



UPI Telephoto

Pat Nixon and Alicia Caldera, wife of the outgoing Venezuelan president, waved to people in Caracas.

SFChronicle

MAR 12 1974

Pat Arrives in Venezuela

Caracas

Pat Nixon came to Venezuela yesterday to represent the United States at the inauguration of the nation's new president, Carlos Andres Perez.

"As you know, this is my first visit to Venezuela since 1958, when Venezuela was taking the hard road towards democracy, and I marvel at your many accomplishments in the last 16 years," the first lady said in a brief statement as she arrived at Maiquetia Airport.

During the 1958 visit of then-Vice President Richard Nixon, angry crowds spat on and stoned his motorcade.

Mrs. Nixon was met at Maiquetia by Venezuelan Chief of Protocol German Nava Carrillo and American Ambassador Robert McClintock. She then boarded a twin-engine military plane for the ten-minute flight to La Carlota Airport in Caracas.

"I am proud to come to Venezuela to represent the government and people of the United States for the inauguration of your newly-elected president," Mrs. Nixon said. The inauguration is scheduled for today.

Caracas was Mrs. Nixon's first stop on a 9195-mile trip through Latin America.

On Friday she will attend

the inauguration of Brazil's president, retired Army General Ernesto Geisel.

At send-off ceremonies at Homestead Air Force Base, Nixon said his wife's assignment is "to bring the best wishes of the American people to the people of all the countries she visits."

In brief comments to a crowd of more than 500 gathered on the sunny air-

The President said that Mrs. Nixon's trip will bring to the attention of the world that "here in the Western Hemisphere are our closest friends and neighbors."

Associated Press