

**LOG OF  
PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S TRIP  
TO  
PUERTO RICO, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS,  
GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA,  
AND KEY WEST, FLORIDA**

**LOG # 4**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**February 20, 1948**

**To**

**March 5, 1948**

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**WRITTEN AND COMPILED**

**BY**

**LIEUT-COMDR. W. M. RIGDON, U.S.N.**

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# THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

## **THE PRESIDENT**

Honorable Julius A. Krug (San Juan to St. Croix only).  
Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, U.S.N.  
Honorable John R. Steelman  
Honorable William D. Hassett  
Honorable Matthew J. Connelly  
Honorable Clark M. Clifford  
Honorable Stanley Woodward  
Major General Harry H. Vaughan, U.S.A. (Res.)  
Brigadier General Wallace H. Graham, U.S.A.F.  
Colonel Robert B. Landry, U.S.A.F.  
Captain Robert L. Dennison, U.S.N.  
Mr. Eben A. Ayers

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## **STAFF**

Lieutenant Commander William M. Rigdon, U.S.N.  
Lieutenant Commander Charles W. Cushman, U.S.N.  
Lieutenant Commander James V. Bassett, U.S.N.R.  
Lieutenant (junior grade) Neal H. Kane, U.S.N.  
Second Lieutenant J. P. Leveritt, (MSC), U.S.A.  
Mr. Dewey Long  
Mr. Russell J. McMullin  
Mr. Arnold W. Hawks  
Mr. Jack Romagna  
Chief Photographer's Mate Gerald P. Pulley, U.S.N.  
Chief Steward Arthur S. Prettyman, U.S.N.  
Chief Steward Cayetano Bautista, U.S.N.  
Chief Cook Jose Palomaria, U.S.N.  
Chief Cook Januario Sevilla, U.S.N.  
Chief Radioman John Hughett, U.S.N.  
Electronics Technician's Mate 1/c James H. Werdel, U.S.N.  
Radioman 1/c Paul G. Gladd, U.S.N.  
Musician 1/c John Wigent, U.S.N.  
Radioman 2/c Kenneth E. Errair, U.S.N.  
Radioman 2/c Robert C. Thomas, U.S.N.  
Aerographer's Mate 2/c Kennedy W. Roe, U.S.N.  
Steward's Mate 1/c Juanito Malapit, U.S.N.  
Steward's Mate 1/c Santos I. Corpus, U.S.N.  
Steward's Mate 1/c Cesar Lomibao, U.S.N.

**SECRET SERVICE**

Mr. James J. Rowley  
Mr. Howard S. Anderson  
Mr. Henry J. Nicholson  
Mr. John M. Walters  
Mr. Frank M. Barry  
Mr. Floyd M. Boring  
Mr. Richard G. Kauffman  
Mr. Roy H. Kellerman  
Mr. Harry C. Sherwood  
Mr. William F. Shields  
Mr. Stewart G. Stout  
Mr. Paul T. Usher  
Mr. Emory P. Roberts  
Mr. Gerald A. Behn  
Mr. John Campion  
Mr. John T. Gorham  
Mr. Gerald McCann

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**U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG (AGC 369)**

Captain Charles L. Freeman, U.S.N., Commanding  
Commander Jesse B. Gay, U.S.N., Executive Officer

**U.S.S. GREENWICH BAY (AVP 41)**

Captain Whitmore S. Butts, U.S.N. Commanding  
Commander James F. Voorhies, U.S.N., Executive Officer

**THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE (AIR FORCE C-54)**

Lt-Colonel Francis W. Williams, U.S.A.F.	Pilot
Major Elmer F. Smith, U.S.A.F.	Co-pilot
Major Theodore J. Boselli, U.S.A.F.	Navigator
M/Sergeant Fred A. Willard, U.S.A.F.	First Engineer
M/Sergeant Frederick A. Winslow, U.S.A.F.	Second Engineer
M/Sergeant Charles A. Horton, U.S.A.F.	Radio Operator
T/Sergeant Robert E. Hughes, U.S.A.F.	Steward
Lt-Colonel Henry T. Myers, U.S.A.F.	Former Pilot

## THE PRESS PLANE (PAN AMERICAN DC-4)

Captain J. T. Nolan	Pilot
First Officer W. R. Mann	Co-pilot
Mr. A. Toledo	Flight Attendant
Miss G. Smith	Stewardess
Miss M. Thompson	Stewardess

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## REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS

Mr. Ernest B. Vaccaro	-The Associated Press
Mr. Robert G. Nixon	-The International News Service
Mr. Merriman Smith	-The United Press
Mr. Edward T. Folliard	-The Washington Post
Mr. Joseph Short	-The Baltimore Sun
Mr. Joseph Fox	-The Washington Star
Mr. Thomas Twitty	-The New York Herald Tribune
Mr. Anthony Leviero	-The New York Times
Mr. John O'Donnell	-The New York Daily News
Mr. Philip Warden	-The Chicago Tribune
Mr. John R. Beal	-Time Magazine
Mr. Ernest K. Lindley	-Newsweek Magazine
Mr. P. Bernard Young, Jr.	-Norfolk (Va.) Journal and Guide
Mr. Llewellyn A. Coles	-Negro Newspaper Publishers Ass'n
Mr. Lemuel Graves	-Pittsburg Courier
Mr. William Hillman	-Mutual Broadcasting System
Mr. Bryson Rash	-American Broadcasting Company
Mr. John Adams	-Columbia Broadcasting Company
Mr. Frank Bourgholtzer	-National Broadcasting Company
Mr. Edwin W. Darby	-Transradio
Mr. John Rous	-Associated Press Photos
Mr. Frank Cancellare	-Acme Newspictures
Mr. Norton Benson	-International News Photos
Mr. Thomas McAvoy	-Life Magazine
Mr. George Tames	-New York Times
Mr. James Lyons	-Universal Newsreel Company
Mr. Jesse Sabin	-National Broadcasting Company Television
Mr. John C. Zimmerman	-All-American News
Mr. Carlton Skinner	-Public Relations, Dept. of Interior (San Juan to St. Croix only)
Mr. William J. McEvoy	Special Rep., Pan American Airways
Mr. Ernest Albrecht	Special Rep., Pan American Airways

## THE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY

ARRIVED	PLACE	DEPARTED	DISTANCE- NAUTICAL
<b>Via Aircraft</b>			
-----	Washington, D.C.	10:25 a.m., 2-20-48	
3:25 p.m., 2-20-48	Key West, Florida	4:10 a.m., 2-21-48	900 miles
10:25 a.m., 2-21-48	San Juan, Puerto Rico	-----	950 miles
<b>Via U.S.S. Williamsburg</b>			
-----	San Juan, Puerto Rico	3:52 a.m., 2-22-48	
10:32 a.m., 2-22-48	Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands	5:54 a.m., 2-23-48	71 miles
8:52 a.m., 2-23-48	Frederiksted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands	1:55 p.m., 2-23-48	38 miles
1:49 p.m., 2-25-48	Guantanamo Bay, Cuba	-----	668 miles
<b>Via Aircraft</b>			
-----	Guantanamo Bay, Cuba	4:10 p.m., 2-25-48	
6:25 p.m., 2-25-48	Key West, Florida	9:05 a.m., 3-5-48	455 miles
2:05 p.m., 3-5-48	Washington, D.C.	-----	900 miles
TOTAL DISTANCE TRAVELED			3,982 miles

# LOG OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

## Friday, 20 February

The President, accompanied by Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, U.S.N., Messrs. John R. Steelman, William D. Hassett, Matthew J. Connelly, Clark M. Clifford, Stanley Woodward, Brigadier General Wallace H. Graham, U.S.A.F., Colonel Robert B. Landry, U.S.A.F., Captain Robert L. Dennison, U.S.N., and Mr. Eben Ayers, departed from the Washington National Airport (Air Transport Command terminal) at 10:25 a.m. for Key West, Florida. The trip was made in the "SACRED COW" (ATC C-54) with Lieutenant Colonel Francis W. Williams, U.S.A.F., in command. Also embarked were Messrs. James J. Rowley and Henry J. Nicholson of the Secret Service, Lieutenant Colonel Henry T. Myers, U.S.A.F., and Chief Steward Arthur S. Prettyman, U.S.N., personal valet to the President.

The President's plane landed at the U.S. Naval airfield, Boca Chica, Florida, at 3:25 p.m. The 900-mile flight was smooth and uneventful. The President left his plane at 3:28 p.m., and was followed by the members of his party. On hand at Boca Chica to greet the President were:

Mayor A. Maitland Adams, of Key West;  
City Manager George Spalding, of Key West;  
Sheriff A. Berlin Sawyer, of Monroe County;  
Chief of Police Joseph Kemp, of Key West;  
Captain Cecil C. Adell, Commander, Naval Base, Key West;  
Captain O. A. Smith, (MC), U.S.N. Medical Officer in Command, U.S. Naval Hospital, Key West;  
Captain Henry M. Cooper, U.S.N., Commanding Officer  
U.S. Naval Air Station, Key West;  
Captain J. R. Ruhsenberger, U.S.N., Commander Anti-Submarine Development Squadron ONE;  
Captain M. E. A. Gouin, U.S.N., Commander Night Composite Squadron Two;  
Captain L. R. Daspit, U.S.N., Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR;  
Commander M. G. O'Connor, U.S.N., Executive Officer,  
Naval Air Station, Key West;  
Lieutenant Commander W. M. Rigdon, U.S.N., Assistant to the Naval Aide  
To the President;  
R. M. McDavid, Agent in Charge, Miami Branch Office, U.S. Secret Service;  
Frank E. Jackson, Agent in Charge, Branch O.N.I. Office, Miami, Florida;  
Cecil Sewell, Representative 7<sup>th</sup> Naval District Intelligence Office;  
Louis F. Padgett, Agent in Charge, Atlanta Branch Office, U.S. Secret Service;  
John M. Walters, Advance Agent, White House Secret Service Detail;  
Arnold W. Hawks, Advance Agent, White House Transportation Office;

And the following members of the Press, White House Staff and White House Secret Service Detail, who had arrived at Boca Chica from Washington at 2:45 p.m., in a chartered Pan American aircraft (DC-4):

**Press**

Ernest B. Vaccaro	Frank Cancellare
Robert G. Nixon	Norton K. Benson
Merriman Smith	Thomas McAvoy
Joseph H. Short	George Tames
Edward T. Folliard	James Lyons
Joseph A. Fox	John C. Zimmerman
Anthony Leviero	Jesse Sabin
John O'Donnell	Philip Warden
Thomas Twitty	John R. Beal
William Hillman	Ernest K. Lindley
John Adams	Edwin W. Darby
Frank Bourgholtzer	P. Bernard Young, Jr.
Bryson Rash	Llewellyn A. Coles
John Rous	

**White House Staff**

Dewey Long  
Jack Romagna  
Second Lieutenant J. P. Leveritt, MSC, U.S.A.

**Secret Service**

Frank M. Barry	Floyd M. Boring
Richard G. Kauffman	Roy H. Kellerman
Harry C. Sherwood	William F. Shields
Stewart G. Stout	Paul T. Usher
Emory P. Roberts	

The President shook hands with Mayor Adams, Captain Adell and a number of others; talked briefly with members of the Press, and then posed for photographs. After brief exchanges of greetings, he embarked in a 1947 Lincoln convertible sedan, which had been placed at his disposal for the duration of his stay at Key West.

