



Associated Press

ARRIVES IN GHANA: Mrs. Richard M. Nixon responding to the crowd that greeted her yesterday in Accra, capital of Ghana, the latest stop on her African good-will tour. At right are Prime Minister Kofia A. Busia and his wife.

Ghanaian Hails Mrs. Nixon as 'Symbol of Friendship'

By WILLIAM BORDERS

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ACCRA, Ghana, Jan. 5—Mrs. Richard M. Nixon came to this sultry West African republic today for the second stop in a handshaking tour that is showing increasing signs of being a big success.

"Your being here is a symbol of the friendship and goodwill which we enjoy with the White House, a friendship which I am sure your visit will strengthen," Prime Minister Kofi A. Busia declared, greeting Mrs. Nixon at the airport as crowds of brightly dressed women chanted a tribal song of welcome.

Mrs. Nixon walked over to the crowds, leading Mrs. Busia by the hand, and then, as she has done on several occasions during her three days in Africa, waved both arms in the air to the beat of the music, the way African women do, telling them it was "just great."

"I am really just so fond of the Ghanaian people," she said a bit later over coffee in the 300-year-old Christiansborg Castle, where the British governor lived during colonial days, and where Mrs. Nixon now occupies an apartment

overlooking the palm-fringed beach.

She was here once before, in 1957, when she and Mr. Nixon came for Independence Day. The future then seemed bright for Ghana, which had huge foreign exchange reserves and a healthy economy based on cocoa. But, largely because of the extravagances of President Kwame Nkrumah, who was deposed nine years later, Ghana is now hundreds of millions of dollars in debt, and Dr. Busia's Government is running a tight austerity program, which last month led to a 44 per cent devaluation of the currency.

In an informal meeting this morning with Ghanaian reporters, Mrs. Nixon seemed at ease, perky and chatty as she moved around the room answering questions, and sitting on the edge of a glass coffee table at one point to explain something. When asked about American politics, she laughed and said she hoped the President would be re-elected "because he's the best man." "But we don't know how difficult the race will be yet because we don't know who the candidate on the other side will be," she added.

Reporter Gives Thanks

Afterward, a Ghanaian reporter rose to tell her that she had done them "the greatest honor we have ever received" by coming.

Mrs. Nixon will be here until Friday, when she leaves for two days in the Ivory Coast before returning to Washington. She came from Liberia, where she represented the United States at the inauguration of President William R. Tolbert Jr.

Today's Liberian Star, in an editorial entitled "Come Again, Mrs. Nixon," said that her visit had "done more to foster closer ties between Liberia and the United States than any other

gesture since the beginning of the century." And its front page carried a picture—with a caption "Admiring our culture"—of Mrs. Nixon wearing a native blue lace headtie and a bright tie-dyed African dress.

With a smile, she had let a group of Liberian women wrap the long gown and headdress around her after a dance exhibition staged by men with bells on their ankles, boys with feathers in their hair, and bare-breasted young women whose necks were painted bright blue.

That kind of cultural activity makes up much of Mrs. Nixon's schedule. This afternoon she had tea with the Ghana Assembly of Women and visited the traditional outdoor workshops of a weaver, a wood carver and a brass molder.

Earlier, she offered "greetings from my husband" in a brief talk at the National Assembly, where the legislators, many of them wearing long robes that leave the right shoulder and arm bare, gave her a high-spirited welcome.

Ghana is one of the very

few multiparty democracies in Africa, where military and one-party rule are common, and the legislators, accustomed to boisterous debate, cheered Mrs. Nixon loudly, calling out party slogans and the African equivalent of "hear, hear."

She and her aides are stressing that her schedule also includes what they call substantive talks with Government leaders on such subjects as President Nixon's forthcoming visits to China and the Soviet Union and the future of foreign aid.