

Nixon Stops To Visit NATO Allies

Brussels

President Nixon arrived here last night to sign a new declaration of Atlantic principles and to consult with NATO Leaders before going on to his third Moscow summit.

King Baudouin of Belgium, greeting Mr. and Mrs. Nixon at the airport, cited the President's recent trip to the Mideast with its "happy result" and his coming trip to Moscow to take part in talks "important to us all."

Mr. Nixon said his visit here, between the Mideast and Soviet trips, was significant because it "symbolized the central role the Atlantic Alliance plays in pursuing the goal of lasting peace."

"Without the alliance, it is doubtful that detente (with the Soviet Union) would have begun," he added, "and without a continuing strong alliance, it is doubtful that detente would continue."

Before leaving Washington, Mr. Nixon said he expected the Brussels meeting of NATO "to give new purpose and new direction" to

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the 25-year-old North Atlantic alliance.

The new declaration to be signed today by the 15 member states of NATO climaxes a year of discussion and sometimes bitter charge and countercharge between the United States and Europe.

The debate was precipitated by the call by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in April, 1973, for a "new Atlantic Charter" to revitalize the postwar alliance by providing greater transatlantic consultation, and by expanding the charter to cover economic and political cooperation as well as military defense.

But the Europeans, led by the late Georges Pompidou, France's Gaullist president, complained that the U.S. was trying to perpetuate its dominance of Europe through the proposed declaration.

Relations worsened further when the Mideast war erupted. NATO states accused the U.S. of not consulting them before calling a global nuclear alert to deter Soviet intervention, while

the U.S. attacked Europeans for breaking ranks by trying to curry favor with Arab states in return for oil deliveries.

Since then, the European leadership picture has changed radically. There is a new British prime minister and a new West German chancellor, both more Atlantic-oriented than their predecessors, and a new French president who seems less adamant against cooperation with the U.S.

Relations have improved in trade, and progress has been made on monetary reform and coordinated approaches to Arab states.

And in Ottawa last week, NATO foreign ministers initialled the new statement of Atlantic solidarity which the NATO states will formally sign today.

It provides for wider and deeper consultation on common problems, both within the alliance area and outside it, such as in the Mideast. And it states that the security aim of NATO "is supported by harmonious political and economic relations."

Member states, it said, "will work to remove sources of conflict between their economic politics and to encourage economic cooperation with one another."

En route here on the presidential aircraft, Kissinger told reporters that the declaration "is substantially, give or take 10 per cent, what he had in mind" when it was proposed.

Kissinger also said that, on the Moscow summit, a new and permanent strategic arms agreement is "impossible" to reach at present. More negotiations are necessary, he said.

Mr. Nixon and General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev must first reach agreement on "where they want to go."

Kissinger may have to make a return trip to Moscow after the summit to pursue the arms phase of the discussions, he said.

Kissinger explained that the summit was being held because there was "no reason to cancel it . . . If we did not go, we would be saying we're not a functioning government."

The Russians realize that if the process of relaxation is arrested, it will be hard to revive, Kissinger added.

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