The other members of the President's party embarked in waiting automobiles, and the motorcade departed at 3:35 p.m. for the Submarine Base at Key West. Riding in the car with the President were Admiral Leahy and Captain Adell. Escort for the 8-1/2 mile drive to the Submarine Base was furnished by two patrol cars of the Florida State Highway Patrol (First Sergeant T. E. Jones and Patrolmen W. A. Stevens and C. C. Reynolds).

The weather at Key West was clear and warm (77degrees), a delightful change from the snow and ice of Washington.

Thousands of people, spread out along the route traversed, enthusiastically welcomed the President back to Key West for his fourth visit. The motorcade entered Key West via Roosevelt Boulevard, proceeded west on Division Street to Duval Street, north on Duval Street to Southard Street, west on Southard to the main gate of the Submarine Base. As his automobile entered the city limits, the President took a position atop the back of the rear seat so that the people might see him and so that he could better respond to their greetings.

The President's car arrived at the entrance to the Submarine Base (Southard Street Gate) at 3:52 p.m. As the President entered the Base, full military honors were accorded him. A Marine bugler sounded four flourishes and "To the Color," eight side boys snapped to hand salute, the Marine guard presented arms, and a 21-gun salute was fired by a shore battery. Four hundred and fifty Navy enlisted men, in white uniforms, and spaced at arms length, "manned the rail" along the route inside the Base from the main gate to the President's quarters. The President's flag was broken at the Naval Base Administration Building.

Commander Carl A. Johnson, U.S.N., Executive Officer of the Submarine Base and other Base officers were on hand at the main gate to greet the President.

The motorcade continued on to the Commandant's Quarters (Quarters A-B), where the President arrived at 4 p.m. The President and members of his party left their cars here and entered the quarters, where they were greeted by Lieutenant Commander Rigdon, who had preceded them from Boca Chica. Captain Adell paid his respects to the President and then departed.

As is his custom, the President's first act on arriving at his quarters was to telephone Mrs. Truman and report his safe arrival. They talked over the direct Key West-Washington telephone hookup. He also talked to the Honorable John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury.

The members of the party then retired to their respective rooms where they changed to more comfortable clothing and proceeded to settle down.

Captain Dennison left the quarters at 6 p.m. to call on Captain Adell, Captain Saunders and Commander Johnson at their quarters on the Naval Base.

Dinner at the President's quarters was at 7 p.m. There were no guests. Shortly after dinner all hands turned in, as Saturday's program called for reveille at 2:30 a.m., in order to be ready to depart Boca Chica at 4 a.m. for San Juan.

Lieutenant Commander Rigdon had come to Key West on February 18<sup>th</sup> to ready the Presidential quarters and to complete other details incident to the visit of the President and his party. He brought with him to operate the Presidential quarters six Filipino messmen (C. Bautista, chief steward; J. Palomaria, chief cook; J. Sevilla, chief cook; J. Malapit, steward's mate first class; I. C. Corpus, steward's mate first class; and C. Lomibao, steward's mate first class – all U. S. Navy personnel); and Chief Photographer's Mate G. P. Pulley, U. S. Navy, who had been detailed as official photographer for the Presidential party. Four additional Navy Filipino messmen (L. Vida, steward's mate second class; A. D. Lozana, steward's mate first class; A. S. Arca, steward's mate second class; and N. F. Artap, steward's mate second class) were obtained from the Submarine Base, Key West, to augment the crew brought down from Washington. This was necessary as the WILLIAMSBURG had to be fully staffed simultaneously and could spare but three men (Sevilla, Palomaria and Malapit). Bautista, Lomibao and Corpus were drawn from the President's Camp.

The President occupied his usual rooms, the north second floor suite; General Vaughan (after February 25<sup>th</sup>) and General Graham the north center bedroom; Mr. Hassett and Mr. Connelly the south center bedroom; Mr. Clifford and Mr. Woodward the south bedroom; Colonel Landry the small bedroom on the second floor; and Admiral Leahy and Mr. Steelman the bedroom on the first floor. Captain Dennison was berthed in a section of the east second-floor porch, and Mr. Ayers in a section of the west second-floor porch.

Members of the White House Staff, the Press, and the Secret Service were quartered at the Submarine Base Bachelor Officers' Quarters (Building 128). A pressroom was set up in the same building. The Staff, Press and Secret Service were subsisted at the Fleet Sonar School Officers' Mess located directly across the street from the Bachelor Officers' Quarters.

Except for a special telephone circuit between Key West and Washington, which was reserved exclusively for the use of the Presidential party, no special communication facilities were installed at Key West incident to this visit. Until the arrival of the WILLIAMSBURG, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, all traffic for the Presidential party was handled by the Naval Base, Key West. Encoding and decoding of classified traffic was handled by Lieutenant Commander Rigdon who had with him White House crypto aids.

Agent John S. Walters of the White House Secret Service Detail had come to Key West on February 18<sup>th</sup> to check on security arrangements.

Mr. Howard S. Anderson (Assistant Supervising Agent) and a White House Secret Service Detail consisting of Agents J. Campion, G. A. Behn, Gerald McCann, J. T. Gorham, together with Mr. R. J. McMullin (White House Staff) and Lieutenant

Commander C. W. Cushman, U.S.N., departed Washington on February 11<sup>th</sup> and preceded us to Guantanamo Bay, San Juan, St. Thomas and St. Croix to coordinate the President's schedule at those places, and check on security arrangements. They traveled in a special Navy plane, piloted by Lieutenant K. K. Jones, U.S.N.

### **Saturday, 21 February**

Today's program in San Juan was scheduled to get underway at 10:30 a.m. (zone plus 4 time). Accordingly, it was necessary for the Presidential party to depart Key West at 4 a.m. on the 950-mile flight. Reveille was held at 2:30 a.m.; breakfast was served at 3 a.m. The President and members of his party left their quarters at 3:30 a.m. and proceeded by motorcar to Boca Chica, where they arrived at 3:50 a.m. They immediately boarded the "Sacred Cow." The "Sacred Cow" departed Boca Chica at 4:10 a.m. Embarked were: The President, Admiral Leahy, Messrs. Steelman, Hassett, Connely, Clifford, Woodward, Generals Vaughan and Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison, Mr. Ayers, Lieutenant Commander Rigdon, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Nicholson and Chief Steward Prettyman. The Press plane (P.A.A.) departed Boca Chica one hour earlier (3:15 a.m.) and arrived at San Juan at 9:30 a.m.

The "Sacred Cow" arrived at the U. S. Naval Air Station (Isla Grande), San Juan, at 10:25 a.m. (zone plus 4 time). Enroute Key West to San Juan, our clocks were set ahead one hour. The 950-mile flight was smooth and uneventful. A 21-gun salute was fired by Army tanks stationed on the perimeter of the airfield after the President's plane landed.

The President left his plane at 10:30 a.m. He was greeted at the plane by Governor Jesus T. Pinero, Secretary of the Interior Julius A. Krug, Lieutenant General Willis D. Crittenger, U.S.A. (Commander in Chief, U. S. Forces in Caribbean), Vice Admiral Daniel E. Barbey, U.S.N. (Commander Caribbean Sea Frontier), Major General Roy E. Porter (Commanding General, U. S. Army, Antilles), Captain G. C. Carlstedt, U.S.C.G. (Acting Commander of the 10<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District), and the following members of the Governor's Reception Committee:

Mr. Luis Munoz-Marin, President of the Senate;  
Dr. Francisco M. Susoni, Speaker of the House;  
Chief Justice of Supreme Court Mr. Martin Travieso;  
Mr. James P. Davis, Department of Interior; Washington, D.C.;  
Resident Commissioner Antonio Fernos Isern;  
Federal District Judge David Chavez, Jr.;  
Mr. Manuel A. Perez, Director of Personnel;  
Mr. Jorge Font Saldana, Executive Assistant to the Governor;

Mr. Antonio Luchetti, Executive Director, Water Resources Authority;  
Colonel Salvador T. Roig, Aide to the Governor and Chief of Consular Policies;  
and  
Mr. Emilio Lopez Ramirez, Secretary to the Governor.

General Vaughan joined the Presidential party here. He had been in Venezuela to attend the inauguration of President Romulo Gallegos and had flown up to San Juan with Admiral Barbey to await our arrival. Messrs. Anderson, McCann, and Campion of the White House Secret Service Detail and Mr. A. T. Baughman, Agent in Charge, New York Office of the Secret Service, were on hand to meet the President and see that security regulations were observed. Mr. McMullin and Lieutenant Commander Cushman were also awaiting us at San Juan.

After an exchange of greetings near the plane and rendition of honors by the guard and band, the President, accompanied by the Governor and Admiral Barbey, proceeded to inspect the guard and band (composed of the U. S. Army troops, Puerto Rican National Guardsmen, U. S. Navy bluejackets, and U. S. Marines).

The President then, at 10:35, took position on a speaker's platform and addressed the crowd of some 4,000 that had assembled at the airport to welcome him to Puerto Rico. Governor Pinero had proclaimed this day a legal holiday in Puerto Rico in honor of President Truman's visit. The President's address was broadcast to all Puerto Rico via insular radio facilities. The text of his address was as follows:

“GOVERNOR PINERO, FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

“I am very happy to visit Puerto Rico at last. As you know, I planned to come here last year and had to give it up. Now I am making the trip I have anticipated with so much pleasure. For a brief moment, I can enjoy the beauty of your island, your rich cultural traditions, and your gracious hospitality, and I can see for myself the great progress you are making in improving the welfare of your people.

“I am anxious, too, to talk with Governor Pinero and President of the Senate Munoz-Martin. One of my greatest satisfactions was the nomination of my good friend Pinero to be the Governor of Puerto Rico. I believe very strongly in local self-government, and the nomination of an island-born governor was a significant step toward the increasing measure of self-government in Puerto Rico to which we are all committed.

“I have been keenly interested in Puerto Rico for many years. I know of the many strides you have made and something about the problems you face and have overcome. In these efforts, the people of the continental United States and of Puerto Rico have been allied as partners. The Federal Government has supplied financial help. But your own

efforts, especially during the past few years, have enlarged the economic opportunities of your people, have attracted new industries, and have improved your educational and health facilities.

“This is a relationship which is mutually beneficial. It is the democratic way of collaboration between friendly peoples. It represents what the American people are trying to encourage in the world at large. It is a relationship in which we take pride because the services we perform for each other are directed toward raising the standards of living of all our people.

“Your program of industrial and agricultural development, your inducements to industrial enterprise, your program of training and placement for young men and women who wish to go to the mainland are all highly resourceful and give to the continental United States and to all the world an example of American democracy working effectively to meet and solve its problems.

“What has been accomplished so far is only a beginning. Cooperation between the Insular Government and the Federal Government can and should increase. It should have the form of friendly help from the continent. It should also be based on the capability of the people of Puerto Rico to help themselves. The progress made on the Island in the past few years demonstrates beyond question your ability to do so.

“Within this framework, the peoples of Puerto Rico and the mainland have a unique demonstration for the world. Differing languages and differing cultural backgrounds are not an obstacle to democratic unity. Such differences can provide the basis for a richer and stronger democracy. ‘Freedom’ is a word which is found in every language. ‘Equality’ means more than mere political emancipation. I have said to the Congress several times – and I repeat it here – that the Puerto Rican people should have the right to determine for themselves Puerto Rico’s political relationship to the continental United States.

“Too often we have had our attention directed to Puerto Rico’s problems. We have heard too little of your achievements. In less than half a century you have raised your wages and standard of living, have developed universal free schooling, highways, hospitals, utilities and all the other institutions of modern society. More than that – today, under the leadership of Governor Pinero and President of the Senate Munoz-Marin, you are presenting an example to the world of modern democracy acting through your elected representatives to better your living conditions, to provide employment, education, health and economic security for yourselves and your children.

