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Nixon Returns From Moscow, Speaks of Advance of Peace

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon said last night on his return to the United States from his second Moscow summit that his negotiations there and in the Middle East have advanced the cause of permanent peace throughout the world.

"The process of peace is going steadily forward," the President said in a speech at Loring Air Force Base in Maine after a 9½-hour flight from Moscow.

The President spoke in a strong voice and showed no signs of his recent phlebitis attack. He received a warm welcome as his plane landed at the Air Force base, and he reported confidently of his two trips abroad.

However, he provided no new details in his 16-minute speech about his lengthy talks with Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev, and spoke mainly in generalities.

The President said the purpose of his summit talks with Soviet leaders was to make the trend toward peace "irreversible."

Despite the failure to reach a new breakthrough on the control of offensive nuclear weapons, Mr. Nixon spoke optimistically about reaching a strategic arms limitations talks accord before the interim agreement expires in 1977.

He said that both the Soviet Union and the United States are committed to a resolution of their differ-

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ences before the present agreement, signed two years ago in Moscow, expires at the end of five years.

The President made his speech on an airport runway in the extreme northeastern part of the United States minutes after his plane touched American soil after the long flight from the Soviet capital.

On hand to greet him and to introduce him was Vice President Gerald R. Ford, who said the President's strategy for peace "has been bold but never rash, courageous but never foolhardy,

tough but never rude, gentle but never soft."

"You have emplaced the building blocks of a solid foundation for better international relations than we have had in our lifetime and perhaps in the history of our country," Ford said in introducing the President.

Television viewers saw the President's Boeing 707, the Spirit of '76, pull up to the ramp at Loring and the Nixons disembark and walk to the platform, where Ford introduced the President.

A big sign in the background said "Welcome Home, Mr. President." Democratic Gov. Kenneth B. Curtis of Maine and one of the Nixon's daughters, Julie Eisenhower, greeted the President and Mrs. Nixon

as they stepped onto American soil.

On the flight from Moscow, Alexander M. Haig Jr., White House staff chief, said "we were very, very pleased" with the results of the summit, the Associated Press reported.

"Basically, we achieved all we hoped to, and in many respects the exchanges between the leaders in the current international environment were better than expected," Haig said.

Mr. Nixon claimed that the significance of the agreements reached in Moscow "goes beyond the agreements themselves. We are creating new patterns of cooperation and new patterns of consultation."

The agreements give the people of both countries "a positive stake in peace," the President said. He said his journey "advanced the cause of peace throughout the world."

The President also said he found a new climate for building peace in the Middle East.

"In all of our travels," he said, "one message has come through more clearly than any other. We have seen millions and millions of people over these past weeks. And from their faces . . . this is the message:

" . . . The desire to end war, to build peace, is one that knows no national boundaries and unites people everywhere."

All the people he has seen

in the last month in the nine countries he has visited in the Middle East and Europe "want to be friends of the American people. And we reciprocate. We want to be their friends too," he said.

Several thousand persons were on hand to welcome the President home. The Air Force base is in the heart of Maine's potato country, far inland and near the Canadian border. It is not much off the direct route from Moscow to Washington.

While the President spoke, his plane was refueled, and after shaking hands with scores of persons at the air base he boarded the plane to fly directly to Key Biscayne for a long July 4 weekend with his family.

He has spent only one full day in Washington since June 10, the day he left for his Middle East tour. He is not expected to return to Washington before Monday.

In a Fourth of July statement earlier, the President said this is a holiday that "echoes the hopes and aspirations of people throughout the world."

On this Independence Day, he said, the American people should "continue to carry to the people of other lands the basic American message of independence, liberty and human dignity."