



Grettir Leo Johannson: Varðandi opinbera heimsókn forseta Íslands til Manitoba 1967

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnómál – Forsætisráðherra – Bréf – Forseti Íslands – Ásgeir Ásgeirsson –
Vestur-Íslendingar – Markús Örn Antonsson

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CONSULATE GENERAL OF ICELAND

76 MIDDLE GATE

WINNIPEG 1, MANITOBA, CANADA

TELEPHONE 774-5270

8. júlí 1967.

Kæri vinur:

Bréf þitt dags. 3. júlí varðandi væntanlegri ferð hingað vestur til okkar af þremur mönnum frá íslenzka sjónvarpinu undir forystu Markúsar A. Antonssonar var meðtekið 6. júlí. Eg hefi verið að athuga gaumgæfilega allt í þessu sambandi og hefi borið fram hugmyndirnar við þá menn sem eru handbærir, og höfum við allir fallizt á, að ekki væri neinn möguleiki á að fullgera þessar uppástungur með svo litlum fyrirvara. Fyrst er það, að við sem erum í bænum erum mjög uppteknir við að undirbúa móttöku á Forseta Íslands og hans fylgdarliði 28. júlí, og svo er svo mikið um að vera hér hjá okkur að maður hefur ekki stundlegan frið -- 100 ára afmælishöld, Pan-American Games, sérstök boð út um landsbyggðina varðandi þeirra hátíðahalda, og svo undirbúningur við Íslendingadaginn. Allir íslenzkir prestar eru fjærverandi um þessar mundir í orlofi; engvar íslenzkar messur um sumartímann Júlí og Ágúst; margir af okkar framámönnum fjærverandi á ferðalögum; sem sagt, illt ómöglegt að skipulega neitt samkvæmt hugmyndum þeim sem þú lagðir fram með bréfi þínu. Eg hefi í dag sent símskeyti til Markúsar, og lét afrit fylgja hér með; ennfremur lét ég fylgja kópíu af ferðaáætlun Forsetans eins og hún er nú fyrirhuguð, og hvílir mikið af því á mínum herðum þar sem ég er formaður móttökunefndarinnar. Eg legg til að sjónvarpsmennirnir komi hingað rétt áður en Forsetinn kemur og eru hér til taks að filma og hljómræta allt í sambandi við komu hans; því að allt er skipulegt og baksviðið verður eins ákjósanlegt og hægt er að hugsa sér. Þú mannst eftir skruðgöngunni sem haldin er til að innleiða daginn, og mannfjöldanum sem voru meðfram götunum, og svo hátíðahöldunum sjálfum í garðinum; í viðbót við þetta allt eru íþróttir, sund og kappsiglingar á Manitobavatni í sambandi við Pan American Games sem má líkja við Olympísku leikina en á smærri stíl.

Æg að Markús hringir í mig eftir að hann er kominn til landsins gét ég frekar skýrt þetta allt fyrir honum. Eg býst við að þeim þykji of langur biðtíminn frá því að Forsetinn fer til Washington og hann kemur aftur til Winnipeg 28. júlí, en við þessu er ekki hægt að gera, nema að þeir nota

2.

tímann í fylgd með Forsetanum til Washington.

Eins og þú veizt höfum við Vestmenn verið að gefa okkur að kynningu á Íslendingasögunum og þeirra skýringu á sögu landkynningar og fundi Vesturheims að þeim Bjarna Herjólfssyni og Leifi Eiríkssyni. Það hefur vaknað sú hugmynd hjá mér, að ákjósanlegt væri að gera "documentary" filmu af landsvæðunum sem koma þar til greina á Íslandi, Grænlandi, Hellulandi, Marklandi, og Vínlandi, og að viðtöl ættu sér stað við fróða menn í þessu sambandi beggja vegna Atlandsála; og að slík "documentary" filma væri gerð af Canadian National Film Board í samráði og sambinni við samsvarandi aðilja á Íslandi. Þessi hugmynd mín er mjög í óþroska-stígi hjá mér, en mér fynnst að hún ætti skilið að ná fullum þroska og verða að veruleik, ekki sýst fyrir okkur sem höfum hlutið þetta í menningar-arf og finnum skyldu hjá okkur að upplýsa samlanda okkar á fyrstu þáttum sögu Vesturheims. Hvað heldur þú með þetta?

