

For immediate release  
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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The President and Mrs. Ford will host a black tie dinner honoring His Excellency Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Thursday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m.

The dinner will be held in the State Dining Room of the White House, and will be followed by entertainment by performer Joel Grey in the East Room. Guests will dance to the Marine Dance Combo in the Grand Foyer following Mr. Grey's performance.

Emphasis in the decorations in the State Dining Room will be on varying shades of bright pink, with a focus on sterling silver centerpieces. Table cloths will be in pink tones ( deep pink, orange-pink and peach-pink) in taffeta and antique fabrics. Round tables will be used for all guests, including those at the head table.

Focal point of each table will be antique silver pieces on loan from the Smithsonian Institution. Part of the collection of Presentation Pieces in the Museum of History and Technology, the pieces are considered an historic document of deeds that have been thought worthy of special recognition throughout the country's history. (see other release).

Surrounding the silver centerpieces in a wreath-like effect will be gerber daisies and ming fern. The daisies are multi-colored in shades of pink to match the table cloths. Flanking each centerpiece will be four tall silver candlesticks, some of which belong to the White House and others which are on loan from the Smithsonian and the Blair House. Ficus trees will be used in the Dining Room and in the Grand Hall.

The menu: cold smoked salmon; supreme of duckling with glazed apples; wild rice; broccoli timbale; watercress and endive salad; bel paese cheese; vanilla ice cream with strawberries flambe for dessert; and demitasse.

Robert Mondavi Fume Blanc will be served with the fish course; Robert Mondavi Pinot Noir with the duckling; and Mirassou au Naturel with dessert.

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Background on centerpieces to be used for the  
dinner honoring German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt:

The silver centerpieces to be used at the dinner are part of the collection of Presentation Pieces in the Museum of History and Technology at the Smithsonian Institution.

Silver presentation pieces come from the custom of giving a piece of silver to an individual in recognition of service or in appreciation of accomplishment. The Smithsonian Collection represents a panorama of deeds, events and persons that have been considered worthy of recognition throughout the country's history. It represents taste and craftsmanship in America at various periods from the mid-18th century to the 1920s, with one piece dating 1958.

The pieces are on loan to the White House for the dinner Dec. 5 honoring German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Twelve pieces will be used. Among them:

- Miniature replica of a ship under full sail presented to Adm. Robert E. Perry by the Royal Scottish Geographic Society in 1910. It is 24" high.
- The silver punchbowl presented to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles by Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia in 1958.
- The bowl from a punch set presented to Col. George Armistead by the citizens of Baltimore in recognition of his services in the defense of Fort McHenry against the British in 1814. It is a ball-shaped bowl, 12 1/2" in diameter, supported by four eagles mounted on a round base.
- A pair of large, ornate silver pitchers presented in 1838 by the Whig Young Men of New York City to their chairman, Robert Charles Wetmore.
- A teakettle and stand given to Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs in 1853 by the citizens of Washington for his work on the Washington Aqueduct.

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