

Sadat to Visit U.S. in

'74--

Nixon Off to

Arabia Today

Accord on New Peace Efforts

Alexandria

President Nixon announced last night that President Anwar Sadat has agreed to make an official state visit to the United States before the end of the year.

The announcement at a state banquet was the latest of several signs that the two leaders had developed a close relationship during two days of meetings and public ceremony.

The banquet ended the Nixons' last full day in Egypt. Today they will visit the pyramids before flying to Jidda, Saudi Arabia, the second stop of the five-nation Middle East tour that also will take them to Syria, Israel and Jordan.

Earlier yesterday, in a joint effort to facilitate the Middle East peace negotiations, they proposed a series of bilateral meetings involving the Arab countries, the United States and the Soviet Union before the next round of negotiations with Israel begins in Geneva.

The two leaders disclosed their agreement to promote this approach as they rode by train through the lush farms of the Nile delta to the acclaim of many thousands who lined the tracks in such towns as Shubra, Banha and Kafr el Zayat.

Arriving in Alexandria in the early afternoon, Mr. Nixon received a rousing welcome by hundreds of thousands of Egyptians, as he had Wednesday in Cairo.

In a brief news conference aboard the train, Mr. Nixon and Sadat sketched their plan for how the difficult task of negotiating peace in the Mideast should proceed.

"I would say," Mr. Nixon said, "that before going to a summit conference where a number of leaders representing different viewpoints sit down around a table, it is essential that the way be

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prepared by bilateral discussions in which you iron out those differences which can be ironed out before you get to the summit. That is President Sadat's recommendation, too."

By summit he obviously referred to the Geneva peace conference that was opened in December at the foreign ministers level.

Sadat said Egypt and the United States, through their presidents and foreign ministers, would hold preliminary discussions and "we shall be doing this with our Arab colleagues, also bilateral. We shall be doing it with the Soviet Union, also bilateral, and when the time comes we are proposing a small Arab summit for discussing the next step" be-

an exchange of toasts at a state dinner in Cairo honoring the American President on the first stop of a week's tour of the Middle East. Mr. Nixon, in his response, addressed the challenge indirectly, saying that every nation and "every people" must be free to "achieve its own goals in its own ways by its own choosing."

Sadat, when asked what the United States could contribute to peace in the Middle East, said, "it is to keep the momentum of the whole thing going." He noted the banners across the streets of Cairo and Alexandria saying, "we trust Nixon."

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fore meeting with Israel in Geneva.

Mr. Nixon brought up the subject while praising Sadat's leadership qualities.

"What is needed is the step by step approach, not because we want to go slow, but because we want to get there," he said. "And so nation by nation, first with Egypt, then with Syria, taking up each problem as it is timely to take it up in a quiet confidential way, like President Sadat and I have talked to each other in complete confidence and we find that we have a general agreement on a great number of things, but particularly we understand the ne-

cessity in the field of diplomacy to handle each one of these problems in a case by case, very considerate basis and not in a melodramatic grandstand play where everybody cheers and then all of a sudden it falls down."

They did not discuss how Israel might react to this nor did they talk of the most difficult problem in the negotiations — how to bring the Palestinians into any proposed settlement. But Sadat had served notice on Mr. Nixon Wednesday night that "the political solution and the respect of the national aspirations of the Palestinians are the crux of the whole problem."

"There is no other solution and no other road for a durable peace without a political solution to the Palestinian problem," Sadat said in

"Since October 6 and since the change that took place in American policy, peace is now available in the area and President Nixon never gave a word and didn't fulfill it," he said. "He has fulfilled every word he gave. So, if this momentum continues, I think we can achieve peace."

These words and the outpouring of friendly crowds were described by members of the Nixon staff as balm for the president, who is facing impeachment proceedings at home.

New York Times