Náttúrlæga gratúlera ég þér og stjórn þinni með hinn nýunninn kosningarsigur, sem maður vissulega bjóst við. Eg skil vel hvað fyrir þér liggur hvað stjórnarforystu líður, og er fullvissu um það, ef að nokkur leið er að leysa vandamálin, þá er Ísland svo gjæfusamt að eiga mikinn og góðann mann sem hefur viljann, eljuna, og hugvitið til að finna happasæla lausn á hverju því máli sem liggur fyrir. Eg árna þér og Íslenzku þjóðinni allra heilla í bráð og lengd.

Bið innilega fyrir kveðjur til frú Sigríðar og fjölskyldu þinnar frá okkur Dorothy: sjálfan þig bið ég vel og lengi að lifa.

Þinn einlægur,



Grettir Leo Johannson,

Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson,
Forsætisráðherra Íslands,
Stjórnarráð,
REYKJAVIK, ICELAND.



CONSULATE GENERAL OF ICELAND
76 MIDDLE GATE
WINNIPEG 1, MANITOBA, CANADA

TELEPHONE 774-5270
MAY 22 1967

MEMORANDUM:

RE: VISIT TO MANITOBA OF HIS EXCELLENCY ÁSGEIR ÁSGEIRSSON
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND.

When it became known that His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, President of the Republic of Iceland, had accepted an invitation from the Governor General of Canada to visit Canada during the centennial of confederation year, and the time had been fixed for July, the chairman of the Icelandic Celebration Committee, Mr. Eric Stefanson, Member of Parliament for Selkirk, extended an invitation, on behalf of the committee to the President to attend this year's celebrations at Gimli, Manitoba, on July 30th and 31st. This invitation has been accepted by the President of Iceland, and concurred in by the Deputy co-ordinator for Visits of Heads of State, Colonel Kenneth Kennedy.

The Icelandic Celebration Committee sought the active support of the Icelandic National League and the Consul General of Iceland to make preparations to receive the President and his party, and the names of those constituting the Presidential Reception Committee are to be found on the last page of the itinerary.

His Honour Richard S. Bowles, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, has been especially gracious and helpful in assisting the Committee in preparing the scheduling of the official visit.

The Reception Committee has worked closely with Mr. Derek Bedson, co-ordinator of visits for the Manitoba Government, and Mr. N. R. Donogh, his deputy.

His Excellency Pétur J. Thorsteinsson, Ambassador of Iceland, has also assisted the committee in its work by correspondence, and attended a meeting of the Reception Committee in Ottawa on April 14th, and has been a most efficient liaison between the Committee and the President. The suggested itinerary originally submitted has met with the approval of the President. The latest scheduling of functions calls for an helicopter flight over NEW ICELAND which is being arranged by the Provincial Government, and this item has not been approved, as yet, by the President; however, it is being submitted by the Ambassador for his consideration.

The multigraphed schedule of the official visit is being distributed to all those having anything to do with the official visit in one way or another for their guidance and use, and previous schedules issued are to be disregarded.

The Reception Committee members would be pleased to discuss details of the visit at any time with those requesting further information.

Submitted by Grettir Leo Johannson, chairman.



CONSULATE GENERAL OF ICELAND
76 MIDDLE GATE
WINNIPEG 1, MANITOBA, CANADA

TELEPHONE 774-5270

OFFICIAL

VISIT

TO

WINNIPEG,

SELKIRK,

GIMLI,

IN MANITOBA,

CANADA.

of

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND.

JULY 28th to AUGUST 2nd, 1967.

Arrangements by The Presidential Reception Committee 1967.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO MANITOBA, JULY 28th - AUGUST 2nd, 1967.

