

30 May 73

Nixon leaves for Iceland.

"Chatting with reporters on his flight from Washington [today], President Nixon recalled a visit in Iceland with American servicemen in 1956 and said, 'Those kids in that, if you pardon the expression, God-forsaken place, were glad to see somebody from home.'

"If Icelanders were offended by the remark~~az~~, they were not showing it. The official Icelandic government spokesman, Hannes Jonsson, observed: 'Mr. Nixon's idea of God is very limited.' But he said it with a smile.

"[Ziegler] tried to smooth over any hard feelings in advance by saying Mr. Nixon was referring to the Keflavik base, 30 miles from the capital, and not to all of Iceland which he has never seen."

See entry 31 May 73, for another Nixon remark.

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