

President Is Buoyant, Confident

EN ROUTE TO CHINA — (NNS) — President Nixon is buoyant and confident in the final hours before his historic arrival on Chinese soil.

White House aides report that the President's spirits began to soar as they left Washington on Thursday, and he was in a rare talkative mood as he winged toward Honolulu.

But the White House has now clamped a virtual blackout on substantive information — fearing, it is believed, that something may unwittingly be said or disclosed that would cause a last-minute embarrassment to the sensitive Chinese hosts.

No private briefings for the press have been held — and the White House plans none during Nixon's stay in China — which is highly unusual when the President is engaged in foreign travel.