His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, President of The Republic of Iceland.
Honourable Emil Jónsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs;
Mrs. Jónsson;
His Excellency Pétur J. Thorsteinsson, Ambassador to Canada;
Mr. Thorleifur Thorlacius, Secretary to the President;
Mrs. Thorlacius;
Honourable Vilhjálmur Thor, Iceland's representative to the International
Bank for Reconstruction and Development, former Minister of
Foreign Affairs;
Mrs. Thor.

FRIDAY, JULY 28.

15:00 Arrival at Canadian Forces Base, Hanger #16, Whytefold Road.
To be welcomed by:
His Honour Richard S. Bowles, Q.C., Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba;
Mrs. Bowles;
Honourable Duff Roblin, M.L.A., Premier of Manitoba;
Mrs. Roblin;
Honourable George Johnson, M. D., M.L.A., Minister of Education;
Mrs. Johnson;
Air Vice Marshall R. G. Stovel, Commander of Training Command;
Mrs. Stovel;
Group Captain B. E. Christmas, C.D., Base Commander Canadian
Forces Base Winnipeg;
Mrs. Christmas;
Mr. Grettir Leo Johannson, Hon. Consul General of Iceland,
Chairman, Presidential Reception Committee;
Mrs. Johannson;
Mr. Eric Stefanson, M. P., Chairman, Icelandic Day Celebration Comm.;
Mrs. Stefanson;
Rev. Philip M. Petursson, M.L.A., President, Icelandic National League;
Mrs. Petursson;
Mr. S. Aleck Thorarinson, Vice Pres. Icelandic National League,
Secretary, Icelandic Day Celebration Committee;
Mrs. Thorarinson;
Mr. Jakob F. Kristjansson, Archivist, Icelandic National League,
Vice Chairman, Icelandic Day Celebration Committee;
Mrs. Kristjansson;
and a few relatives and friends of the distinguished visitors.

21 Gun Salute upon arrival.

Guard of Honour.

Brass and Reed Band.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police will provide escort to the cavalcade
which will form immediately after formalities have been concluded. Cavalcade
will proceed to the Legislative Building, Broadway Avenue, where a short
wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the statue of Jón Sigurðsson.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND TO MANITOBA.

Friday, July 28th, continued.

At the conclusion of the ceremony at the Jón Sigurðsson statue, the President and one couple of his choice will proceed to Government House, 10 Kennedy Street, where they will be received by His Honour Richard S. Bowles, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, and Mrs. Bowles, who will host them in Government House until the President's departure for Gimli on Sunday morning.

The remainder of the Presidential party will proceed to the Fort Garry Hotel where accommodation will be provided during their sojourn in Manitoba.

19:30 Official dinner tendered His Excellency and party by His Honour Richard S. Bowles, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, and Mrs. Bowles at Government House.

Saturday, July 29th.

Morning Programme in accordance with the wishes of His Excellency.

11:45 Leave Government House for the University of Manitoba.
Luncheon at the University, hosted by Dr. Hugh H. Saunderson, President of the University of Manitoba.

His Excellency will be asked to formally open the Guttormur J. Guttormsson section of the Icelandic Library.

14:30 Depart from the University.

14:45 Arrive at the PAN-AM POOL, Grant Avenue,
Host: Vaughan L. Baird, Q.C., Chairman, Canadian Diving Council;
Chairman of Diving, Pan-American Games Society.
The official party will leave at the conclusion of the MEN'S 3 METRE DIVING FINAL competition, and return to Government House and Fort Garry Hotel.

18:15 Reception and dinner at the Fort Garry Hotel.
Hosts: The Grand Lodge of Manitoba, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Freemasons of Icelandic descent.

Mr. Jakob F. Kristjansson in charge of arrangements.

*** The automobiles being used by the Presidential party are provided through the courtesy of Mr. James S. Walker, Local Zone Manager of General Motor Products of Canada, Limited, and Mr. R. R. DuBois, President and General Manager of Towne Pontiac Buick Cadillac, Limited.

Chauffeurs provided through the courtesy and permission of Group Captain B. E. Christmas, C.D., Commander Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO MANITOBA - 3.

