

First Soviet Appraisal Of Ford

Moscow

A leading Soviet news magazine described President Ford yesterday as a balanced, calm and confident person who was one of the best football players in the United States in his youth.

The description of Mr. Ford by *Novoye Vremya* (New Times) was the first detailed personal appraisal of the new President in the Soviet press since he was sworn in last week.

The magazine said Mr. Ford faces a formidable task in trying to cope with America's economic problems and the country's current "deep spiritual trauma, which has seriously undermined respect for the pillars of American democracy."

Speaking of Mr. Ford, the magazine said, "He has an open face and the husky figure of a former sportsman. at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Ford has the ability to attract people to him and is described in the U.S. as a typical American, *New Times* said. But it added that Mr. Ford is not typical in at least one respect: his net financial worth, which is about a quarter of a million dollars.

The magazine reiterated previous Soviet press reports that Mr. Ford intended to follow his predecessor's policy of detente.

"In the years of the Cold War, Ford, as well as Nixon, paid tribute to the policy of cruel anti-Communism, but he became convinced after that in its fruitlessness," the *New Times* said.

"Presidents can be changed, but any American political figure and any organ of the American press has to take into account the opinion of the American people" — the majority of whom favor detente, it said.

Associated Press

Friends May Keep Ford In Swim

Washington

Some of President Ford's friends are thinking of starting a fund to build a swimming pool at the White House, a presidential spokesman said yesterday.

Mr. Ford's love of swimming has become well known since he was sworn in as President a week ago. White House news secretary Jerry terHorst quoted Mr. Ford as saying swimming is so refreshing that "15 minutes in the pool is worth two martinis."

TerHorst said yesterday some of Mr. Ford's Grand Rapids, Mich., friends are thinking of raising money to build a pool on the White House grounds.

There is a precedent for such a campaign. School children contributed pennies to build a pool in the White House for Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was afflicted with polio and needed to exercise.

But in 1969, Richard M. Nixon transformed the swimming pool area into a two-level press center.

United Press