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Mrs. Nixon Visits a Children's Center

SHANGHAI, Feb. 27 (UPI)—On her last day in China, Mrs. Richard M. Nixon watched Little Red Guards singing revolutionary songs and demonstrating their skill in ballet, gymnastics and table tennis.

Mrs. Nixon spent part of the day visiting the Shanghai Children's Palace, going from room to room in the old British colonial home, praising the children and getting applause in return.

"They're so well-rounded," she said.

Mrs. Nixon sat with an audience of children and listened to youngsters on stage reading quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Some of the quotations told them they soon would be "responsible for revolution."

Other youngsters, wearing purple blouses and slacks, Mao buttons and red scarves around their necks, showed their talents in ballet, gymnastics, music, table tennis and boxing.

Mrs. Nixon was told that many of the children's teachers

were workers who volunteered their time after a day at work in a factory.

Repeatedly commenting that the children were "so cute," Mrs. Nixon stopped in each room of the palace, a building with chandeliers and high ceilings.

"All the children in our country say hello to you here," she told them.

Earlier in the day, Mrs. Nixon, wearing a full beige jersey dress with matching shoes and a beige mink coat with wide leather belt, toured the Shanghai industrial exhibition with her husband and Premier Chou En-lai.

Mr. Chou told Mrs. Nixon that the women workers had had the opportunity to have an education because their fathers were factory workers and not peasants as their grandfathers had been.

At one point, the Premier introduced Mrs. Nixon to a woman and asked the President's wife to guess her age. Mrs. Nixon smiled and said, "26." Mr. Chou threw back his head and laughed. Mrs. Nixon was exactly right.

As the Nixons toured the complex, which included displays of China's latest advances in technology, the President said as a joke that he was going to keep his wife sightseeing so that she wouldn't go shopping.

But both had their eyes on home. Mrs. Nixon told reporters she would like to stay in China longer "but this is D-day."



Associated Press

AMERICAN VISITOR: Mrs. Nixon with children at Shanghai Children's Palace. She saw puppet show, heard concert.