“In both Puerto Rico and the mainland, we Americans are seeking and finding the solution to these problems in the democratic, American way – by courage, imagination, and cooperation. Imagination gives us the vision to see our problems clearly. Courage makes us bold to act as the needs of the people require, cooperation keeps us working together so that our united strength overcomes all obstacles.

“This is the democratic approach to the problem of national existence in the modern world. It is the effort of your people to use the instrument of government to better each person’s way of life, which identifies Puerto Rico and its people with the Continental United States.

“We have a great common heritage. We are trying to solve similar problems in a similar way. My message to you today is one of good will, of pride in your achievements as a part of our national family, and of optimism for the future.

“As you go on to an ever increasing measure of participation in the guidance of your own destiny, I bring you the greetings and best wishes of all our fellow Americans, who share your problems and rejoice in your success.”

After the conclusion of his address, the President surprised and thrilled the crowd when he walked close (from left to right) along the ropes placed to hold back the spectators from the landing field. This afforded many of them a real close hand view of their President.

While this was taking place, Admiral Leahy (formerly Governor of Puerto Rico) was besieged by friends who sought him out to greet him and welcome him back to Puerto Rico.

The President, members of his party and the reception committee then, at 10:48 a.m., entered waiting automobiles and departed on a sightseeing tour of San Juan and adjacent countryside. There were approximately 35 autos in the motorcade. The President and Governor Pinero rode in car #1 (a yellow Cadillac convertible sedan). Admiral Leahy, Secretary Krug and Senor Munoz-Marin rode in car #2. A 21-gun salute to the President was fired at 10:50 a.m. as the President left the limits of the station.

Before leaving the Naval Air Station, the President dispatched messages by radio to Mrs. Truman and his sister, Miss Mary Jane Truman, informing them of his safe arrival in Puerto Rico.

The route of the tour took the President past the notorious El Fanguito slums, a collection of shanties jam-packed in a small area along the muddy flats of San Juan Bay. The route continued on to the Montes de Caneja industrial district where the President was shown the bottle factory, the cement factory and paper box factory operated by the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company, an agency of the Government of Puerto Rico whose purpose is to stimulate the industrialization of the Island.

The next area visited was the Puerto Nuevo Housing Development near Montes de San Patricia, on the outskirts of San Juan. The development now has over 1,500 modern, two-bedroom, reinforced concrete “earthquake and hurricane-proof” homes, designed to sell for \$4,000 and less, on a monthly payment of less than \$23.00 a

month to veterans, and approximately \$25.00 to civilian purchasers. This development is destined to be a city of a minimum of 6,000 homes. The development, sponsored by Governor Pinero and inspired through the objectives of the Federal Housing Administration, is the outgrowth of many months of research and development of new processes to meet the wishes of Governor Pinero and the Federal Housing Administration that modern homes be made available to the veterans by preference and also to civilians. Veteran homeowners are exempted from real estate taxes by the Insular Government.

From the housing project the motorcade continued westward along Insular Road #2 to Bayamon where the President was shown the Bayamon District hospital. This is one of four identical general hospitals located at Bayamon, Fajardo, Arecibo and Aquadilla, operated by the Insular Government for the care of the indigent sick. About eighty percent of the entire population of Puerto Rico is dependent on free medical services which must be provided by the Government. The Bayamon District Hospital has a capacity of 300 beds. The largest school of nursing on the Island is operated by this hospital, with an enrollment of 160 students.

From Bayamon the motorcade doubled back over Insular Road #2 to Road #25, where they turned south and headed for Aguas Buenas, a village situated high in the hills, about 25 miles south of San Juan. The President passed through a number of rural settlements enroute to Aguas Buenas, some of which were not much better than the slums of El Fanguito, and on occasion the little knots of natives which greeted him included youngsters clad in little more than a smile.

The party arrived at the Hotel Jagueyes, about 3 miles north of Aguas Buenas at 12:23 p.m. They disembarked and entered the club house of the hotel, where Governor Pinero was host at luncheon. This hotel is not housed in a central building but consists of a clubhouse and outlying cottages. The menu consisted of tropical fruit cocktail, consommé celestine, arroz con pallo (chicken and rice, native style), filet mignon, mushroom and wine sauce, candied sweet potatoes, brussel sprouts, tomato surprise salad, Guanabara sherbet, and demitasse. Those having lunch in the main dining room included – The President, The Governor, Secretary Krug, Admiral Leahy, General Crittenberger, Mr. Munoz-Marin, Dr. Suzoni, Chief Justice Travieso, Mr. Davis, General Vaughan, Admiral Barbey, Resident Commissioner Isern, Captain Dennison, Mr. Steelman, Judge Chavez, General Porter, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Perez, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Saldana, General Graham, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Ayers, Mr. Luchetti, Captain Carlstedt, Colonel Landry, Colonel Roig, Mr. Ramirez, Mr. Celestino Iriarte (Representative of Minority Party), Mr. Bolivar Pagan (Representative of Minority Party), Mr. Ernesto Cadiz (Representative of Minority Party), Brigadier General Luis Raul Esteves (National Guard of Puerto Rico), Dr. Rafael Pico, Mr. Jose Acosta Velarde (Executive Director, Land Authority), Mr. Theodore Moscoso, Jr., (President and General Manager, Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company), Mr. Sergio Cuevas Bustamente (Administrator and Chief Engineer Aqueduct and Sewerage Service), Mr. Esteban A. Bird (Development Bank of Puerto Rico), Dr. Pablo Marales Otero (Director, School of

Tropical Medicine), Mr. Antonio R. Silva, Judge R. Cooper, Mr. Jaime Benitez (Chancellor, University of Puerto Rico), Mr. Roberto de Jesus Toro, Mr. Guillermo Esteves, Mr. Anthony H. Leveiro, Mr. Robert G. Nixon and Mr. John E. Adams. Members of the Press and White House Staff were served lunch in a smaller dining room.

After lunch, the President, Governor Pinero, Mr. Munoz-Marin, Secretary Krug and Admiral Leahy retired to the veranda of the clubhouse where they chatted for a brief moment.

At 2:30 p.m., all hands left the hotel and re-embarked in the motorcade for the trip to San Juan. The return to San Juan was made via Insular Roads #25 and #2. On the rides to and from Aguas Buenas the President sat bareheaded on the top of the back seat of his open automobile and the hot sun burned his face. Brief rain squalls were encountered which necessitated stopping the motorcade several times so that the top of his car could be put up or lowered.

The motorcade arrived at the WILLIAMSBURG (moored at the east side of the Navy tender pier at the Naval Station, Isla Grande) at 3:15 p.m. Secretary Krug, Governor Pinero and members of his committee paid their respects and departed.

The President and members of his party boarded the WILLIAMSBURG. The President was received by Captain C. L. Freeman, U.S.N., the Commanding Officer, and accorded full military honors. The members of the party soon retired to their quarters for a brief rest. The WILLIAMSBURG and escort (GREENWICH BAY (AVP41) had departed Norfolk on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, and arrived San Juan on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Members of the Press boarded the GREENWICH BAY. Mr. Rowley, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Shields and Mr. Kellerman (Secret Service) embarked in the WILLIAMSBURG; Messrs. Kauffman, Roberts, Stout, Barry, Usher, Walters, Sherwood and Boring (Secret Service) joined the GREENWICH BAY.

Secretary Krug and the Resident Commissioner (Mr. Isern) called on the President at 4:10 p.m.

At 4:35 p.m., the President and members of his party, accompanied by Secretary Krug and Mr. Isern, left the ship and departed by motor on a sightseeing tour of San Juan. As he was about to depart the ship, the President recognized Chief Yeoman and Mrs. Harry Smith, acquaintances of long standing, among the group near his car. He called Chief Smith and Mrs. Smith over to his car and shook hands with them.

The afternoon tour gave the President a glimpse of the business and residential districts. The streets along the route from the Naval Base to Fort Brooke were lined with soldiers (U. S. Army regulars and Puerto Rican National Guardsmen).

The President was driven past the Insular Capitol Building, the School of Tropical Medicine, and the ruins of San Cristobal, an ancient fortress. Because of lack of time, a scheduled inspection of El Morro, another ancient fortress (built during 1539 to 1585) and now a part of the military reservation of Fort Brooke, was curtailed to a very brief visit under the guidance of General Porter. General Porter met the President at the entrance to Fort Brooke and joined his party for the President's visit to the Fort.

The Presidential party left Fort Brooke at 4:55 p.m. and continued by motor on to La Fortaleza, the official residence of the Governor of Puerto Rico, where the President and members of his party left their cars and attended an informal reception given by Governor Pinero in honor of the President. There were approximately 600 guests present who included many of the ranking government officials and the top society of San Juan. Secretary Krug and Governor Pinero assisted in the receiving line. After the receiving line had been taken care of, the President observed a piano nearby. He stepped to it, played a few chords and then swung into the "Merry Widow Waltz." There was generous applause from the guests close enough to realize what had happened.

The reception over, the Presidential party left La Fortaleza at 6:30 p.m. and returned to the WILLIAMSBURG at the Naval Base. Before going aboard, at 6:46 p.m., the President paused to shake hands with and express his thanks to the members of the detachment of Insular Police who had guarded him since his arrival in Puerto Rico this afternoon.

At 7:30 p.m., the President entertained at a stag buffet dinner on board the WILLIAMSBURG. Guests present were: Secretary Krug, Governor Pinero, Fleet Admiral Leahy, Mr. Isern, Mr. Munoz-Marin, Mr. Susoni, Mr. Travieso, Judge Chavez, Mr. Luis Negron Fernandez (Attorney General), Mr. Rafael Buscaglia (Treasurer), Mr. Luis A. Izquierdo (Commissioner of Agriculture), Mr. Jorge J. Jiminez (Commissioner of Interior), Mr. Francisco Collozo (Acting Commissioner of Education, Mr. Rafael de J.Cordero (Auditor), Dr. Juan A. Pons (Commissioner of Health), Lieutenant General Crittenberger, Major General Porter, Brigadier General John A. Samford, U.S.A.F. (Commanding General, 24<sup>th</sup> Composite Wing, Borinquen Field, P. R.), Vice Admiral Barbey, Lieutenant General Keller E. Rockey, U.S.M.C. (Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic), Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, Major General Vaughan, Brigadier General Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison, and Mr. Ayers. Admiral W.H.P. Blandy, U.S.N. (Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet), Major General Willis H. Hale, U.S.A.F. (Commanding General, Caribbean Air Command), Major General Edward H. Brooks, U.S.A. (Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces in Caribbean), and Rear Admiral Ralph O. Davis, U.S.N. (Commander Amphibious Forces, Atlantic Fleet) were also invited but official duties prevented their attending. Cocktails and dinner were served on the after main deck of the WILLIAMSBURG.

All guests had departed by 9:15 p.m. It had been a long and tiring day, so all hands retired very shortly afterwards.

Secretary Krug joined the Presidential party at San Juan and spent the night aboard the WILLIAMSBURG. Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson had also planned to join the party at San Juan but he found that he would be unable to make the trip.

Communications for the Presidential party while in the WILLIAMSBURG were handled in accordance with Navy Department Presidential Communication Plan PP-1-48. The primary means employed was a duplex radio teletypewriter circuit between the WILLIAMSBURG and the Communication Station, Washington. The latter terminal was extended directly to the White House and operated from the Signal Center. Special press copy was furnished the WILLIAMSBURG by the Office of Public Information (Navy Department) and the WILLIAMSBURG published two editions of the ship's newspaper each day that the President was on board.

