

# CAIRO SAID TO TOP NIXON'S ITINERARY

## Arab Sources Say Choice of First Stop Emphasizes Warmer Relations

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CAIRO, June 3—President Nixon will arrive in Egypt on June 12 and visit Alexandria and Cairo for two days of talks with President Anwar el-Sadat and for some sightseeing, informed sources said here today. An official announcement of the visit is expected to be made public in Washington and Cairo tomorrow.

Mr. Nixon's arrival in Egypt will be the first phase of a tour of the Middle East that is expected to take him to Israel, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and probably Iran, the sources said.

The President will stay in Israel two days, the sources added, while his stopovers in other countries will be briefer.

The fact that Mr. Nixon will begin the tour in Egypt—as Secretary of State Kissinger's long visit to the area began last month—is taken here as evidence of the dramatic improvement in American-Egyptian relations over the last six months. It is also considered a reflection of the crucial role played by Egypt in the search for peace, in cooperation with the United States.

Mr. Nixon will be the first President of the United States to come here since Franklin D. Roosevelt's conference with Churchill and President Ismet Inonu of Turkey in December, 1943. The American and British leaders were on their way home from a meeting with Stalin in Teheran. Mr. Nixon visited Cairo in 1963, when he was a private citizen, and was received by President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Egyptian officials, from President Sadat on down, are anxious to anchor the new relationship between the United States and the Arabs as quickly as possible, to make it irreversible.

President Sadat has been lavish in his praise of both Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger. He has asserted that impeachment of Mr. Nixon would be a "tragedy." He showed his gratitude for American help in achieving disengagement on the Suez front by persuading other Arab leaders to lift the oil embargo against the United States in March, when that move was highly unpopular in the Arab world.

Mr. Nixon's visit comes at a crucial time, after agreement has been reached on the military disengagement in Egypt and Syria, and before the political issues involved in possible

settlement are taken up at Geneva.

Arab diplomats attach great importance to the fact that the President is coming here before going to Moscow, where he is due to arrive June 27. The United States and the Soviet Union are co-sponsors of the Geneva peace conference. It is up to them to invite the other participants.

Arab leaders here in Cairo, in Damascus and in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, will try to convince Mr. Nixon that it is essential that a Palestinian delegation be invited to Geneva as a full participant, on an equal basis with the delegations that represent national governments. The Arabs want this invitation to be addressed to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The moderates who are in the majority among the organization's leaders are known to favor such an invitation if the sponsoring powers declare that the conference will take up the issue of "the legitimate right of the Palestinian people."

The 151-member Palestine National Council, which serves as a parliament for the overall grouping is in session here, debating the conditions under which Palestinians could accept a role at Geneva.

The term "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," as defined by the moderates, means

the right to establish a Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in Gaza, the parts of old Palestine that Israel occupied in 1967. This definition reflects a minimum demand.

The extremist elements among the Palestinians, on the other hand, reject participation in the Geneva conference as they reject coexistence with the state of Israel and, hence, a negotiated settlement. They want to restore Arab rule over all of what was Palestine.

The Arab case to Mr. Nixon will be that the United States and the Soviet Union must act soon—specifically, at the Moscow summit meeting—to encourage the Palestinian moderates by making it possible for them to go to Geneva. Otherwise, the Arab leaders argue, the extremists will win out.

But this is not the view that Mr. Nixon will encounter in Israel and Jordan. Israel opposes any form of recognition for the Palestine Liberation Organization. Jordan has said that she has no objection to Palestinian participation at Geneva, but she insists that any part of the West Bank that is evacuated by Israel revert first to Jordanian control. This is a demand that is fought bitterly by the Palestinians and the majority of the Arab governments.

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