

# Pat Is Cheered on The Ivory Coast

## Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Pat Nixon stood in a rainswept open car in a seven-mile motorcade yesterday to wave to tens of thousands of cheering people welcoming her to Ivory Coast.

"Wasn't that great?" said the First Lady as she arrived at the residence of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. "I would have had the car open, rain or shine."

Mrs. Nixon called it a "rousing welcome," and members of her entourage agreed it was the largest throng so far on her three-nation African tour.

The presidential guard in black boots, plumed helmets and scarlet capes raised their swords to salute Mrs.

Nixon as she stepped from her plane onto a beflowered ramp leading to a red carpet. She moved into the rain to greet tribal groups gathered to serenade her.

At Port Bouet Airport's gold-carpeted "honor lounge" Mrs. Nixon told Houphouet-Boigny she wanted to meet "as many people as I can and savor the hospitality for which you are famous."

Her remarks were translated into French, the chief European language of this West African country. Houphouet-Boigny's French welcome speech, however, was not translated into English.

Within hours of her arrival, the First Lady had a 55-minute private conversation with Houphouet-Boigny in his

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modern stone residence overlooking Ebrie Lagoon.

"Well," said Mrs. Nixon as she sat with the president for a photograph, "we're supposed to act like we're talking business."

Looking out over the lagoon, Mrs. Nixon said it was so beautiful "I don't know if I'm going home or not."

When her hosts suggested she could stay as long as she pleased, the First Lady smiled and said: "I'm afraid my husband would object."

Mrs. Nixon's two-day visit to Ivory Coast will end her six-day-old trip. She is scheduled back in Washington on Sunday after representing President Nixon at the inauguration of Liberia's new president earlier this week and visiting Ghana Wednesday and Thursday.

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