A special communications crew under the charge of Lieutenant (junior grade) Neal H. Kane, U.S.N., was embarked in the GREENWICH BAY to handle traffic filed by members of the Press. Transmission to the Communication Station, Navy Department, Washington, was by means of a simplex radio teletypewriter circuit.

### **Sunday, 22 February**

The WILLIAMSBURG, with the Presidential party embarked, got underway from the Naval Base at San Juan at 3:52 a.m. The GREENWICH BAY, with the Press representatives, was underway at 3:33 a.m. The two ships cleared San Juan Harbor and, at 4:26 a.m., took departure for Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V. I. Course 094 degrees (true) and speed 13.8 knots were set. Subsequent changes of course were made to bring the ships to the southward of the Island of St. Thomas.

At 8:30 a.m., the GREENWICH BAY was released from formation and directed to proceed ahead so that she could arrive Charlotte Amalie before us and thereby permit the newspapermen and photographers to cover the President's arrival there.

During our crossing of the Vieques Passage, we encountered heavy ground swells which made the going somewhat rough. No one succumbed to seasickness, however. By 8:40 a.m., we had changed course and were in the lee of St. Thomas where it was much smoother.

The President slept late this morning and did not come down to breakfast until 9:15 a.m.

At 9:15 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG commenced steering various courses and at various speeds while entering Charlotte Amalie Harbor. The WILLIAMSBURG was moored to the West Indian Company dock, Charlotte Amalie, at 10:32 a.m. The GREENWICH BAY had arrived several minutes earlier and was moored about one

thousand yards astern of the WILLIAMSBURG's berth. Governor William H. Hastie and Admiral Barbey were waiting on the dock. Messrs. Anderson, Behn, McCann and Campion of the Secret Service were also on the dock. A rain squall broke just as we were approaching the dock and chased everyone to cover. The rain had stopped by the time the WILLIAMSBURG was tied up, so the program was not delayed.

Governor Hastie and Admiral Barbey came on board the WILLIAMSBURG at 10:40 a.m. to pay their respects to the President. At 10:42 a.m., the President, Governor Hastie, Admiral Barbey and members of the President's party left the WILLIAMSBURG. Captain Freeman was at the gangway to see them off and honors were rendered the President as he left the ship.

On the dock the President was received by Mr. Morris F. DeCastro, Government Secretary; Federal Judge Herman E. Moore, St. Thomas and St. John; Mr. Ralph Paiewonsky, Chairman of the St. Thomas Reception Committee, and Mr. James P. Davis, Department of the Interior. Honors were rendered for the President by the Municipal Band and a detachment of St. Thomas home guards.

Following the ceremonies on the dock, the President inspected the honor guard. The official party then entered waiting automobiles and departed at 10:45 a.m., for the town of Charlotte Amalie. Governor Hastie rode in the car with the President.

The official party arrived at Emancipation Park, Charlotte Amalie, at 10:50 a.m. All St. Thomas was out in their Sunday best. Church services had been postponed by the ministers and priests so as to afford the people an opportunity to greet the President.

The President, the Governor, members of the Reception Committee and members of the President's party disembarked from their cars and were conducted to the bandstand in the center of the park. The President was introduced to the waiting crowd by Governor Hastie. Following the Governor's introduction, Mr. Gordon read aloud an engrossed message of welcome from the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John, which was then presented to the President. Then, Mr. Paiewonsky, acting on behalf of the people of St. Thomas, presented the President a hand-carved mahogany tray. These preliminaries over, the President, at 11 a.m., addressed the assemblage. The text of his address was as follows:

“Governor Hastie, Fellow Citizens and Friends:

“

“I am indeed happy to be here visiting these beautiful islands. The harbor here at Charlotte Amalie surely must be one of the most beautiful in the world. I will never forget the first time I saw it. It was years back, and I drove over that mountain, and I could see right down onto what I thought was the prettiest place I had ever seen.

“I am particularly glad to come here to call upon my friend, Governor Hastie and see the many fine things he is doing for you and for all of us. He is a very unusual

Governor. I wonder how many governors have drafted an Organic Act, then served as a Federal Judge interpreting the Act and finally served as Governor administering the Act? I know that is an unequalled record.

“We are celebrating a significant historical event today. One hundred years ago, the man who was then Governor issued a declaration which freed the slaves in what was then the Danish West Indies. It was an enlightened document in more ways than one, for it provided for housing and care of the Freedmen for an interim period.

“We can all learn from this episode in history. Freedom has many forms and it has been won and lost many times. The Emancipation Proclamation in the Virgin Islands was dated fifteen years before the Emancipation Proclamation in the United States; but it was 72 years after the Declaration of Independence. The struggle for freedom is unending and documents alone do not conclude it. Political freedom is one thing, but is only the beginning. We must have freedom of the spirit – religious freedom, freedom from want, freedom from fear. The United States is supporting the United Nations in the effort to implement these freedoms all the world over. Eventually the United Nations will succeed. Then and then only will we have peace on earth, good will toward men.

“Here in the Virgin Islands the continuing effort to expand freedom is going on with the cooperation of the Federal Government and your own Insular Government. We are trying to stabilize and develop the economy and improve living conditions. An increased measure of self-government and better living conditions should go hand in hand.

“Now that post-war travel conditions are improving, I hope that more and more continental Americans will discover and come to enjoy the beauty of the Virgin Islands. I know they will enjoy themselves and bring you prosperity and continued happiness.”

At the conclusion of his talk, the President unveiled a plaque commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the freeing of the slaves in the Virgin Islands.

The ceremonies at Emancipation Park over, the official party re-entered their automobiles at 11:08 a.m. and departed on a sightseeing tour of the Island of St. Thomas. The President was shown through the grounds of the recently inactivated U. S. Naval Submarine Base and Marine Corps Air Station (Bourne Field). These activities were turned over to the Government of the Virgin Islands on January 1, 1948, and are lying idle at the present time. From Bourne Field the motorcade continued up Crown Mountain and thence eastward around the island. The route took us over miles of mountainous roads, affording the President a view of some very beautiful scenery. The party paused for about ten minutes at a promontory called “Drake’s Seat” – overlooking Magen Bay on one side and, on the other side, Leeward Passage – the passage between St. Thomas and Hans Lollik Island, one of the British Virgin Islands. Legend has it that Sir Francis Drake sailed his fleet through this passage on his way to attack Puerto Rico. While stopped here, the President and Governor Hastie posed for photographs.

The party continued clockwise around the Island, returning to Charlotte Amalie at 12:30 p.m. The official party was taken to the Bluebeard Castle Hotel where they were guests of Governor Hastie at a stag luncheon. Mr. Coles, Mr. Graves and Mr. Young attended as representatives of the Press. There were approximately 40 diners present. The menu consisted of fruit cocktail, chicken salad, lettuce and tomato salad, rolls, butter, vanilla ice cream, and coffee. Members of the press and White House Staff were entertained at a buffet lunch at the Officers' Club, Bourne Field, given by the St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce.

The President and members of his party returned to the WILLIAMSBURG at 2:37 p.m. and retired to their quarters for a few hours' rest. As there was nothing further on the program until 5 p.m., several members of the party went shopping in Charlotte Amalie. The merchants of Charlotte Amalie had very considerably kept their shops open for us, even though it was Sunday.

The President, accompanied by members of his party, left the WILLIAMSBURG at 4:50 p.m. and drove to Government House in Charlotte Amalie, where he was guest of honor at an informal reception tendered by Governor and Mrs. Hastie. There were 250 guests present, including government officials and outstanding businessmen of St. Thomas and their wives.

The President and the members of his party returned to the WILLIAMSBURG at 6:50 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., the President was host at a stag buffet dinner held aboard the WILLIAMSBURG in honor of Governor Hastie. Other guests were Secretary Krug; Admiral Leahy; Judge Herman E. Moore; Mr. Morris F. deCastro; Mr. Louis Shulterbrandt, Finance Commissioner; Dr. John S. Moorhead, Commissioner of Health; Mr. Donald S. Boreham, Commissioner of Public Works; Mr. C. Frederick Dixon, Superintendent of Education; Mr. George Simmons, Administrator of St. John; Mr. Francisco Corneiro, District Attorney; Mr. Earle H. Charles, Director of Police; Mr. Roy P. Gordon; Mr. George H. Field; Mr. Ralph Paiewonsky; Mr. A. M. Lundquist; Admiral Barbey; Mr. Steelmand, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward; General Vaughan; General Graham; Colonel Landry; Captain Dennison and Mr. Ayers. Cocktails and dinner were served on the fantail of the WILLIAMSBURG.

By 9:20 p.m., all dinner guests had departed. The President turned in at 9:30 p.m.

### **Monday, 23 February**

The President arose at 5:30 a.m., and came on deck at 5:45 a.m. for a short walk and to watch the WILLIAMSBURG get underway.

The WILLIAMSBURG got underway from the West Indian Company Dock, Charlotte Amalie, at 5:54 a.m. The GREENWICH BAY departed at 5:28 a.m. When outside the harbor, at 6:04 a.m., the two ships formed up and took departure for

Frederiksted, St. Croix. Various courses and speeds were employed enroute and a smooth passage was affected. The WILLIAMSBURG anchored in Frederiksted Harbor at 8:52 a.m. The GREENWICH BAY anchored close by at 8:55 a.m. Both ships “dressed ship” simultaneously with anchoring in observance of Washington’s birthday. The U.S.S. DONNER (LSD-20) was at anchor off Frederiksted during our visit to St. Croix.

At 9:49 a.m., the President accompanied by the members of his party, left the WILLIAMSBURG for the Municipal dock at Frederiksted. Transportation was via a Navy AVR (aviation rescue boat) (C16516) which Admiral Barbey had sent to Frederiksted from our Naval Base at Roosevelt Roads, P.R. The boat officer was Ensign C. J. Spiewak. The President and his party landed at Frederiksted at 9:52 a.m., where they were greeted by Governor Hastie and Admiral Barbey, who had flown over from St. Thomas, and Mr. Harry E. Taylor, Administrator for St. Croix. Messrs. Anderson, Gorham, Behn, McCann and Campion of the Secret Service, Mr. McMullin and Lieutenant Commander Cushman were on the dock. Honors were rendered by the Christiansted Municipal band. The President was introduced to the crowd waiting at Frederiksted by Governor Hastie. Then, Mr. Alexander Moorhead, Chairman of the Municipal Council of St. Croix, acting on behalf of the people of St. Croix, presented the President a letter opener made by Virgin Islanders from turtle shell. The President then, at 10 a.m., addressed the assemblage. The text of his talk was as follows:

“Governor, the Resident Commissioner, and Citizens of St. Croix.

“It certainly is a very great pleasure to me to be with you this morning. I have been looking forward to this visit for more than a year, and I am expecting to take a trip across your beautiful island, to the city on the other side. Then I am expecting to have lunch with one of your newest citizens hoping that I can persuade him - some more of his ilk to come down here and help him in the development of these islands (applause). I can’t tell you how very much I appreciate your cordial reception and this wonderful turnout. I was told by some people at home that I would not be cordially received in these islands. It simply was not so, as you have demonstrated. I am very happy for that. I hope that some time in the not too far distant future I can come back for a stay long enough to become familiar with your organization and your islands, and to see everything that you have to offer here. I will do that eventually – it may take a long time. Again, I want to thank you for your cordial reception.”

