduled. The crowd was huge and the safest bet is many thousands. Security was incredibly tight. A Philippine security man searched pool equipment, down to cameraman's travel clock. Public was kept at least 75 yards away from President at all times behind a knee-high iron fence.

Accompanied by Mrs. Ford, Susan, President and Mrs. Marcos, Secretary Kissinger and foreign secretary Carlos P. Romulo, the President got out of the car and along with Marcos mounted a red velvet covered reviewing platform where he stood at attention looking across the square at the U. S. and Philippine flags and a 400-voice choir clad in red, white and blue robes standing behind them. After a band from the Philippine military academy played both anthems and cannon fire echoed in the background, Ford and Marcos, accompanied by a military escort, left the platforms (only a foot or so high) and briskly reviewed four gray, red and white clad platoons of the military academy cadets (college level), a flag unit and the band. They then walked in to the grassy square area down a concrete walkway to the Rizal monument, which is described in the briefing book.

The walkway was lined by 20 cadets, each carrying old, but shiny M-1s equipped with flashing bayonets. They, too, wore red, gray and white and smart black, red and gold headgear. The President and Marcos walked directly to the foot of the monument and placed a giant multicolored wreath beneath the statue. The wreath was about four feet in diameter and was made mostly of daisies and Calla lillies. Following a three-shot salute from a nearby cadet rifle unit and the playing of taps, the President and Marcos proceeded back down the walkway and remounted the small platforms. Again the bands played the anthems and the chorus, illuminated by large flood lights and standing across the street on a huge platform, sang "Bagong Lipnaan" which is the official theme of Marcos "New Society." Afterwards, hundreds of red, white and blue balloons were released from behind the choir. As they soared into the air, the President raised his hand and said more than one word but all your pooler heard was "Balloons."

He then got into his limousine and departed.

Jim Squires, Chicago Tribune

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