

# NIXON COMPLETES HIS MIDEAST TOUR; TERMS IT SUCCESS

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He Meets Jordan's King and  
Cooperation Unit Is Set Up  
—Stops Over in Azores

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AMMAN, Jordan, June 18— President Nixon today completed his week-long tour of five Middle Eastern countries, terming it a success under his limited set of objectives.

Before leaving Amman airport, he said his trip was only the beginning of a much longer journey toward the goal of "a just and lasting peace in this part of the world," and he noted that the problems ahead were "still enormously difficult."

But he described the steps that had been taken during his tour as important.

[Starting homeward, President and Mrs. Nixon arrived in the Portuguese Azores for an overnight stay. Mr. Nixon is scheduled to meet with Portugal's provisional President, Gen. António de Spínola, before flying to Washington Wednesday.]

Of the steps announced in Jordan today after talks between President Nixon and King Hussein, the chief one was the creation of a joint Jordanian-American commission to review on a regular basis the areas of cooperation between the two countries — economic development, trade and investment, military assistance and supply, and scientific, social and cultural relations.

#### Legislation Cited

A joint statement issued after the two leaders had met pointed out that President Nixon had submitted to Congress legislation for a substantial increase in economic and military aid to Jordan.

It was also announced that American help was offered for any talks between Jordan and Israel and that King Hussein had been invited to Washington at an early date "to hold further talks on the strategy of future efforts to achieve peace."

In discussing the trip, senior

Administration officials said that the formal agreements announced in the five countries Mr. Nixon visited would have been made known even if the President had not embarked on his tour.

Secretary of State Kissinger, for example, said after the

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agreements in Cairo were announced that the plan to provide nuclear energy to Egypt for peaceful purposes had been negotiated before the trip.

The resumption of diplomatic relations with Syria was planned independent of the President's trip, as were agreements with Israel for long-term military aid and nuclear cooperation in the nuclear-energy field.

The joint statement announced here, officials noted, represented no significant advance over what was already under way.

#### Visit Has Strong Impact

But for symbolic importance, there was no doubt that the American presence, in the form of the visit by the President and his party, made a strong impact, the cover of a weekly Arab magazine, Al Diar, today carried a color picture of President Nixon in Arab head-dress.

Although Mr. Nixon stressed at every stop that he did not come offering any specific solutions, his presence and message were interpreted by Arab leaders as offering hope that through negotiations there would be a substantial withdrawal by Israel from territory taken in the six-day war of 1967.

In Jerusalem, Mr. Nixon promised continued support to Israel but warned that she must a peaceful solution, including alternatives that would not have been considered in the past.

American officials said this was a suggestion that Israel would have to make territorial concessions beyond those she

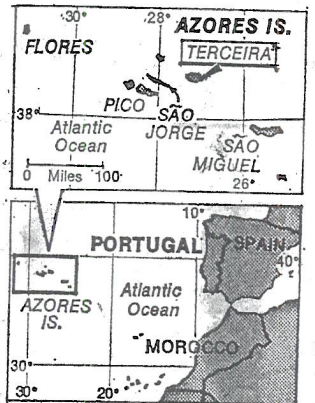
has already made with Syria and Egypt.

King Hussein, in his talks with the President, said that some of the Middle East's toughest problems centered on Jordan. This country has absorbed half a million Palestinian refugees and is seeking the return of large areas now held by Israel.

Mr. Nixon and the King discussed these problems in detail this morning, it was announced but there was no indication of the direction of the discussion.

White House officials said they were confident that the trip not only had great impact in the Middle East, but also improved the President's standing at home. For some time now, one of the main defenses against demands for resignation or impeachment has been that Mr. Nixon's leadership is indispensable to the conduct of foreign policy. White House officials said they thought the trip supported this defense.

In the United States he is a President under siege over Watergate, but here in the Middle East he was depicted as a great moral leader in international affairs. If there was any concern about his troubles at home no Middle Eastern leader he met mentioned it publicly.



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President landed on Terceira in the Azores for overnight stay.