

From UPI account, filed six Ad: "President Nixon celebrated his 59th birthday last night in what had all the appearances of a big campaign rally . . . . [The Nixons] stood together on the steps [of Air Force 2] while the Marine band played 'God Bless America' . . . . At the foot of the ramp, Mrs. Nixon was handed a bouquet of American Beauty roses by 9-year-old Crystal Mason, a black . . . . The welcome was given all the pomp accorded heads of state with the exception of the 21-gun salute . . . . "

## Mrs. Nixon Ends African Trip; Welcomed Home by President

By WILLIAM BORDERS

Special to The New York Times

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Jan. 9 — Mrs. Richard M. Nixon left Africa this morning after an exhausting one-week goodwill tour in which she hugged dozens of children, watched hundreds of tribal dancers and shook thousands of hands.

With a sense of ceremony characteristic of this former French colony, President Félix Houphouët-Boigny bid her farewell at his sumptuous residence, then boarded a helicopter to fly to the airport, while his wife and Mrs. Nixon rode there in his Rolls-Royce, so they could all say good-bye again.

As they walked along a red carpet between two ranks of Presidential honor guardsmen who wore red capes and gold helmets and held silver swords, the muggy air was filled with music of drummers and chanting women in bright tribal dress.

### Thousands Line Route

Several thousand people stood along the route of Mrs. Nixon's 10-car motorcade, waving and cheering enthusiastically as she passed.

"I must say that I didn't expect as many people to turn out just to wave, and that was a thrilling experience," she said last night, referring to the much larger demonstration that greeted her on her arrival in Abidjan Friday.

With a visit to Liberia, a republic founded by freed American slaves 124 years ago; then to Ghana, a former British colony, and then to the Ivory Coast, where the French influence is pervasive, Mrs. Nixon saw three very different aspects of black Africa.

Except for a low-key trip to Peru after the May, 1970, earthquake there, this was the first foreign trip she has made alone representing the President, and she appeared to be delighted with it.

Loosening up more and more as the week progressed, she was able last night to make cheerful jokes with local reporters about the qualities of an

ideal wife, and to chat good-naturedly with the clerks from whom she bought a sport shirt for her husband's birthday today.

Although Mrs. Nixon held private meetings with the heads of government in each of her three stops, presenting letters from the President and reportedly explaining his forthcoming trips to China and the Soviet Union, most of her schedule was devoted to touring schools and hospitals and other institutions.

The trip was ostensibly designed to make new African friends for the United States, but a high-ranking American in one of the countries she visited said he thought its mission was "100 per cent domestic politics."

"The President thinks this will help him get black votes, and the word went out that hers was to be the only white face in all the pictures," said this man, who was well involved in part of the planning.

During the week, Mrs. Nixon received two cablegrams from her husband, and one from Secretary of State William P. Rogers, and all three of them referred to her press coverage, which the President called "excellent."

### Welcome in Washington

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (AP)

—Mrs. Nixon was welcomed home this evening by her family and a crowd of about 1,000 that included Cabinet members and other Government officials.

President Nixon praised his wife's performance during her official journey to Liberia, Ghana and the Ivory Coast, and said her return on his 59th birthday was his "best birthday present."

The Nixons' daughters, Tricia and Julie, and their husbands, Edward Cox and David Eisenhower, joined the brief welcoming ceremonies at a hanger at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland shortly after Mrs. Nixon's plane touched down about 6 P.M.

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Associated Press

ON HAND AT ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE: President Nixon escorts Mrs. Nixon on arrival from Africa. Family later celebrated Mr. Nixon's 59th birthday at White House.