

# Nixon Leaves for Japanese Talks

N.Y. Times Service

## San Clemente

President Nixon left here yesterday en route to Hawaii for two days of delicate economic and diplomatic talks with Premier Kakuei Tanaka of Japan.

The President was accompanied by Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Undersecretary U. Alexis Johnson, Assistant Secretary Marshall Green and Henry A. Kissinger, his adviser on national security.

In addition to welcoming ceremonies at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, where Mr. Nixon will greet Tanaka when the Japanese leader arrives from Tokyo, three meetings are planned. There will be talks this morning, a "working dinner" hosted by the President

this evening and further talks tomorrow morning.

Mr. Nixon will also confer with Ellsworth Bunker, United States ambassador to South Vietnam, early this morning.

There are two basic issues on the agenda — one economic, the other political — and there is anxiety on the American side about both.

## SURPLUS

On the economic front, Mr. Nixon hopes to find out whether Tanaka is prepared to take significant measures to reduce Japan's massive trade surplus with the U.S. Estimates of the size of that surplus range from \$3.4 billion to \$3.8 billion over the next two years.

An American delegation

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## NIXON

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led by William D. Eberle, Mr. Nixon's special representative for trade, met with senior Japanese officials in late July to explore ways of reducing the deficit. The Japanese made no concessions.

The other issue is Japan's evolving foreign policy, particularly Tanaka's quickening moves toward diplomatic recognition of the People's Republic of China.

## PEKING

The Japanese premier is expected to visit Peking next month, and Mr. Nixon wants to find out how far and how fast he intends to proceed, what sort of deal he intends to make with the Chinese, and how the balance of power in Asia may be affected.

At a news conference Tuesday, Mr. Nixon said, "Japan (is) an economic giant with great potential for political and other leadership in the Pacific (and) plays an indispensable role if we are going to have peace in the Pacific. Japanese-American friendship is the linchpin of peace in the Pacific, and we are going to try to strengthen that linchpin in these meetings."

## TAIWAN

One critical question that touches the interests of all three nations — the U.S., Japan and China — is the future status of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Nationalist Chinese on Taiwan.

The prospect of a switch in Japan's diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Peking has raised the question of whether Washington would be able to fulfill defense commitments to Taiwan.

American forces are posted in Japan for that purpose, but once Japan has strengthened its ties with Peking, Tanaka may insist that those forces not be used to defend Taiwan.