

Pres 6/20/74 Royal Gifts of Gold and Jewels for the Nixons

President and Mrs. Nixon returned yesterday from their Middle Eastern tour with a cluster of state gifts—including pearl and diamond jewelry, a gold medal in a diamond encrusted gold case, and silver tea services.

The medal and its case came from King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. Other gifts were two strands of pearls, a set of pearl and diamond earrings and a silver tea service from King Hussein of Jordan; another silver tea

service (with one two-foot high pot and four smaller ones) and a 16th-century bronze statue of an ancient Egyptian goddess from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

The Nixons also received a silver-bound Hebrew-English Bible and an antique silver, turquoise and coral necklace from Israeli President and Mrs. Ephraim Katzir; and a mosaic wood game table, some brocade and other unspecified items from President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria.

Mrs. Helen Smith, Mrs. Nixon's press director, who accompanied the Nixons on the trip, said last night that the gifts would be delivered to the special White House Gifts Unit where they will be recorded. They will then be sent on to the National Archives, Mrs. Smith said, unless Mrs. Nixon chooses to have them displayed in the White House.

The "Gifts Unit" was set up under the Nixon administration to handle gifts to the

Nixon family. Its records are closed to the public.

Under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, amended in 1966, gifts to all U.S. officials and their families are deemed public property and are to be turned over to the State Department's Protocol Office for cataloging and eventual disposition. The White House has stated that the Chief of Protocol has "access" to its Gifts Unit records at any time.

Mrs. Smith said that "Mrs. Nixon hadn't seen any of

the gifts" received on the Mideast trip, but that a State Department official was sorting them on the plane coming back.

The Nixons' gifts to the leaders of the countries they visited included silver-bordered china plates, a limited edition containing reproductions of Winslow Homer paintings, silver Reed and Barton centerpieces, silver music boxes, Boehm porcelain birds and George Washington plates manufactured by the Franklin Mint.