

Mrs. Nixon Picnics in Rain Forest and the Rains Fall

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Jan. 8 (UPI)—Mrs. Richard M. Nixon spent the last full day of her West African tour on a jungle picnic today with President Félix Houphouët-Boigny and other officials.

The rain forest lived up to its name and the mayonnaise melted in the heat, but Mrs. Nixon appeared unflustered as she lunched among the tall teak trees and vines of the Banco National Park just north of here.

"Anyway, it's nice to have rain in a rain forest," Mrs. Nixon told the President as the

rain pelted down, cutting short the outing.

Mrs. Nixon, who is due in Washington tomorrow, received the second cablegram of her visit from President Nixon last night. It said: "Coverage of your trip continues to be excellent. The meeting with the 83-year-old chief whom we met in 1957 was especially touching. Love R. N."

Mrs. Nixon's press secretary said the President was referring to a visit he and his wife made to the West African country nearly 15 years ago when he was Vice President.

Mrs. Nixon bent down occa-

sionally during her visit to the kindergarten to receive a timid hug, or more often a bewildered look. The children, clapped appreciatively as she passed. She appeared comfortable in the tropical heat in contrast to dignitaries and American newsmen.

Mrs. Nixon last night attended a last official dinner given by President Félix Houphouët-Boigny.

"This is a land of hope, not only for your people but for people all over the world," she said in a toast that brought a broad smile to the President's face. He replied with a long

praise of United States achievements.

After the five-course meal of soup, lobster in pastry shells, saddle of lamb, cheese and coconut pie, the President, his wife and Mrs. Nixon strolled in the floodlit gardens discussing how difficult it was to answer toasts, and the merits of instant versus ground coffee.