SUNDAY, JULY 30th.

- 10:30 Leave Government House for Selkirk, Manitoba.
- 11:10 Arrive Betel Home Foundation, Manchester Avenue, Selkirk.
Visit and luncheon hosted by:
Mr. Kari Wilhelm Johannson, president;
Mr. J. Victor Jonasson, administrator;
Mrs. Lauga Thompson, matron.
- 13:30 Leave Selkirk for Gimli.
- 14:15 Arrive Canadian Forces Base Gimli.
Greeted by Group Captain M. J. Doohar, Commanding Officer;
Her Worship Violet Einarson, Mayor of Gimli;
Members of the Town Council of Gimli;
Chairman and members of the Icelandic Day Celebration Committee.
His Excellency and one couple of his choice will be guests of
Group Captain M. J. Doohar at the Base.
One couple of the Presidential party will be guests of
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Arnason, 76, 6th Avenue, Gimli.
Ambassador Pétur J. Thorsteinsson will be the guest of
Mr. & Mrs. L. Stevens, 32, 4th Avenue, Gimli.
Honourable Vilhjálmur Thor and Mrs. Thor will be guests of
Mr. & Mrs. L. Stevens, 32, 4th Avenue, Gimli.
Honourable George Johnson, M.D., M.L.A., Minister of Education,
will represent the Province of Manitoba.
Dr. Johnson and the Honourable Sterling R. Lyon, Q.C., M.L.A.,
Attorney General and Minister of Tourism, propose hosting a
flight in a large helicopter over "NEW ICELAND", with a landing
at Hekla on Big Island (Mikley) for a short visit. This flight
would only be undertaken under ideal conditions. Dr. Johnson
will see to all arrangements in this connection.
Group Captain M. J. Doohar will host a dinner at a time to be
determined by him.
- 19:45 Visit to Betel Home. The President is expected to give an
informal talk to the senior citizens of the Home in Icelandic.
Hosts: Mr. Kari Wilhelm Johannson, president;
Mr. J. Victor Jónsson, administrator;
Miss Sigríður Hjartarson, matron.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND TO MANITOBA - 4.

MONDAY, JULY 31st.

- 10:00 His Excellency and party will participate in a parade through the town of Gimli officially inaugurating the 78th annual ISLENDINGADAG.
- At the conclusion of the parade the President will lay a wreath at the Cairn honouring the pioneers who settled in Manitoba in 1875.
- 12:00 Luncheon at the Lutheran Church.
Hosts: Her Worship Violet Einarson, Mayor of Gimli, and
The Town Council of Gimli.
- 14:00 Arrive at Gimli Park where the formal program of the day will take place
- The President and the Fjallkona will walk together from the gate to the enclosure in front of the platform and stop while the national anthems of Canada and Iceland are played.
The chairman of the day will then escort the President to the platform where he will be seated with other dignitaries who have already taken their place on the platform.
- The President will address the gathering in Icelandic (possibly with a few remarks in English).
- 17:30 Dinner at the St. Michel's parish church.
- 19:30 Return to Gimli Park where community singing, movie and other entertainment will precede the dance in the pavilion.
- Departure from Gimli at the pleasure of His Excellency.
- Arrival at the Fort Garry Hotel where accommodation is provided for the remainder of the visit in Winnipeg.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1st

- Morning Programme in accordance with the wishes of His Excellency.
- 11:00 His Worship Stephen Juba, Mayor of Winnipeg, calls upon His Excellency at the Fort Garry Hotel.
- Afternoon unscheduled.
- 19:00 Icelandic Community Dinner, Winnipeg Winter Club, 200 River Avenue.
Arranged by the Presidential Reception Committee.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2nd

- Morning Departure from Winnipeg to be arranged for by the Ambassador of Iceland.

Telephone numbers of Reception Committee Members:
Mr. G. L. Jbhannson 774-5270
Mr. S. Aleck Thorarinson 489-6488
Rev. Philip M. Petursson 783-4571
Mr. Jakob F. Kristjansson 453-3454
Mr. Eric Stefanson, Gimli

Schedule prepared by
Grettir Leo Johannson.