The official party then embarked in waiting automobiles and left Frederiksted at 10:05 a.m., on a sightseeing tour of the Island of St. Croix. As at St. Thomas yesterday, the President rode in an open car and was accompanied by Governor Hastie. The route of the tour took us along Centerline Highway, to Benedict Field (the municipal airport), to the Bethlehem Sugar Mill, past sugar cane fields, cane workers; houses, ruins of old sugar mills, and the modern farm of the Virgin Islands agricultural experimental station. We passed numerous country schools and at each one the pupils were out in force to greet the President.

Groups of happy, enthusiastic natives, dressed in their Sunday best, lined the road at scattered intervals all across the island.

The official party arrived at Christiansted (capital city of St. Croix) at 11:05 a.m. Here the President was given the most responsive welcome of anywhere on his trip. The streets of the city were lined with cheering people, principally school children. Sirens were sounded and church bells tolled to announce the President’s arrival. The motorcade proceeded through the town to War Park, situated along the Caribbean facing Old Fort Christian. Here a crowd of several thousand people gathered to welcome the President. On arrival at the Park, the official party left their automobiles and proceeded to the speaker’s stand at the head of the stone steps leading from Fort Christian to the park below.

As at Charlotte Amalie and Frederiksted, the President was introduced here by Governor Hastie, and a rousing ovation resulted. After the Governor’s remarks, Mr. Joseph Alexander, Chairman of the Reception Committee, acting on behalf of the citizens of Christiansted, presented the President a beautiful

native mahogany wood coffee table that had been made in St. Croix by native craftsmen. The President then, at 11:12 a.m., stepped to the microphone and addressed the assemblage. He told them:

“Thank you very much. Governor, Mr. Commissioner – I can’t express to you in words warmly enough the appreciation which I feel for the welcome which you have given me. I want to thank you most sincerely for this beautiful coffee table made of your native mahogany. I shall treasure it always and when I go back to Independence it will have a place of honor in my home.

“I am very happy to be here today to have this opportunity to visit St. Croix and to see for myself what this part of our American family is doing to meet our common problems. I have heard a great deal about the beauty of this Island and I am glad to say that the enthusiasm of my friends is more than justified. Here, I know, our American way of working together toward peace and prosperity will bring results we can all enjoy. Governor Hastie and the Federal Agencies are working together both here and in Washington to improve the use of St. Croix’s many assets and develop new ones.

The Virgin Islands Company is our greatest hope for the stabilization of the economy of St. Croix, and I sincerely hope the Congress is going to recharter it. I shall do everything in my power to see that it is rechartered. The new era of air travel should mean much to the Islands, particularly to St. Croix with its splendid airport possibilities. Vacationists and tourists will travel more and more to the Caribbean, and to our own American soil in the Virgin Islands. We must all be ready with enterprise and courage to make the most of these new developments, and through them to reach the higher standard of living we all strive for.

“I bring you greetings from your fellow Americans, who watch with constant interest your efforts to meet problems which are familiar to them, too. I sincerely hope that when it is my privilege to pay a return visit, which I hope to do at the end of my service as President of the United States, I shall see these islands on a self-supporting basis. I was agreeably surprised to see the level nature of St. Croix as compared to the other two islands. The possibilities for air travel in this neighborhood are immense. You have room here for a seven thousand foot runway. And when we have air freighters, no doubt St. Croix will be the place where they have to stop, because there is no other in the immediate vicinity, outside of Puerto Rico.

“Again, I want to thank you for this cordial welcome, and to say to you that when you come to the United States, we will try to give you one equally as cordial. Thank you very much.”

The President left the speaker’s stand at 11:15 a.m., and spent the next few minutes looking over the buildings of Old Fort Christian. At 11:23 a.m., the official party reentered their assigned automobiles and left Christiansted to continue the sightseeing tour of St. Croix.

Leaving Christiansted, we passed by the shop where it is claimed Alexander Hamilton once worked as a clerk and bookkeeper.

We doubled back along the Centerline Highway as far as Mt. Pleasant, where we turned north to Annaly.

The motorcade arrived at Annaly Mill, the country home of Mr. Ward Canaday (Chairman of the Board of the Willys-Overland Company) at 12 noon. The President had lunch there as the guest of Mr. Canaday.

The members of the Press continued on to Frederiksted where they had lunch at the Tropicana Restaurant as guests of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Croix. There were approximately fifty other guests at Annaly Mill, including Governor Hastie, Secretary Krug, Mr. Taylor, Admiral Barbey, the members of the President’s party, and Messrs. Smith, Warden and Rash of the Press delegation. The tables were set on the terrace and the guests were served buffet style. The menu consisted of Cruzan mornings, coconut rum, sugar cane sticks, pate Christiansted, tomatoes Frederiksted, langouste Santa Cruz, Silde Salat, sliced ham, yam Virgin Island, Blue Mountain lamb, Diamond Lake salad, butter rolls, cake St.

Croix, Carib Beach coffee. The guests were entertained during lunch by the music and songs of a native calypso band. One of the "musicians" tooted a bazooka-like length of gas pipe. Another beat on a lard can. The remaining members played a gourd, a brass triangle, two guitars and a banjo.

Annaly Mill is a unique place. It was built on the site of an old stone sugar mill and some of the old buildings were remodeled inside without changing their exterior appearance.

The official party left Annaly Mill at 1:30 p.m. and arrived at the Municipal Pier, Frederiksted, at 1:40 p.m. The President said goodbye to Governor Hastie, Admiral Barbey and Mr. Taylor there, and at 1:45 p.m., embarked in the AVR for return to the WILLIAMSBURG. Secretary Krug and Mr. Skinner left the President's party here to return to Washington. The Secretary was flown from St. Croix to Havana in a Navy R-4-D, piloted by Lieutenant Commander Nelson. From Havana, he continued on via commercial airlines.

The Presidential party returned to the WILLIAMSBURG at 1:49 p.m., and the WILLIAMSBURG got underway at 1:55 p.m. for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Course was laid to take us south of Hispanola and thence north-northwest to Guantanamo. The GREENWICH BAY's departure was delayed some 15 minutes while she embarked the newspapermen and photographers. By 3:30 p.m., she had caught up with us and was in position astern of the WILLIAMSBURG.

Once the WILLIAMSBURG was underway, the President and members of his party changed to informal wear and lounged about for approximately an hour. The President at 2:45 p.m., returned to his quarters where he rested for about two hours. Meanwhile, Admiral Leahy, Mr. Clifford and Captain Dennison met in conference and made a study for the President of the draft of Senator Austin's proposed statement on the U. S. position on the Palestine Question. Senator Austin was scheduled to speak before the United States Security Council on Tuesday, February 24. The draft of his speech had been forwarded to the President by Secretary Marshall by radio this afternoon.

At 4 p.m., Mr. Ayers talked by radio-telephone with members of the Press in the GREENWICH BAY.

Dinner was at 7 p.m., and was followed by a screening of the motion picture "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" in the President's mess room. The President retired to his cabin to study the draft of Senator Austin's speech and did not attend the movies.

After dinner, the President dispatched the following radio messages to Governors Pinero and Hastie:

"For Hon. Jesus T. Pinero. I carry with me from Puerto Rico grateful memories of the hospitality of a generous people so graciously extended to me last Saturday. The sincerity of the welcome accorded me was heart-warming. My only regret was that my visit of necessity was limited to hours when I sincerely wished it might have been days. But during those brief hours I was not merely impressed by the genuineness of the welcome I received. I had also, in a quick survey and in conferences with you and your associates in the Government, an opportunity to evaluate the resources of Puerto Rico which are capable of such promising development. For all that was done to make my visit such a memorable one, I send this assurance of heartfelt gratitude. Harry S. Truman."

"For Hon. William H. Hastie. I leave the Virgin Islands with a heart full of gratitude for the wonderful hospitality extended to me during an all too brief visit. Please tell the good people of St. Thomas and St. Croix how deeply I appreciate the warmth and sincerity of their welcome. I shall long treasure the memory of my two days with you and with them because of the many gestures and tokens of friendship and goodwill which I received. Although my visit was brief, I saw the potentialities of the Virgin Islands and have faith that the people of the islands can look forward to a happy future. It was a

privilege to discuss with you and with officials of the Government the problems which are yours and which we in Washington wish to share with you. From a full heart I send this message of sincere appreciation. Harry S. Truman.”

During the evening the President dispatched a radio message to Secretary Marshall informing him of his views of the contents of the draft of Senator Austin’s proposed speech.

Midnight found the WILLIAMSBURG cruising through a moderate sea, on course 270 degrees T, speed 13.8 knots. The GREENWICH BAY was in column, 1000 yards astern. The weather was logged as partly cloudy.

## **Tuesday, 24 February**

At 3:17 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY changed course to 262 degrees T. At 4:40 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG suffered an engineering casualty when the port engine blew the safety valve to #4 cylinder. Speed was reduced to 9.2 knots for two hours while repairs were being effected. Repairs were completed at 6:43 a.m., and speed of 13.8 knots was resumed.

The President arose at 7 a.m. and came on deck for a brief walk. He breakfasted at 8 a.m., after which he retired to the fantail where he sat for more than an hour talking with members of his party. The President remained out of the sun as he was treating a painful case of sunburn he acquired while riding bareheaded at San Juan.

We were still encountering moderate seas and doing a bit of bouncing around.

At 8:39 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG AND GREENWICH BAY increased speed to 14 knots.

Our noon position was:

Latitude 17 degrees	– 20.6’ N
Longitude 70 degrees	– 13.7’ W

At 12:27 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY changed course to 270 degrees T.

Lunch was served at 1 p.m. After lunch the President retired to his quarters and rested until 4 p.m.

At 3:52 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY changed course to 280 degrees T; at 6:01 p.m., they changed course to 285 degrees T.

Dinner was served in the President’s mess at 7 p.m. During the dinner hour, all clocks were set back one hour to conform to zone plus five time.

During the afternoon, Mr. Ayers talked by radio-telephone with members of the Press on board the GREENWICH BAY. At this time he gave out the following statement by the President:

“The Palestine problem has been, and is, the deep concern of this Government. It has been given the most careful consideration by me, the Cabinet, and other responsible government officials. The U. S. position has been developed through long and exhaustive study and many consultations. This position has been accurately presented by Ambassador Austin in his speech before the Security Council today.”

Movies were shown in the President’s mess room at 7:30 p.m. The picture screened was “The Bishop’s Wife” starring Loretta Young and Cary Grant. The President remained in the lower lounge chatting with some of the members of his party and did not attend.

Midnight found the WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY steaming in column on course 284, speed 14.2, and in a position approximately 30 miles west of Alta Vela, off the southernmost tip of Hispanola.

The weather was clear and a moderate sea was running. The average temperature for the day was 77 degrees.

### **Wednesday, 25 February**

Heavy weather (ground swells whipped up by a moderate gale – 28 to 33 knots) was encountered after we changed course at 6:45 a.m. and headed northward up and across the Windward Passage. In order to assure maximum safety, the positions of the WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY were reversed and the GREENWICH BAY assumed the lead. The WILLIAMSBURG rolled and tossed about making it somewhat uncomfortable for all hands. Even Admiral Leahy remarked at her unsteadiness. Members of the Press found the going only a little better in the GREENWICH BAY. There was no relief from this rolling and tossing until the WILLIAMSBURG had entered the sheltered waters of Guantanamo Bay at about 1 p.m. This rough weather, combined with yesterday's engine breakdown, delayed our scheduled arrival in Guantanamo Bay by nearly three hours.

