

Ford Arrives in Japan-- First Stop on Summit Tour

'Thousands Of Miles For Peace'

Tokyo

President Ford arrived in Japan today on an historic mission that he declared is timely "in the highest national interest of the United States."

He was the first U.S. President to visit the former World War II foe and island bastion in the Pacific.

Tokyo was the first stop on a nine-day journey that also will include overnight visits to South Korea and a Siberian summit meeting with Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev.

"I would rather travel thousands of miles for peace than take a single step toward war," Mr. Ford said on his departure from Washington.

It was Mr. Ford's first major venture in global diplomacy, which his predecessor Richard Nixon relished.

Mr. Ford stopped off yesterday in Anchorage, Alaska, for refueling of Air Force One and declared at a brief ceremony in a hangar at Elmendorf Air Force base that his administration is "urgently seeking world peace."

Mr. Ford flew to Anchorage from Washington, spent about 50 minutes there amid near-zero temperatures and took off for the trans-Pacific flight to Japan.

"Alaska gives us an inspiring farewell boost as we proceed on America's quest for peace and improved international relations," he said from a platform inside the silver hangar No. 5 where Richard M. Nixon met Japanese Emperor Hirohito a year ago.

Some 4000 Alaskans in parkas and fur caps, many still brushing snow from their heavy boots, stood nearby and applauded for about half a minute when Mr. Ford appeared in the door of the plane as an Air Force band struck up the

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UPI Telenote

President Ford kissed his wife Betty good-bye as he prepared to start his trip to Japan, South Korea and Russia

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ruffles and flourishes of "Hail to the Chief."

Mr. Ford's backdrop as he spoke was a blue curtain 30 feet high and 200 feet wide, draping the hangar wall behind him. The afternoon was bright and sunny, but the temperature hovered only three or four degrees above zero.

The Anchorage fuel stop was the President's last sight of the United States for the next ten days as he travels to Japan, South Korea, and the Siberian port city of Vladivostok where he will hold his first meeting with Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev.

Mr. Ford emphasized his desire for peace while at the same time taking note of "the alert armed forces" stationed in Alaska as a first line of defense. He declared:

"I want to reassure you today that my administration is energetically seeking world peace but remains aware that the best insurance for peace is the maintenance of first-class military forces ready for defense."

Mr. Ford's visit to Japan — where no U.S. President has ever been a guest — had originally been scheduled for former President Nixon, the most-travelled of all chief executives who made his international reputation as a globe-trotting architect



UPI Telephoto

A Fur Piece

President Ford tried on new headgear yesterday — a Cossack hat — presented to him by Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin at the White House shortly before the President left

on a three-nation trip that includes the Soviet Union. Mr. Ford will probably need the fur hat when he visits Vladivostok, Siberia, where the temperature already is as low as zero.

of detente.

In Washington, Mr. Ford was seen off by 200 well-wishers who gathered in a light rain on the White House lawn, including the Soviet, Japanese and South Korean envoys; cabinet members; congressional leaders and two Boy Scout troops.

Mr. Ford told the group: "I am deeply conscious of the need to continue the quest for peace. I would rather travel thousands of miles for peace than take a single step toward war."

He said his first trip overseas as President is in the "highest national interest of the United States," because "we live in a world whose

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problems are interrelated. No nation can move forward in isolation, as Secretary (of state Henry) Kissinger has so brilliantly pointed out."

Wearing a blue suit, blue shirt and dark blue tie, Mr. Ford stood in the chilly weather and drizzle which turned to rain as he spoke an abbreviated version of remarks which had been prepared for him.

Mr. Ford thanked the group for coming out in the miserable weather to bid him farewell, and added:

"I think this trip has great significance, both as to timing and as to substance . . . what we do overseas has great significance for some of the problems that we have here at home."

He then shook hands all around, and together with Mrs. Ford, Kissinger, and a handful of close aides, boarded the helicopter for Andrews Air Force Base in nearby Maryland.

At the airport, Mrs. Ford

kissed him and shook his hand before walking back to an apron area to wave, smiling, as Air Force One lifted off.

He said he would visit "three great countries:"

"The first is Japan, the first visit of an American President, a state visit, to that great country.

"We also will be stopping in the Republic of Korea, a courageous and brave ally, an ally that joins with us in preserving peace in that part of the world," Mr. Ford continued.

"The trip to the Soviet Union has special significance. There has been a tremendous effort over the years to broaden . . . peace throughout the world, and I look forward to participating in the ever . . . increasing strengthening of our ties with the Soviet Union."

United Press