

POOL REPORT # 15

BREAKFAST WITH MARGARET THATCHER

Paris, France

Monday, November 19, 1990

First the news about changes in the schedule. The President and Gorbachev will have a dinner tonight at 7:30 at the American Ambassador's residence, thus canceling Bush's planned press conference for that hour. After the dinner, there will be a readout which Marlin says will be given by either Secretary Baker, or perhaps by Bush and Gorbachev at about 9:00. This will be given to the pool.

The President and Mrs. Thatcher hold a press conference to the pool, also at the Ambassador's home, at 9:00 a.m., following their breakfast. This will be piped into the press room. But here are some comments on Saddam from the photo op before their breakfast.

Bush: "It looks to me like more of the same -- more of the cruel parceling out of human life." Thatcher said, "It is evil to hold hostages."

The two leaders sat on a sofa in the palatial mansion, in a room decorated in 18th Century style -- very high ceilings and gold relief on the walls.

Marlin told the pool that the subject of both the Gorbachev and Thatcher bilaterals is the Persian Gulf. He said they are discussing the possibility of a UN resolution, considering the status of the sanctions and the entire situation in the Gulf. Marlin said that there is no specific language yet for a new UN resolution.

Julia Malone  
Cox Newspapers

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POOL REPORT # 16

Bush-Thatcher Press Availability

Paris, France

November 19, 1990

You heard the press conference in the briefing room. The two leaders answered questions in a large salon with ornately decorated walls in the Ambassador's residence. Mrs. Thatcher stayed for only a few minutes and then left the President alone. Bush kept answering more and more "last questions."

Fashion note du jour: Mrs. Thatcher wore a black suit with her diamond pin that she often wears on her shoulder. Mr. Bush looked a little disheveled in his pinstripe suit with unpressed trousers. He wore what appeared to be one of his Texas-style metal belt buckle. Also, Bush looked extremely fatigued -- with very puffy eyes.

We then motorcaded to the Elysee Palace for the signing ceremony and next to the Kleber Center. Along the way we got a good view of the massive security effort here. The creme de la creme was probably the French swat team that accompanied Presidential caravan. They looked like something out of a James Bond film with their zippered uniforms, their wrap-around dark glasses and their automatic Uzi-type weapons and their sidearms secured by sidestraps. They traveled in a white van with the doors ripped out and the seats on swivels for instant ejection.

The Champs Elysee has become a parking lot for the 34 motorcades.

Julia Malone  
Cox Newspapers

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POOL REPORT #17

CFE I. (Arrivals and Departures)

Paris, France

November 19, 1990

All color and no substance.

The arrivals took place at the rear of the Elysee Palace, which overlooks a large leaf-covered lawn that stretches back to a rear gate through which the various limos arrived. Shortly before the arrivals began, several workmen could be seen raking leaves off the roadway.

To one side, one could see the Salle des Fetes, where the actual signing took place, a large room with several big chandeliers.

A half hour before the first limo arrived, the military honor guard arrived on the scene. Its members wore royal blue pants, black jackets with some red piping and square-shaped caps that were black, with blue tops and some red and gold trim. Each wore some gold braid. A small group carried drums and horns, the rest had bayonets.

Beyond the gates, one could see busy early morning traffic, sort of like that going by the Ellipse beyond the South Lawn of the White House. Later, as the heads started arriving, there were many cars with headlights on out there, signifying the backup that took place.

Each head of government was brought to the foot of a low stairs. Two young men in formal wear with white ties opened the doors, a protocol official welcomed them and they went up the two or three steps to be greeted by French President Mitterrand and his foreign minister, Roland Dumas. They then posed for photos with their guests before accompanying them inside, then returned for the next arrival. To the right of the steps, a French advance man with headset and walky talky marked the arrivals off on a list.

At 9:04 am, there was a fanfare from the honor guard and the arrivals began. The entire thing took 33 minutes which, considering there were 35 of them (the 34 CSCE members and the UN secretary general) wasn't bad. But it still produced a monumental traffic jam, or what someone dubbed "leader lock."

The order was supposed to be reverse protocol order, with those leaders who are heads of state as well as heads of government coming last, with President Bush last of all. It didn't quite work out that way for reasons that were not clear.

The first was Austria, the last was Germany, either a sign of the new European powerhouse flexing its muscles by coming last or, more likely, because Mr. Kohl's limo got there late.

Here are some highlights, including some fashion notes:

No. 4. Canada. Foreign Minister Joe Clark appeared in the day's most garish outfit, a double-breasted light (almost olive) green suit and a flowered tie more appropriate for Deauville or perhaps Miami Beach.

No. 9. Britain. As perhaps was fitting, considering the possibility of her imminent political demise, Margaret Thatcher wore black. But she appeared to be in a determinedly jaunty mood, greeting Mr. Mitterrand with a loud "good morning." She was accompanied, as were virtually all the leaders, by her foreign minister, Douglas Hurd, who appeared to have a look of anticipation on his face (as if to be thinking this could be me).

No. 26. Vatican City. Cardinal Casaroli, the Vatican

secretary of state, wore red socks.

