



AP Wirephoto

Ting Hung from Peking and a laughing Pat Nixon admired the pandas in their new home

China's Gifts Welcomed

Pat and the Pandas

Washington

The two giant pandas, gift of friendship from China, were welcomed yesterday by Pat Nixon, who pronounced them "adorable, endearing creatures."

In separate air-conditioned quarters behind glass walls, Ling - Ling and Hsing - Hsing appeared on the scene before a crowd of reporters and photographers, a Chinese delegation, Mrs. Nixon and officials of the Washington National Zoo.

Unable to hear much through their glass homes, the pandas happily ate gruel, nibbled on bread soaked with honey for the occasion and climbed up on a pile of oak logs where Ling-Ling reached up to nibble a tempting morsel of bamboo.

Mrs. Nixon lingered to watch them with evident delight.

She said, "They give you an extra dimension of joy." And "I think everybody would like to cuddle them." But she added, "I don't think they're going to let us — they're too precious."

Outside the zoo house where the pandas are temporarily quartered, there was an official ceremony before a crowd of several hundred.

Ting Hung, head of the Bureau of Public Service of the city of Peking, who came along with the pandas to help get them settled in their new home, officially presented the "pair of giant pandas to the American people in token of friendship of the Chinese people."

Associated Press