

Not copying because I don't think you'll want to keep, but sending because you may want to read. I have been keeping a file on press secrecy (amounting to personal abuse) at Camp David. Note continuing GL pyromanical indulgences when the weather is hot enough to prompt suggestion of heart attacks! When the Russian press complains about restrictions on briefings you can imagine how little is being said and how infrequently. Weird that they keep the press out of the enormous park that includes the buildings, so far away from the entrance the helicopters can't be seen, but let it roam in leisure around top-secret installations, of which there are more close by than the story indicates. Forced landings or emergency landings of the Presidential choppers are less uncommon than you would think. One here recently and high school grounds have been used before. Please return for my Camp David file. HW 6/21/73

Press Coverage 'Old Hat' *F Post 6/21/73* To Residents Of Thurmont

By WILLIAM E. GRAFFAM
County Towns Reporter

THURMONT — Kids are playing in the summer heat here and watching the bus loads of members of the world press gathering to cover the U.S.-Russian summit conference.

They say that it isn't quite as much fun to watch as a regular circus but that it has some elements of fun.

For instance, as the kids take time off from rolling down the steps of the American Legion Post which is serving the correspondents as a command post, they can see the newsmen passing a football on the lawn across the street.

Unknown to the newsmen, it was a good place for them to play in the heat because if one had

dropped dead from a heart attack, it wouldn't have been far for the others to carry him — the lawn belongs to the Creager Funeral Home up on Main St.

The kids can see the correspondents, some of them in shirtsleeves but a surprising number still wearing dress suits, as they discharge from the half dozen buses which bring them up from Washington.

All of the media members are present, the press reporters, the radio and television reporters and camera men, the magazine writers, and freelance photographers.

In the basement of the American Legion Post is an office set aside for the White House press staff, a comfortable bar with four busy bartenders, and a backroom where tasty, and

sizable, ham and cheese, hotdog, and other types of sandwiches are available.

On the main floor, a battery of Western Union teletype machines and workers are keeping a clickity-clack going above the hum of voices in many languages. Behind the 15 rows of chairs is a semi-circle of television cameras with their usual appendages of bright lights and the cameramen raised on a platform.

At the left are several rows of tables with telephones (reportedly over 100) and reporters busy at work filing stories or chatting with the head office.

The movement of human bodies back and forth across the floor - mostly males - is composed

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SUMMIT BRIEFING — Ron Ziegler, White House Press Secretary, appears in a pensive mood with chin on hand thinking about something as Director General Leonid Zamiatina of TASS briefs newsmen Wednesday

on the progress of trade talks between President Nixon and Soviet Leader Leonid I. Brezhnev. The men on the ends are translators. (Photo by William E. Graffam)

of representatives of all the races, it seems. There are Blacks, members of the Yellow race, and the White race. Recognized languages were: German, French, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and what seemed to be Polish.

Suddenly, a Japanese correspondent broke out of the crowd and hurried to a nearby telephone where he was soon heard talking in Japanese and evidently reporting on the latest "pool report" which had been mimeographed and passed out by the White House staffer.

The Japanese correspondent, slight, bespectacled and animated as he talked on the telephone was finally approached after about five minutes of conversation by a White House staffer.

"You are not supposed to be using that phone," he interrupted the Japanese and told him. "You are supposed to use those phones on the table over there. This phone is for our incoming calls," he said pointing to the written directions on the phone.

The Japanese correspondent looked up over the top of his glasses and smiled and nodded his head in agreement and went back to his conversation in Japanese after saying, "Hokay, I will be off."

The innate politeness of the Japanese was noticeable but in the lengthening minutes the White House staff got impatient by his lack of success in getting the private line freed.

The White House staffer went off and got another staffer and he also talked to the Japanese and got the same assurances and a pleasant "Hokay," but a continued use of the phone.

The two staffers stood by redfaced until finally the Japanese got up and bowed politely and said, "Thank you," and walked away as the White House staffer shook their heads and proceeded to secure the telephone with tape.

"Boy, I hope he wasn't talking to Tokyo," a nearby observer said.