No. 30. The first, in fact the only, limo with curtains and the second biggest (after the US, naturally). Besides Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, President Gorbachev was accompanied by Marshal Dmitri Yazov, the Soviet defense minister, replendant in his military uniform with a big gold star on each shoulder and ten rows of military ribbons on his chest.

No. 34. United States. President Bush (arriving on schedule at 9:35 am) was accompanied by Secretary of State Baker, National Security Adviser Scowcroft, Chief of Staff Sununu and Jim Woolsey, the chief negotiator for the CFE talks. A second limo included Chief of Protocol Joe Reed and Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Yes, the Senate must ratify the treaty.

As he stepped out, Mr. Bush commented that it was "a beautiful day," then bounded up the stairs. He greeted Mr. Dumas by his first name and said to Mr. Mitterrand, "It was a lovely dinner last night." He mugged a bit for the cameras before going inside.

No. 35. Germany. (See above)

It ended at 9:37 am. Pool CFE 2 will tell you what happened inside.

We were then escorted to the front side of the Elysee Palace, where the departures took place. At 10:07, the commotion began and at 10:12, Mr. Bush and party appeared. The limos weren't there yet, so Bush and Baker stood on the steps. Spotting your pooler, Mr. Baker pointed out his presence to the president but that didn't help when he tried to ask whether Mr. Gorbachev was on board for the UN resolution. "It's nice out here," the president said.

When the first limo arrived, Bush, Baker, Woolsey, Sununu and Pell got into it. Scowcroft was a bit late in coming out and had to ride in the second limo. He seemed amused. They were gone by about 10:15.

Security note: The security seemed to your pooler to be incredibly casual, considering all the warnings we have received. The only check as we were ushered in to be within close range of 34 major world leaders was a check of our pool pass. We were neither frisked, nor equipment checked. There were no mags. However, a couple of security men were spotted on rooftops across the fashionable Rue du Faubourg Saint Honore from the palace.

--Carl P. Leubsdorf, Dallas Morning News

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POOL REPORT # 22  
Arrivals at the Elysee Palace  
Monday, November 19, 1990  
Paris, France

First an announcement from John Herrick: a new schedule plus pool list for the Gorby press conference, etc., will be out later this afternoon.

With that out of the way, those looking for color may read on. Anyone looking for substance should stop now.

When you're having 36 for lunch, some things are bound to go wrong--the Hungarian flag was upside down on Prime Minister Antal's limousine, for example--but we're getting ahead of ourselves.

The courtyard of the Elysee is a large square paved with white gravel lined by 20 small evergreens in square, white wooden planters. A tall black wrought-iron gate guards the arched entryway, which is topped by a French tri-color flag. A second flag flies above the main entrance to the palace, where the French protocol chief, Andre Gadaud, formerly the consul general in New York, waited for the guests.

As each head of government or head of state entered the courtyard, a large expanse of white gravel lined by 20 small evergreens in white wooden planters, they were saluted by the Republican Guard, dressed in dark blue uniforms piped with red and carrying fixed bayonets. A slight breeze and grey skies threatened rain, leading the French to announce that the "class picture" after lunch would be moved indoors, but the arrival ceremony remained dry.

First to arrive, at 12:15, was Chancellor Kohl, who, as he alighted from his limousine, spied a German camera crew and, ignoring M. Gadaud and his aides, quickly walked over to them and gave an impromptu press conference. Several French protocol aides, dressed in formal dark blue tail coats, white tie and gloves and red vests, milled around looking bewildered until Kohl finished.

A few minutes later, Thatcher's motorcade, complete with Rolls Royce limo, squealed to a halt outside the gate, then suddenly rushed off again. Then, at 12:22, Gorbachev arrived. His driver, who won the award for best limo handling of the day, rolled the car to a perfect stop with the door handle just at the outstretched hand of a French footman.

Next up came Switzerland, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary (with the upside down flag), Monaco, then Liechtenstein. The Liechtensteiners, eschewing the standard-issue Renault or Peugeot sedans most delegations arrived in, showed up driving a Jaguar.

By now, the limousines were stacking up at the entrance, causing traffic jams along the fashionable Rue de Faubourg St. Honore. Next up was the representative of the Vatican, dressed in clerical garb, then Romania, Luxembourg, San Marino (the flag a crown set on a field of blue and white), Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel and Malta.

At 12:40, Thatcher arrived on foot, having apparently left her limousine up the street. Next came Canada's Brian Mulroney, then Poland, Norway, Denmark, Greece and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. By now, the French protocol officials were madly shuffling lists in their hands, trying to keep track of the flood of delegations: Iceland, Ireland, Sweden (yellow cross on a blue field), Portugal, the EC's Jacques Delors, Yugoslavia, Finland, the Netherlands, Spain's Felipe Gonzalez, Belgium, Bulgaria, Austria and Turkey Turgut Ozal, with two flags on his car.

Finally, at 1:03, the Bush motorcade arrived and the French guards cautiously guided the big limousine through the palace gate. "I'm the last?" Bush asked as he stepped out. "You're zee last," Gadaud confirmed.