Lieutenant (jg) G. E. Hoppe, White House Courier, delivered two bags of White House mail to the WILLIAMSBURG as we were standing in to Guantanamo Bay. He was brought alongside in a fast motorboat. Also aboard the motorboat were Mr. Howard S. Anderson and Mr. William D. Simmons. As we were running several hours late, the WILLIAMSBURG did not stop to take these gentlemen aboard. Lieutenant Hoppe and Mr. Simmons had been flown to Guantanamo in a U. S. Navy plane. The mail was opened and distributed immediately but the President did not have an opportunity to act on it before leaving the ship.

The WILLIAMSBURG anchored in Berth 2, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, at 1:49 p.m. The GREENWICH BAY had been sent ahead so that the newsmen and photographers could be on hand to cover our arrival and was already at anchor in Berth E. The Presidential party left the WILLIAMSBURG at 1:53 p.m., and embarked in a 63-foot cabin cruiser (C-63) for the seven-minute ride to the beach. The boat was under the charge of Lieutenant W. C. Keehn, U.S.N. The Presidential party landed at the Fleet Landing, Naval Operating Base, Guantanamo Bay, at 2 p.m. The President was greeted here by Captain C. E. Battle, U.S.N., Commander of the U.S. Naval Base, and the Honorable R. H. Norweb, our Ambassador to Cuba.

Mr. Anderson, Mr. Behn, Mr. Champion, Mr. McCann, Mr. Gorham, Mr. McMullin and Lieutenant Commander Cushman were awaiting us at Guantanamo.

No Cuban officials were on hand as the President's stop here was an unofficial one. Honors were rendered by the Marine Guard and the Naval Base band. After honors, the President, in company with Admiral Leahy and Captain Battle, inspected the guard and band.

The official party then embarked in waiting automobiles and, at 2:08 p.m., left the Fleet Landing for the Officers' Club where the President and members of his party had lunch as guests of Captain Battle. The President received the station officers and their wives before sitting down to lunch. The complete guest list included the President, Captain and Mrs. Battle, Admiral Leahy, Ambassador and Mrs. Norweb, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison, Mr. Ayers, Colonel B. C. Batterton, U.S.M.C. (Naval Attache to Cuba), Mrs. Batterton, Colonel E. E. Glenn, U.S.A. (Military Attache to Cuba), Mrs. Glenn, Miss Sylvia Battle, Captain J. H. Robbins, Mrs. Cocke (daughter of Captain Robbins), Colonel (U.S.M.C.) and Mrs. J. C. Burger, Captain and Mrs. H. D. McIntosh, Captain and Mrs. A. L. Pleasants, Mrs. Bagby (Mrs. Pleasant's mother), Captain and Mrs. W. O. Gallery, Captain and Mrs. L. W. Creighton, Captain C. M. Bowley, Lieutenant Colonel A. F. Johnson, U.S.M.C., Commander and Mrs. E. L. Robertson, Jr., General

and Mrs. Brooks (parents of Mrs. Robertson), Commander and Mrs. L. J. Bellis, Commander and Mrs. P. L. Wertz, Commander and Mrs. A. I. Flaherty, Commander and Mrs. R. F. Saunders, Commander and Mrs. E. C. Asman, Commander and Mrs. G. O. Hobbs, Commander and Mrs. O. W. Spahr, Commander and Mrs. W. F. McLaren, Commander and Mrs. A. N. Chaffin, Commander and Mrs. W. A. Evans, Commander and Mrs. E. E. Smith, Commander and Mrs. F. A. Patriarca, Commander and Mrs. S. H. Pierce, Mrs. J. M. Roe (mother of Mrs. Pierce), Commander and Mrs. J. H. Scanlon, Commander and Mrs. P. W. Demo, Commander and Mrs. L. H. Alford, Commander and Mrs. T. L. Conroy, Commander and Mrs. J. A. Fields, Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. J. C. Hill, II, Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. E. E. Basserman, Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. R. V. Van Walkenten, Mr. Folliard, Mr. Vaccaro, and Mr. Bourgholtzer. The menu consisted of consommé, filet mignon with broiled mushrooms, baked Idaho potato, fresh broccoli with Hollandaise sauce, tossed green salad, ice cream and coffee.

The members of the Press and the White House Staff were entertained at luncheon at the Chief Petty Officers Club. By special arrangement the Ship's Store Officer had a stock of items from the ship's store – leather goods, woodenware, cigars, perfumes, etc., - on display at both clubs for the convenience of the members of our party.

Lunch was over at 3:15 p.m. Members of the official party departed the Officers Club by automobile for an inspection tour of the Naval Base. Due to our late arrival the proposed tour had to be somewhat curtailed. The President was shown some of the Marine areas and "Newtown" – the housing area. He was then taken to Massip Hill where he was greeted by approximately one hundred school children assembled in front of the Base school. While stopped there, William Barrett, 12-year old son of Chief Pharmacist's Mate P. W. Barrett, acting as spokesman for his schoolmates, presented the President a scrapbook that had been made up by the children of the Base school. About halfway through his speech, Bill forgot his lines but the President restored his composure when he assured him he knew exactly what he had meant to say. The route of the tour from Massip Hill took us past the Base administration building, the stores area, through the industrial area, and on to the Naval Air Station at 3:50 p.m. The President was received with full military honors (guard and band and gun salute). While his visit to Guantanamo was of less than two hours duration, the President was very favorably impressed with the evident efficiency of the Base.

The Presidential party boarded their plane at 3:55 p.m. and the plane taxied to the runway at 4 p.m. The Presidential plane was airborne for Key West at 4:10 p.m. The Press plane followed by a few minutes. The special Navy plane (Lieutenant K. K. Jones, pilot) carrying Mr. Anderson and his advance party, departed shortly after the Press plane. The Navy mail plane (Lieutenant Webster, pilot) and Lieutenant Hoppe were also dispatched to Key West, so that the official mail on hand could be returned to Washington via this courier and plane. The WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY remained at Guantanamo overnight and departed Guantanamo on the early morning of February 26<sup>th</sup> for Key West.

The flight from Guantanamo to Key West was smooth and uneventful. The President worked on his mail enroute. The Press plane was allowed to overtake us enroute and landed at Key West at 6:25 p.m. The President's plane landed five minutes later. The President left the plane at 6:35 p.m. He talked briefly with the three Negro reporters (Messrs. Cole, Young and Graves) who had accompanied the Washington Press group on the Caribbean trip and posed for newsreel and still pictures with them. Messrs. Cole, Young and Graves left our company here to return to their regular billets. They were transported to Miami in the Press plane (P.A.A. charter plane).

The same group of civic officials and ranking officers who had met the President on his arrival at Boca Chica on February 20<sup>th</sup> were on hand to welcome him back from his Caribbean trip. After the exchange of greetings, the President and members of the official party departed Boca Chica by automobile at 6:40 p.m. for the Submarine Base at Key West. Due to the late hour, no honors were rendered, either at Boca Chica or the Submarine Base at Key West. Captain Adell rode in the automobile with the President and Admiral Leahy.

The official party arrived at the Presidential Quarters (Quarters A-B), Submarine Base, at 7 p.m. Captain Adell paid his respects and departed. The President and members of his party entered the quarters and retired to their respective rooms, the President pausing first to telephone Mrs. Truman to report his safe arrival.

Dinner was served in the President's mess at 7:30 p.m. Chief Steward Bautista and his crew of stewards and cooks had been left behind last Saturday and had dinner ready and the house in order on the President's arrival. Lieutenant Hoye D. Moore (SC), U.S.N., Presidential Mess Officer (U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG) came to Key West from Guantanamo via the mail plane. He assumed charge of the mess on his arrival, relieving Lieutenant Commander Rigdon of this detail.

All hands remained at the quarters throughout the evening. The past five days had been crowded ones and all hands were glad for an opportunity to relax.

The President's plane remained at Key West throughout his visit. This caused some speculation back in Washington. The news reports had it that the President planned to cut short his vacation any day and return to Washington.

While at Key West the President and his party observed no particular schedule. There was no official social program arranged and each member's time was strictly his own.

The weather was perfect for a vacation and full opportunity was taken for rest and relaxation. The daytime temperature averaged 76 degrees and the breezes were warm. All hands got a great deal of sun. The nights were comfortably cool.

All meals were informal, particularly breakfast. Those who wanted to sleep late did so.

Forenoons were spent at the beach. The President and those accompanying him usually walked to the beach about 10 a.m. and shifted to bathing trunks there. Cars were provided so that they could ride back to the quarters and the President invariably was at the wheel of his convertible.

Admiral Leahy spent most of his time at the quarters, working on some personal papers. He did not go to the beach except on one occasion.

Afternoons were spent in resting and taking care of personal business. Evenings were spent about the quarters.

#### **Thursday, 26 February**

The President slept late this morning. He did not arise until 8 a.m. He came down to breakfast at 8:45 a.m. After breakfast he went out to the west garden and read for about thirty minutes.

White House mail (Lieutenant G. E. Hoppe, courier) was dispatched to Washington via Navy plane. Mr. Howard S. Anderson and his party (Mr. Behn, Mr. McCann, Mr. Campion, Mr. Gorham) departed Key West via special Navy plane (Lieutenant K. K. Jones, pilot) to return to regular duties in Washington.

At 10 a.m., the President, accompanied by Messrs. Steelman, Clifford, Woodward, Colonel Landry and Mr. Ayers, left the house and walked to the Enlisted Men's beach at the Submarine Base. Mr. Hassett, General Graham and Captain Dennison joined them at the beach later. They all left the beach by automobile at 11:50 a.m. to return to the quarters.

Lunch was at 1 p.m. There were no guests.

The President spent the afternoon about the quarters chatting with various members of his party and did not take his usual afternoon rest. Mr. Clifford and Mr. Woodward played tennis at the Casa Marina Hotel courts.

Mr. Ayers met daily, sometimes twice daily, with the members of the Press to keep them informed. His press conferences were held in the Press Room at the Bachelor Officers' Quarters 128.

Dinner was at 7 p.m. There were no guests.

The President received the following message by radio from Governor Hastie:

“To the warmth of sentiment engendered by your gracious friendliness and interest to manifest throughout your visit to the Virgin Islands is now added our appreciation of your kind message upon departure. It was to me and to the entire community a signal honor and great pleasure to be able to have you as our guest. We are happy that your stay proved pleasant and we hope that you may have been afforded some measure of rest and relaxation as well.

“Your active personal concern with our problems and their solution must spur all of us to greater efforts to make these islands a model community. I can never adequately voice my own appreciation of your expressions of confidence or of the opportunity afforded me to counsel with you during your stay in the Virgin Islands.

“All of us are sufficiently selfish to hope that you will honor us with another visit. William Hastie”

#### **Friday, 27 February**

The President arose at 7 a.m. but remained in his suite until 7:45 a.m., when he came down to breakfast. From 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., he worked on his personal mail, dictating several letters to his secretary, Mr. Jack Romagna.

At 10:05 a.m., the President, accompanied by Messrs. Steelman, Hassett, Clifford, Woodward, and General Vaughan, left the quarters and walked to the Enlisted Men's beach at the Submarine Base where they spent the morning sunning and swimming. General Graham, Colonel Landry and Mr. Ayers joined them there later. They left the beach in a group, by automobile, at 12 noon and returned to the quarters.

Lunch was at 1 p.m. There were no guests. At 2 p.m., the President retired to his quarters where he rested until 4 p.m.

