

# Port Miami A Visit by Mrs. Nixon and Friends

By Donnie Radcliffe

CARACAS, Venezuela—First Lady Pat Nixon's entourage for her official visits to Venezuela and Brazil this week has aroused curiosity and some veiled criticism on its own.

Traveling with Mrs. Nixon are a relatively unknown Miami businessman, Nicholas Morley, and CIA deputy director Gen. Vernon Walters. Walters is acting as her interpreter, a role he also played in 1958 when then Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife were surrounded by violent Venezuelan demonstrators.

In remarks to American reporters, Mrs. Nixon has downplayed the seriousness of the 1958 incident and Walters appeared to do the same at a reception Monday night at Miraflores Palace.

Walters, unmistakable as a U.S. Army general in his military uniform with its three gold stars, said "It (1958) wasn't that bad."

Walters himself is being viewed warily by some Americans on the scene for his CIA affiliation. And there are some among the U.S. Embassy staff who visibly wince at the sight of Walters' uniform.

"In some other Latin American countries he would not be very welcome," according to one veteran hemispheric observer. "But things have changed here and nobody's making anything out of it."

There is also some behind-the-scenes dismay that the official U.S. delegation to the inauguration of Venezuela's new president, Carlos Andres Perez, is comprised of anybody less than Vice President Gerald R.

Ford or Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.).

"Venezuela is very important to the United States," said one American, "and we shouldn't ever forget why—oil."

Besides Mrs. Nixon, the official party includes U.S. Ambassador Robert McClinton and Morley, the Miami mystery man.

A native of Bulgaria who emigrated by way of Italy and Israel to the United States in 1956, Morley became a U.S. citizen in 1961. Other than vague references by White House officials to Morley's extensive business interests, in South America as well as the United States and elsewhere, little is known about him.

On the flight aboard Air Force One from Homestead Air Force Base in Florida, Mrs. Nixon told reporters that Morley had been recommended to the White House by Sen. Edward Gurney (R-Fla.) for the slot in the delegation.

She said that Gurney proposed Morley because of his interest in South America and throughout the world. He's known for his civic work."

Morley, who somewhat resembles musician Al Hirt, has pretty much kept to himself. He showed up Monday night to present his credentials with those of Mrs. Nixon and Ambassador McClintock to outgoing President Rafael Caldera. But he was mildly critical of what he called "last-minute champagne served the way it was" to Mrs. Nixon himself and McClintock.

Yesterday, however, at the actual inaugural ceremony,



Associated Press

Mrs. Richard Nixon sitting with wives of Venezuelan ministers at the inauguration of President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas.

Morley was not to be seen. White House and State Department officials called it an "off day" for the 45-year-old Miami man who is president of a realty company and, reportedly, an acquaintance of Bebe Rebozo, the close friend of President Nixon.

"Only the head of the U.S. delegation—Mrs. Nixon (who

takes the rank of her husband in cases like this)—was supposed to attend the swearing-in ceremony," a State Department spokesman said.

Morley, himself, reached in his hotel room, said he was ill and waiting for a doctor. He did not wish to "bother" White House physician Dr. Walter Tkach, who

is traveling with Mrs. Nixon's party.

Morley also said he would not be attending last night's reception for Mrs. Nixon at the U.S. Embassy where 200 Venezuelans have been invited.

"The reception doesn't have the significance the other events here do," Morley said.