

Nixon in Warsaw, Greets the Public and Meets Gierek

Throng Cheers the President Despite Official Attempt to Keep Welcome Subdued

by James Feron

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Warsaw, May 31 - President Nixon arrived in Warsaw today and succeeded in reaching the Polish people despite official attempts to avoid a repetition of the emotional welcome he received here in 1959, when he was Vice President.

An hour after his arrival Mr. Nixon switched from a closed Polish limousine to his own open car and then stepped into a crowd that needed only his Presidential initiative to come alive.

For a long 10 minutes that became harrowing for security officials, Mr. Nixon shook hands, exchanged greetings and finally sought to escape a good-natured throng chanting "Nix-on Nixon" and singing "Sto lat," meaning "May you live a hundred years."

Mr. Nixon began his talks with Polish leaders immediately after leaving the chanting crowd in Victory Square. He was greeted at the Parliament building by Edward Gierek, the former miner who took over Communist party leadership after economic riots in December, 1970.

The two men conferred for more than an hour, most of the time alone except for a translator. A White House spokesman said that Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, and Franciszek Szlachcic, a Politburo member, participated in part of the conference.

For Mr. Nixon, nearing the end of a 13-day trip to four countries, the brief Polish visit must be evoking warm memories. He was acclaimed here 13 years ago as the first high-ranking Western official to visit Communist Eastern Europe.

But his ride into the city from the Warsaw airport, where he received the same diplomatically proper reception as on his first visit, was greeted without much enthusiasm by medium-sized crowds.

Polish-Communist party members had been told to stay home and watch the arrival on television. Flags had been placed along the route only two hours before Mr. Nixon's plane landed. There had been no publicity on either the President's route into the city or his schedule.

The official mood was expressed a few weeks ago by a Polish journalist who dismissed

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the suggestion that large crowds would greet the President. "We are a more mature country," he said. Editorials in the Polish press have focused on the official nature of the visit.

Mr. Nixon's first public activity here was a brief tour of the city's reconstructed old town.

His motorcade stopped at the site of the reconstruction of the Royal Palace, a 15th-century Gothic and baroque structure that was destroyed with most of the rest of Warsaw by the Germans in World War II. The area had been closed to casual strollers for hours, and the sidewalks in the normally bustling Castle Square contained only a thin line of grim-faced men, most of whom had arrived together half an hour earlier.

Mr. Nixon, accompanied by his wife and other members of the official party, walked to where the castle will be rebuilt. The sidewalk "crowd" was silent.

Mrs. Nixon asked her escort what they would do with the castle once it had been rebuilt. She was told they were still discussing the matter. The Nixons said good-by to their hosts and returned to the motorcade.

It drove a few short blocks through the narrow streets, past more silent onlookers, and then swept into the central square. All the tables of an outdoor cafe were full. A few hundred people stood on the sidewalks and in half of the square. Some were dressed in national costume. The entourage drove through, again to complete silence.

A few minutes later the official car stopped in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where Mr. Nixon was to lay a wreath. He looked grim, and it was hard to say whether it was the occasion or the silent reception.

Walking toward his car, Mr. Nixon was cheered lightly by some in the crowd. He waved back and received a bigger cheer. He climbed into his own car—a switch made possible because he was now in the hands of different hosts—and stood up to the increasing cheers of the crowd.

The tomb of the Unknown Soldier stands at the edge of a vast square, and nearly 20,000 spectators now surged toward the motorcade as it began to move away. Mr. Nixon chose this moment to step out and greet the crowd as the "Nixon" chant gained momentum.

Policemen now doubled and tripled their ranks against the pressing throng. The President, surrounded by Polish and American security agents, reached to grasp outstretched arms. They made contact and the lines broke.

"Sto lat! Sto lat!" they shouted. Photographers found themselves crushed against the stalled motorcade. A White House correspondent said it was the most bruising crowd that he had ever experienced, although a good-natured one.

Mr. Nixon, moving to the other side of the street, asked someone, "How do you say 'Long live Polish-American friendship'?" He was told and used the phrase, to the further delight of the crowd.

White House officials said the scene then seemed to be assuming dangerous propor-

tions, and the President appeared to be seeking shelter.

Mr. Nixon was occasionally lost from view. Finally he returned to his car but then opened the roof to resume contact with the crowd, now in throaty song. Roses wrapped in cellophane sailed toward the car but were intercepted by an agent and thrown back.

Policemen formed a flying wedge to enable the vehicles to begin moving, but the crowd remained thick for a long block and the motorcade inched forward.

It was the only time on the four-nation trip that Mr. Nixon left his car to greet a crowd. White House newsmen said that the Warsaw turnout, estimated at 300,000, was among the largest of the trip.

President Nixon's talks with Polish leader are likely to cover bilateral issues as well as international affairs, but they will probably focus on economic and trade matters. Mr. Gierek has launched major social and economic reforms, and his aides have indicated that they would welcome assistance from the United States.

Mr. Nixon is likely to find Polish officials eager to increase trade with the United States, for example, but unable to pay for their imports except through increased sales and with the assistance of American financial credits.

Mr. Nixon could, for example, provide the authority for Export-Import Bank credits and guarantees to Poland. Yugoslavia and Rumania have been given this form of assistance.

The United States also holds an estimated \$300-million in Polish zlotys, payments for postwar sale of agricultural

surpluses, that could be utilized to develop or expand Polish-American technical exchanges.

The Polish authorities might ask Mr. Nixon to recommend the lifting of trade restrictions on American industrial items still classified "strategic," such as high capacity computers.

Polish-American trade totals \$180-million at present, with \$100-million of it represented by Polish exports, half of them processed meats.

The Polish Premier, Piotr Jaroszewicz, underlined the nation's economic needs tonight as he exchanged toasts with Mr. Nixon at a dinner in his honor in the Council of Ministers Palace, the former Radziwill Palace. He said that Poland was at a stage of dynamic development, one that required modern techniques, which opens the way to expanding trade possibilities, especially with the United States.

Earlier, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Stefan Olszowski, the Polish Foreign Minister, signed a consular agreement that had been six years in preparation. Mr. Rogers said that the signing represented a "welcome improvement in our relations with Poland."

It regulates a wide range of consular matters, including those dealing with arrest. Each Government will be obliged to inform the other within 72 hours of the arrest of a national of the other country.

It also clarifies the status of Polish citizens who have become naturalized Americans but who are still considered Polish here. The definition of citizenship was changed here in 1951, causing confusion and in some cases arrest.