A White House mail pouch was delivered to the President at 5:15 p.m. by Chief Ship's clerk J. W. Oliver, U.S.N. Mr. Oliver had been flown down from Washington in an Air Force plane. B. L. Winkler, Y1c, U.S.N., the Naval Aide's yeoman, and Mr. Theodore Barrier of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company were passengers in this same plane.

Admiral Leahy, Colonel Landry, Mr. Bassett, Mr. Connelly and Captain Dennison left the quarters at 5:30 p.m. for Captain Saunders' quarters on the Naval Base, where they attended a cocktail party. They returned at 6:45 p.m.

Dinner was at 7 p.m. There were no guests.

Mr. Neal Helm (Carruthersville, Missouri), a friend of the President's, called on the President at 9 p.m. He visited with the President and members of his party until 12:30 a.m., when he departed to return to his hotel.

This evening the President signed official mail which included approval of bills S-1454, S-312, S-1133, S-313, S-311, HR-4127 and HR-5391, and veto messages for S-542 and S-499.

### **Saturday, 28 February**

The President arose at 7:15 a.m. and came down to breakfast at 8:15 a.m. Mr. Helm arrived at the quarters at 8:20 a.m. and spent the day with the Presidential party.

The WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY arrived at the Naval Base, Key West at 8:15 a.m. The WILLIAMSBURG was moored at the quay in front of the Base Administration Building. The GREENWICH BAY was moored at a nearby pier.

Mr. Hassett, General Graham and Colonel Landry left the quarters at 8:30 a.m. for Boca Chica where they enplaned in a Navy plane (JRB) for Havana. They were accompanied by Mr. R. M. McDavid (U. S. Secret Service) who acted as their guide during their day's sightseeing.

Chief Ship's Clerk Oliver was dispatched to Washington this afternoon with a White House pouch. Mr. Oliver was returned to Washington via the same Air Force plane in which he arrived yesterday. Second Lieutenant Leveritt returned to Washington in this same plane. His duties were taken over by Chief Pharmacist's Mate Preston C. Taylor of the WILLIAMSBURG.

Captain C. L. Freeman, U.S.N. (Commanding Officer, U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG) called on Captain Dennison at 9:15 a.m.

Rear Admiral T. H. Robbins, Jr., U.S.N., Commander Carrier Division SEVENTEEN, accompanied by his Aide and Flag Secretary, called at the quarters at 9:45 a.m. to pay his respects to the President. He departed at 9:55 a.m. Admiral Robbins' flagship, the U.S.S. MINDORO (Escort Carrier #120), was operating in the Key West area at the time.

Lieutenant Commander Charles W. Cushman's temporary duty with the Naval Aide was terminated this date and he was directed to return to his regular duties in the Navy Department. He returned to Washington by rail at his own expense.

At 10 a.m., the President, accompanied by Captain Dennison and Captain Adell, left the quarters and walked to the U.S.S. REQUIN moored at Pier Five. Enroute to the REQUIN the President passed by a formation of Submarine Base Officers and enlisted men drawn up for Captain's inspection. The President stopped to greet and question some of their personnel concerning their war record.

The President was received on board the REQUIN (SS-481) – a radar picket submarine with many of the latest detection devices installed – at 10:10 a.m. He was accorded full military honors on his arrival and greeted by Commander George H. Street, the Commanding Officer, and Captain L. R. Daspit, Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR. This was Commander Street's third official contact with the President, as President Truman had on previous occasions personally presented to him the Medal of Honor and a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Silver Star Medal.

The President, in company with the Commanding Officer, made an inspection of the boat and crew, visiting the lower decks and observing a demonstration of some of the detection devices. He met five Missourians who were members of the crew, one from his home town (Independence), M. L. Anderson, Motor Machinist's Mate Second Class; Lieutenant J. L. McGrievy, St. Louis; Lieutenant J. L. Ashcraft, St. Louis; Chief Electrician's Mate J. L. Wilkerson, Richmond; and Chief Gunner's Mate R. J. Griffin, Danby.

From the REQUIN, the President and Captains Adell and Dennison walked to the Enlisted Men's beach. They arrived there at 10:35 a.m., at which time Captain Adell paid his respects and parted company. Messrs. Steelman, Connelly and Helm were at the beach when the President arrived. Mr. Woodward and Mr. Ayers joined him there later.

Mr. Clifford did not go to the beach this morning. He and Commander Gay (Executive Officer, U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG) played tennis at the Casa Marina Hotel courts.

The President and others at the beach left there in a group, by auto, at 11:55 a.m. and returned to the quarters.

Lunch was at 1 p.m. There were no guests.

Captain Dennison, General Vaughan and Mr. Connelly left the quarters at 5:30 p.m., for the Officers' Club at nearby Fort Taylor where they attended a reception tendered by the British Consul at Miami, in honor of the Captains and Officers of the Canadian ships "NOOTKA" and NEW LISKEARD," which were visiting at Key West at the time. They returned to the quarters at 6:45 p.m.

A White House mail pouch was delivered to the President at 6 p.m. by Lieutenant G. E. Hoppe, U.S.N. Lieutenant Hoppe had been flown down from Washington via Navy plane.

Mr. Hassett, General Graham and Colonel Landry returned to the quarters at 7:30 p.m., laden with sundry articles they had purchased in Havana. Dinner was held up awaiting their return and was not served until 7:45 p.m. There were no guests.

At a special ceremony held in the living room of his quarters at 9 p.m., and attended by all members of his party, the President signed HR-4127, "An Amendment to the Civil Service Retirement Act." The President used fifteen pens in signing the bill, which were later distributed to the various sponsors of the bill and those who were helpful in seeing that it was enacted. Photographs were made of the signing.

Mr. Helm left the quarters at 10:30 p.m. to return to his hotel.

### **Sunday, 29 February**

The President arose at 7:15 a.m. He remained in his room until 8:10 a.m., while reading the morning papers. He came down to breakfast at 8:10 a.m.

Mr. Hassett and Colonel Landry left the house at 8:30 a.m. to attend Catholic Mass at the Base chapel. Mr. Woodward left the house at the same time to spend the day with his parents, Mr. And Mrs. George Woodward of Philadelphia, who were vacationing in Key West.

The President, Admiral Leahy, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Clifford, General Vaughan, General Graham, Captain Dennison, Mr. Ayers and Captain Adell left the house at 9:20 a.m. and walked to the Submarine Base chapel where they attended divine services. The services were conducted by Lieutenant Paul W. Travis, Chaplain Corps, U. S. Naval Reserve, Protestant Chaplain of the Base. On conclusion of the services the President paused to express his thanks and appreciation to Chaplain Travis. Then he, and those accompanying him, continued on foot to the Enlisted Men's beach, where they arrived at 10:20 a.m. They spent the next hour and a half sunning, swimming and exercising. The group left the beach at 11:50 a.m., by motor, to return to the house. As usual, the President was at the wheel of his car.

Mr. J. M. Cox (former Governor of Ohio and Democratic candidate for President in 1920) and Mr. Daniel J. Mahoney (President and Vice President respectively of the Miami Daily News) called on the President at 12 noon. They came from Miami by private plane and were met at Boca Chica by Mr. Dewey Long, and escorted to Key West. Mr. Cox and Mr. Mahoney were the only official guests received by the President during his visit at Key West.

Mr. Cox, Mr. Mahoney and Captain Adell were luncheon guests of the President. Mr. Hassett and General Vaughan had lunch on board the WILLIAMSBURG as guests of Captain Freeman.

Official mail was dispatched to the White House this afternoon via Lieutenant G. E. Hoppe, U.S.N., courier. Lieutenant Hoppe was transported to Washington via Navy plane. Lieutenant Commander Baggett and Musician John Wigent were returned to Washington via this plane.

Mr. Cox and Mr. Mahoney left the President's quarters at 2:20 p.m., by auto, for Boca Chica to enplane for Miami.

The President retired to his bedroom at 2:30 p.m., where he rested until 3:45 p.m.

Mr. Neal Helm called at 3 p.m. and spent the afternoon and evening with the Presidential party.

Secretary of Defense James Forrestal telephoned the President at 4 p.m.

At 5:10 p.m., the President, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison, Mr. Ayers and Mr. Helm left the house and walked to Captain Adell's quarters (on the Base) where they attended an informal reception. All except Mr. Helm returned to the quarters at 6 p.m. Admiral Leahy left the house at 5:15 p.m. to call on a friend living in Key West. He returned at 6:45 p.m.

Dinner was at 7 p.m. There were no guests.

At 10 p.m., speaking from the living room, the President delivered the following address. His talk was piped by direct wire to Constitution Hall in Washington to a special audience who were participating in ceremonies attending the opening of the 1948 Red Cross Drive. It was also broadcast to the nation over the facilities of the American Broadcasting Company.

“MY FELLOW CITIZENS.

“I am speaking to you tonight not about affairs of state, but about that good friend of humanity – the Red Cross.

“As the honorary chairman of the Red Cross, I have made it my business to examine its program and its financial requirements.

“Its greatest strength lies in the fact that it belongs to the people. It reaches into every community of our land. An average of one person in every family in the United States now holds a junior or senior Red Cross membership. Such widespread acceptance by the people tells its own story.

“It is inspiring just to review the role of this far-flung organization. With the Red Cross it is not a question of doing merely one job well. Its program has many important parts. The Red Cross must be ready at all times to move and act simultaneously on widely varying programs. In all it does, service to humanity is its main objective as well as its sole reward.

“An example of how the Red Cross operates along so many fronts is revealed in one of its reports to me. Recently it launched a national blood program and the first regional blood center to be opened in this new service was dedicated last January twelfth. During the same week the Red Cross was aiding the victims of six separate disasters in widely scattered sections. Some had just occurred. Work on the others was in the final stages. These catastrophes included a Gulf Coast hurricane, a flood in Oregon, New England forest fires, a plane crash in Georgia, a southeastern tornado. At the same time aid was being given to distressed Navajo and Hopi Indians in the Far West.

“As always, the families caught in these emergencies were dealt with on an individual basis. Yet the Red Cross was able to carry out all these assignments without the slightest interruption in launching its new blood program.

“When catastrophe strikes, the Red Cross moves with the precision of a well-trained army to bring order out of chaos. It provides aid to stricken people without weakening their self-respect. Altogether, it has handled 3,650 disasters in its time. These errands of mercy represent a shining chapter in the annals of relief-giving.

“The 1948 campaign objective totals 75 million dollars. The results, however, should be limited only by the generosity of the American people. Certainly, no price tag can be fixed upon the comforts given or the hopes relit by the Red Cross. Its services, particularly in these days, are priceless to our way of life.

“So, even when we add up the dollars needed – even when we add up the pints of blood required – even when we add up the disaster cases handled each year – all of us realize that Red Cross service cannot be measured accurately by any known yardstick.

“What we can do when the campaign gets under way is to remember the organization’s deeds. Perhaps we can picture the light on the faces of the bewildered hurricane sufferers upon learning that the Red Cross would rebuild their wrecked home. Perhaps we can see, as Red Cross workers have seen, the gratitude of the New Englander upon being assured that he would live after nearly 100 blood transfusions, or the relief of thousands of veterans when they realized the Red Cross would lend them a hand. Thousands of times in the year ahead the Red Cross will be called upon to meet similar situations.

“In this great cause it matters not how we may differ on the pressing issues of the day. Beneath the flag of the Red Cross we are a united people.

“In this spirit, I ask you, my fellow Americans, to give the Red Cross your wholehearted support.”

The President posed for photographs before the broadcast.