In midafternoon Tuesday, the two pool reporters, George Sherman of the Washington Star-News and Bill Matney of ABC News, gave a verbal report to the gathering of the activities at Camp David's 143-acres where the 11 American and 11 Russian "pool reporters" and camera-

men had watched President Nixon and Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Sherman gave a picture of the walkways, the overcast day, the several lower degrees of temperature up at Camp David, the purple lilies, the goldfish pool toward which the principals walked to have their pictures taken, and the general layout of the camp as far as the reporters could get.

He mentioned the tight security of the military, the wire fence around the camp, the smoke coming from the fireplace chimney in one of the log structures, the breezy appearance of Brezhnev in his newly gifted Camp David "windbreaker" with his name on it, and the president's attire in a blue sports outfit.

The president, they reported, in contrast to Brezhnev's cheerful attitude and chatty remarks to the reporters, was said to be looking as if he wished to get through the 15 minute appearance for the press and on "to the work of the conference."

Finally, after about 20 minutes wait when the pool reporting was made by Sherman, there was another flurry of activity at the doorway and Ronald Ziegler, the White House Press Secretary, and TASS Director General Leonid Zamyatya came in to

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give a press briefing.

What these men had to say is carried in other columns.

So News-Post readers can see what a "pool report" looks like, the following is a report for June 20, 1973:

POOL REPORT

Press Room at Camp David,
Maryland
George Sherman,
WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS
Bill Matney, ABC

The party arrived last night at 9:12 p.m. at Thurmont by helicopter, in a last minute change from the original plan to land at Camp David. The change was due to weather. They arrived up at Camp David at the Aspen Lodge at 9:33 p.m. by automobile, where the President is staying. Nixon invited Brezhnev in for a brief time to show him the Lodge and then Nixon walked the Soviet leader over to Dogwood Lodge about a hundred yards away, where Brezhnev is staying.

By 12:20 p.m. (Wednesday)

this morning, the talks between the two still has not begun. Ziegler said that the two leaders were conferring separately with their staffs. Nixon was talking with Kissinger, Haig, and Ziegler. Brezhnev was conferring with Foreign Minister Gromyko, Ambassador Dobrynin. Brezhnev was taking coffee with them in the patio outside Dogwood Lodge. About 12:15 p.m. Brezhnev and his two advisors, went for a walk in the woods on paved pathways. (Camp David covers 143 acres).

Ziegler said that the President and Brezhnev plan "a full day and evening of discussions here." At 12:20 p.m. Ziegler said the meeting "would be started at any time." The talks are to be about international matters and to focus on SALT. But, he added, that you can assume the Middle East will be discussed, but he steered reporters away from citing Vietnam as a topic.

Ziegler estimated that Nixon and Brezhnev have now spent 13 hours together in every forum — including private talks, talks with their aides, on the Sequoia last night, at dinner at the White House, and in the helicopter.

A breakdown of this by days:

The first day (Monday) — 7 hours and 15 minutes.

The second day (Tuesday) — 5 hours and 45 minutes.

They have spent 3 hours alone in talks.

COLOR OF THE SETTING

A bit about the color of the setting. Nixon and Brezhnev are living in separate accommodations, as are their principle advisors. Nixon is in Aspen Lodge, which has 4 bedrooms, the Presidential lodge and main building. Brezhnev is in Dogwood Lodge. Gromyko is in Birch Lodge, and Dobrynin is in Red Oak Lodge.

Your poolers have not yet been admitted beyond the front gate, but Ziegler describes Dogwood Lodge as having two bedrooms, a living room, and entrance foyer. The interior is finished in green stain with beams on the ceiling of dark wood stain.

The weather up here is cloudy, with certain hints, never fulfilled, that the weather will improve. The early morning fog has lifted.

There was one dispute over pooling when a West German correspondent named Fritz Pleigen, a correspondent in Moscow, sought to be included. The head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Section, Vsyevolod N. Sofinskiy argued that Pleigen should be admitted, noting that he was a friend of Brezhnev. But the U.S. side resisted, saying the agreement on the Pool had been for 11 Soviets and 11 Americans on a

reciprocal basis. Only one American television reporter was included in that pool for all the networks. The Americans argued that therefore it was sufficient to allow only the West German television camera crew to enter. In the end Pleigen was not admitted, having to rely like everyone else on the Pool Report of the one television reporter.