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**Nixon Plans
Middle East
Visit Soon**

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KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla., May 25—President Nixon will visit the Middle East in the near future as well as hold a summit meeting in Moscow at the end of June, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said here today.

Ziegler made the comment as he rejected a proposal from Vice President Ford that Mr. Nixon reconsider his decision against supplying additional information to the House Judiciary Committee or to the special prosecutor.

Ziegler's comment about a Middle Eastern tour together with his firm stand against further disclosure appeared to be an indication of presidential strategy to concentrate on foreign policy while resisting the impeachment campaign.

At a speech in Washington to senior administration officials this week, Alexander M. Haig Jr., White House staff chief, emphasized that the President is actively directing the conduct of foreign policy despite the distractions of Watergate.

Expressing hope that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger shortly will be successful in his role as negotiator between Syria and Israel, Ziegler said, "The President at

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some point will visit the Middle East."

His comment left the impression that a visit may be made prior to the Soviet visit, now scheduled to begin about June 24.

Earlier this week, officials in Washington indicated that there might not be time for the President to go to the Middle East prior to the summit meeting. Ziegler's comments clearly left the matter open.

The Egyptian government, in particular, has urged a presidential visit, and it was convinced a few weeks ago that Mr. Nixon would be in Cairo in late May or early June.

The optimism now prevalent here about the Kissinger mission seems to have revived the President's hopes that he might go to the Middle East and yet return to Washington before it was time to leave for Moscow.

Ziegler fairly strongly discounted a report that the President would stop in Brussels en route to Moscow for meetings with NATO allies. No decisions have been made on travel to and from the Soviet Union, he said.

He emphasized that "at this point nothing is set" regarding a Middle Eastern tour, but he said "there are a number of possibilities which the President has been asked to consider."

[In Damascus, a senior American official said for the first time that a presidential visit to the Middle East did not hinge on achievement of a Syrian-Israeli disengagement agreement, Washington Post staff writer Marilyn Berger reported.

[But the official called it "inconceivable" that such a

visit would occur within the next week.]

A Middle East trip would take a minimum of a week or 10 days, for the President would visit at least four countries—Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Saudi Arabia—and perhaps others, including Syria.

Ziegler said Kissinger would not come to Key Biscayne to report to the President but that the President would return to Washington Monday.

Later today, Mr. Nixon ordered his attorneys to meet with House Judiciary Committee lawyers to work out a plan for making information available to the committee on his income taxes.

Ziegler said that although "exhaustive reviews" have already been made of the President's taxes by the joint congressional committee and the Internal Revenue Service, the President would take steps to "expedite the inquiry" of the House committee by making further information available "under appropriate safeguards."

When Ziegler was asked the President's reaction to Ford's statement that refusal to give the Judiciary Committee more material "could be" the thing that will bring about impeachment, he was ready with an answer.

Ziegler said that "our position" against providing further material "remains the same."

"The reaction of the President to these various stories is that anyone has a right to express his view," Ziegler said.

"We do not feel that the House of Representatives will vote to impeach the President. The Vice President agrees with that. The President feels he has to make very difficult decisions based on his unique responsibility to the office of the presidency and to the Constitution.

"As President, he must make the decisions. He weighs all these factors. He has made the decision to be forthcoming, and he has provided vast amounts of material. But his choice cannot always be the

one with the most popular current appeal.

"He remarked again this morning that defending his office against excessive encroachment is right."

Ziegler would not be drawn into a discussion of Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's appeal to the Supreme Court to obtain more evidence from the White House. Nor would he say whether the President would obey a Supreme Court order.

Ziegler argued that he could not discuss a matter he did not know would reach the Supreme Court and that any comments on legal and constitutional matters should be made before the courts by the President's counsel, James D. St. Clair.

"We are not going to speculate on a court decision at this time," Ziegler said when pressed to say whether Mr. Nixon would obey a Supreme Court ruling. "I will not speculate in any way whatever."