### **Monday, 1 March**

The President arose at 7 a.m. He remained in his room reading the morning papers until 7:45 a.m., when he came downstairs and joined some of the members of his party on the south porch. He had breakfast at 8 a.m.

At 10 a.m. the President held a press conference with the members of the Press covering his visit. The conference was held in the north garden. Still and motion pictures were made during the conference. Photographer’s film was sent to Miami by Naval aircraft. Lieutenant Colonel Myers, Mr. Lindly and Mr. McAvoy went to Miami in this same plane, from where they entrained for Washington.

The press conference was over at 10:20 a.m., so at 10:25 a.m. the President, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, General Vaughan, General Graham, Captain Dennison and Mr. Ayers left the house and walked to the Enlisted Men’s beach. They sunned, swam and exercised until 11:55 a.m. when they left by auto to return to the quarters. The President was at the wheel of his car.

Lunch was at 12:30 p.m., so that we could be ready to leave at 1:30 p.m. on a fishing expedition.

At 1:40 p.m. the entire party left the quarters and walked to the nearby quay where they embarked in two Navy crash boats specially fitted out as fishing boats. The party was divided into two teams, one captained by the President and the other by Admiral Leahy. Lot was dedicated by a drawing held during lunch. The President and his team (Mr. Hassett, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Clifford, General Graham and Colonel Landry) embarked in the “Dolphin.” They were accompanied by Commanmder Grady of the Submarine Base (fishing guide) and Lieutenant Commander Rigdon. Admiral Leahy and his team (Mr. Steelman, Mr. Woodward, General Vaughan, Captain Dennison and Mr. Ayers) embarked in the “Snafu.” They were

accompanied by Captain Saunders who served as fishing guide for their group. Several members of the newspaper and photographer contingent followed along in a third boat.

We started out for the fishing grounds off American Shoals, about twenty miles east of Key West. It was quite windy and choppy outside the harbor and we had to reduce our speed to make the going more comfortable. After we had been underway for approximately an hour it was decided to commence fishing and fish on the way out to our objective. So, the two teams went into action. The President got the first strike but his fish headed for the rocky bottom and managed to tangle his line on the rocks, giving him quite a workout but cheating him of his prize. Mr. Connelly got a 9- pound grouper, Mr. Clifford an 8- pound grouper, General Graham a 7- pound grouper and a 3- pound silver mackerel. Mr. Hassett's great patience – he fished all afternoon without relief – was rewarded only a few minutes before the close of activities when he hauled in a 25-pound amberjack. It was Captain Dennison's lot to land the only fish caught by Admiral Leahy's team but he took top honors and two wagers with his 29- pound king mackerel (the heaviest and longest fish caught during the afternoon). We left the fishing grounds at 5 p.m. and docked at the Submarine Base at 6:05 p.m. After the official weighing and measuring of the afternoon's catch, and the all-important photographic recording, the President and his party returned to their quarters.

Captain Dennison left the house at 6:30 p.m. for Commander Johnson's quarters on the Base where he was a guest at dinner.

Dinner at the President's quarters was at 7 p.m. There were no guests.

Chief Ship's Clerk Oliver delivered a White House pouch to the President at 8:15 p.m. He was flown from Washington to Key West in an Air Force plane.

### **Tuesday, 2 March**

The President slept late this morning and did not arise until 8:15 a.m. He came down to breakfast at 8:45 a.m.

Colonel Landry and Captain Dennison left the house at 9:30 a.m. for a golfing date with Captain Saunders and Captain Freeman. They returned to the quarters at 2:30 p.m.

At 10 a.m. the President, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Woodward, General Vaughan, General Graham and Mr. Ayers left the house and walked to the Enlisted Men's beach where they donned trunks and spent the morning sunning, swimming and exercising. They left the beach at 11:55 a.m., by motor, for their quarters. Again, the President was at the wheel of his car.

Mr. Clifford and Commander Gay left the house at 10:45 a.m. to play tennis at the Casa Marina Hotel courts. They returned at 12:50 p.m.

Official mail was dispatched to the White House this morning via Chief Ship's Clerk Oliver. He was returned to Washington in an Air Force plane. Mr. Romagna and Chief Radioman John Hughett returned to Washington via this same plane.

Mr. and Mrs. George Woodward called on the President at 12:15 pm. They departed at 12:30 p.m.

Lunch was at 1 p.m. There were no guests. After lunch the President retired to his bedroom where he rested until 3:30 p.m.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson telephoned the President at 4 p.m. Admiral Denfeld (Chief of Naval Operations) telephoned Admiral Leahy at 5:25 p.m.

Admiral Leahy left the house at 6:55 p.m. for the Casa Marina Hotel where he dined with a group of friends. He returned at 9:30 p.m.

Dinner in the President's mess was at 7 p.m. There were no guests.

### **Wednesday, 3 March**

The President arose at 7 a.m. He remained in his room until 8:15 a.m. while reading the morning papers. Breakfast was at 8:20 a.m.

Mr. Clifford left the house at 8:45 a.m. for Boca Chica where he explained (Navy JRB) for Miami where he kept a business engagement with Mr. D. J. Mahoney.

Captain C. O. Triebel, U.S.N., Commanding Officer, U.S.S. HOWARD W. GILMORE, (Submarine Tender for vessels of Submarine Squadron FOUR) called on Captain Dennison at 9:30 a.m.

At 10 a.m. the President, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison and Mr. Ayers left the house and walked to the Enlisted Men's beach. They donned bathing trunks and spent the forenoon there sunning, swimming and exercising. They returned to the house at 12 noon. The President was at the wheel of his car.

Captain W. A. Saunders was a luncheon guest of the President's mess. After lunch the President retired to his suite where he rested until 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Clifford returned from Miami at 5:30 p.m.

Lieutenant G. E. Hoppe, USN, White House Courier, delivered a White House pouch to the President at 6:30 p.m. He was flown to Key West via Navy plane.

Mr. Connelly and Captain Dennison left the house at 6:50 p.m. to attend a dinner party in Key West, as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Newton. They returned at 11 p.m.

Dinner in the President's mess was at 7 p.m. There were no guests.

The President signed official mail including approval of Bills S-316, S-402, S-500, S-551, HR-1350, HR-3726, HR-4141 and HR-5525.

### **Thursday, 4 March**

<sup>The</sup> President arose at 7 a.m. He had breakfast at 8:15 a.m.

The President and all members of his party except Admiral Leahy left the house at 10 a.m. and walked to the Enlisted Men's beach. They left the beach at 12 noon, by auto to return to their quarters. The President was at the wheel of his car.

Official mail was dispatched to the White House this afternoon via Lieutenant G. E. Hoppe, U.S.N. courier. The Navy plane that brought Lieutenant Hoppe down from Washington yesterday developed engine trouble and it was found necessary to substitute another plane for the return trip to Washington.

Lunch was at 1 p.m. Captain C. L. Freeman was guest of the mess. After lunch the President retired to his suite where he rested until 3:30 p.m.

At 4 p.m. the President inspected the detail of Marines (25 men) who had guarded his quarters while he was at Key West. He shook hands with each of them and talked with some of them concerning their service record.

Dinner was at 7 p.m. There were no guests. After dinner the President and members of the party retired to the living room where a group photograph was made.

### **Friday, 5 March**

Reveille at the President's quarters was observed at 7 a.m. to facilitate preparations for departure for Washington. Baggage was moved out at 7:30 a.m. and breakfast was served at 7:45 a.m.

At 8:25 a.m., the President, all members of his party and Captains Adell, Saunders, McFadden, Daspit and Smith, left the President's quarters in a motorcade for Boca Chica. Captain Adell rode in the car with the President. Full honors were accorded the President as he departed the Submarine Base and his flag was lowered at the Base Administration Building at 8:30 a.m. The President stopped his car at the Main Gate of the Submarine Base, disembarked and made an inspection of the Marine Guard.

The route through the city enroute to Boca Chica was the reverse of that followed on arrival at Key West on February 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a small crowd of Key Westers, mostly school children, out along the streets to bid the President goodbye.

The motorcade arrived at Boca Chica at 8:55 a.m., and the President's flag was hoisted over the Administration Building. All hands disembarked at once. Goodbyes were said and the Washington passengers embarked in their respective planes. All members of the President's party accompanied him in the "Sacred Cow." Additional passengers were Mr. James J. Rowley, Henry J. Nicholson and Chief Steward Arthur S. Prettyman. The President's plane departed Boca Chica at 9:05 a.m., at which time his flag was lowered there. His plane was followed at 9:15 a.m. by the Pan American Airways chartered plane bearing the following members of the Press, Secret Service and White House Staff:

### **PRESS**

Mr. Smith	Mr. Hillman
Mr. Vaccaro	Mr. Rash
Mr. Nixon	Mr. Adams
Mr. Short	Mr. Bourghaltzer
Mr. Folliard	Mr. Darby
Mr. Fox	Mr. Rous
Mr. Twitty	Mr. Cancellare
Mr. Leviero	Mr. Benson
Mr. O'Donnel	Mr. James
Mr. Warden	Mr. Lyons
Mr. Beal	Mr. Sabin

### **SECRET SERVICE**

Mr. Usher	Mr. Kellerman
Mr. Barry	Mr. Sherwood
Mr. Walters	Mr. Shields
Mr. Kauffman	Mr. Stout
Mr. Boring	Mr. Roberts

## WHITE HOUSE STAFF

Mr. Long  
Mr. McMullin  
Lieut. Comdr. Rigdon  
Lieut. Kane  
4 enlisted plane guards

A special Navy R-4-D (Lieutenant Coward, Pilot), carrying the following additional members of the party and approximately 2,000 pounds of miscellaneous equipment and excess baggage departed Key West at 9:45 a.m. for the Naval Air Station at Anacostia:

Chief Photographer's Mate Gerald P. Pulley, U.S.N.  
Chief Steward Cayetano Bautista, U.S.N.  
Chief Cook Jose Palomaria, U.S.N.  
Chief Cook Eligio Peralta, U.S.N.  
Chief Steward Jorge Santiago, U.S.N.  
Chief Steward Ramon Pascual, U.S.N.  
Yeoman 1/c Bernace L. Winkler, U.S.N.  
Electronics Technician's Mate 1/c James H. Werdel, U.S.N.  
Radioman 1/c Paul G. Gladd, U.S.N.  
Radioman 2/c Kenneth E. Errair, U.S.N.  
Radioman 2/c Robert C. Thomas, U.S.N.  
Aerographer's Mate 2/c K. W. Roe, U.S.N.  
Steward's Mate 1/c Cesar Lomibao, U.S.N.

The U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY remained at Key West until March 6<sup>th</sup>. The GREENWICH BAY was released by the Naval Aide from duty as escort for the WILLIAMSBURG. Both vessels had received permission to visit Havana from 6 – 9 March and planned to proceed to Havana in company on March 6. The WILLIAMSBURG departed Havana 9 March and arrived in Washington late afternoon on 12 March.

The President's plane arrived at the Air Transport Command Terminal, Washington National Airport, at 2:05 p.m. The President disembarked at once and was met by Mrs. Truman, Miss Margaret Truman and a group of friends including Secretary of State Marshall, Secretary of Defense Forrestal, Secretary of Commerce Harriman, Secretary of Interior Krug, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson and Attorney General Clark. The President returned to the White House at 2:40 p.m.

The Press plane arrived at the Air Transport Command Terminal, Washington National Airport, at 2:15 p.m. The special Navy plane arrived at the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, at 4:17 p.m.

All passengers reported a smooth trip up from Key West but were jolted by the sub-freezing weather that greeted them as they disembarked at Washington.