JUNE 3, 1967.

MEMORANDUM

RE: OFFICIAL VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY ASGEIR ASGEIRSSON, PRESIDENT OF ICELAND.

ADDENDUM TO ITINERARY ISSUED MAY 22, 1967.

We are advised through Col. K. C. Kennedy, Deputy Coordinator for Visits of Heads of State 1967, relayed through Mr. Derek Bedson, that Canadian Ambassador to Iceland and Norway, Mr. John P. Sigvaldason, and Mrs. Sigvaldason will arrive in Winnipeg at 0945 hours on 27 July via Air Canada. Reservations for them have been made at the Fort Garry Hotel. The Sigvaldasons will form part of the official party during the President's visit in Manitoba and will accompany the President's party from Winnipeg to Boston in the Canadian government aircraft on 2 August.

DEPARTURE FROM WINNIPEG.

The President has requested that his departure from Winnipeg be so arranged as to give him a clear afternoon in Boston. Arrangements have been tentatively initiated to depart from Winnipeg as follows:

August 2nd, 1967.

0815 Leave Fort Garry Hotel for Canadian Forces Base.

0900 Depart from Winnipeg by Canadian government aircraft.

1400 Approximate arrival time in Boston.

CORRECTION OF ADDRESS IN ITINERARY.

The address of Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Arnason, is given as 76 8th Avenue, Gimli; this address is wrong - it should be 38 - 6th Avenue, Gimli.

Please effect this correction on your copies of the Itinerary.

Notification has been received that the President's secretary, Mr. Thorleifur Thorlacius, and Mrs. Thorlacius, will be the President's choice to accompany him to Government House as guests of His Honour Richard S. Bowles, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, and Mrs. Bowles, for the first two nights of their visit.

CORRECTION OF NAME.

In the itinerary for Sunday, July 30th, an inadvertent misspelling of a name has occurred; it reads Mr. J. Victor Jónsson but should be Mr. J. Victor Jónasson, administrator.

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Grettir Leo Johannson,
Consul General of Iceland,
Chairman, Presidential Reception Committee.



CONSULATE GENERAL OF ICELAND
76 MIDDLE GATE
WINNIPEG 1, MANITOBA, CANADA

TELEPHONE 774-5270

July 3, 1967.

MEMORANDUM:

RE: VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND TO MANITOBA 1967.

Ambassador of Iceland has by letter and telephone advised the Presidential Reception Committee the following:

Mrs. E. Jónsson, wife of the Foreign Minister of Iceland, will not visit Manitoba with the Presidential party,

It is the wish of the President of Iceland that the Honourable Emil Jónsson, Foreign Minister of Iceland, accompany him as house guest of His Honour Richard S. Bowles, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, and Mrs. Bowles at Government House.

Mr. Thorleifur Thorlacius, Secretary to the President, and Mrs. Thorlacius, will accompany the President as guests at the Canadian Forces Base at Gimli.

Honorable Emil Jónsson, Foreign Minister of Iceland, will be the guest of Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Arnason, 38 - 6th Avenue, Gimli, the night of July 30 - 31st.

Ambassador John P. Sigvaldason and Mrs. Sigvaldason will be the guests of Mrs. A. Blondal, 18 - 2nd Avenue, Gimli, during their visit to Gimli.

Ambassador Thorsteinsson has to-day advised by 'phone that a television crew will visit Winnipeg July 15 - 18; and the personell is as follows: Mr. Markus Orn Antonsson, news editor; Mr. Rúnar Gunnarsson, T.V. photographer; Mr. Jón Thor Hannesson, sound operator.

As previously reported Ambassador Pétur J. Thorsteinsson and Hon. & Mrs. Vilhjálmur Thor will be house guests of Mr. & Mrs. L. Stevens, 32, 4th Avenue, Gimli, during the visit to Gimli.

A MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 7th, at 12:00 NOON, AT 76 MIDDLE GATE. ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO BE PRESENT.

G. L. J.