

# Agnew's Tour: Lobs, Putts, Parties and Diplomacy

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**NAIROBI, Kenya, July 12—** Within two hours of his arrival at the Nairobi Hilton here today, Vice President Agnew, clad in light tan cardigan and gray plaid slacks, was hooking his first drive about 155 yards down the fairway of the Muthaiga Golf Course.

Later, after a quick change, he headed for a reception, then returned to his room to prepare for tomorrow's "agenda": 15 minutes of informal talks with Kenya's President, Jomo Kenyatta, and some sightseeing in the bush.

Give or take a few meetings and banquets, Mr. Agnew's schedule here was fairly typical of the pace of his 31-day 10-nation goodwill tour that began June 27.

Nobody outside the Vice President's inner circle is quite certain whether he has been engaging in serious diplomatic talks along the way. Mr. Agnew himself warned newsmen on the first leg of his trip not to expect serious negotiating. But yesterday in Addis Ababa, he explained that he had not mingled with local citizens because he had to spend most of his time reading memoranda and preparing for what he

called "quite substantive" sessions.

What can be said with certainty, however, is that the Vice President, who seems to make news with nearly every utterance at home, is perfectly capable of playing a deferential ambassadorial role abroad, and of remaining inconspicuous.

"I'm no less interested in seeing the people this time," said the veteran of two previous world tours. "Perhaps, though, I'm less interested in dramatic television color news reports."

A representative day in Saudi Arabia, for example, yielded the following agenda:

9:30 A.M.—Mr. Agnew spoke briefly to members of the American community and circulated for about an hour shaking hands.

1 P.M.-3 P.M.—Agnew attended a "business luncheon" with the United States Ambassador, Nicholas G. Tacher, and American officials.

7 P.M.-9 P.M.—Mr. Agnew dined at the beach home of Prince Fahd on the Red Sea.

In between, he sandwiched in a set of tennis (losing, 6-2, to the deputy chief of mission), hit about 100 golf balls near the embassy compound and took two swims in the embassy pool. He left the country the next day, having greatly pleased

the Saudis with his presence.

Outwardly, the trip has all the trappings of a major diplomatic mission. A directory of personnel drawn up by the embassy in Kuwait listed 141

members of the entourage, not including 11 traveling reporters. It included staff, secretaries, flight crews, Secret Service agents, and communications personnel.