

U.S. Coverage

Live TV for Nixon in China

Washington

Part of President Nixon's journey to Peking next month will be televised live in the United States and probably will be followed by a spring-time visit here by Chinese table tennis players, the White House said yesterday.

Press secretary Ronald Ziegler told newsmen that the Chinese will hire an American firm to set up a portable ground station at the Peking airport, which will be capable of transmitting full press coverage — voice, print and pictures — to the United States.

Ziegler, who returned this week from an advance journey to the Chinese capital, said he relayed to the U.S. Table Tennis Association a personal suggestion from Premier Chou En-lai that a Chinese table tennis team visit the U.S. this spring.

Saving he anticipated such a visit would be arranged in return for the groundbreaking trip of Peking last winter by American representatives of the sport, Ziegler said that Chou suggested the Chinese come here "when the blossoms are in full bloom."

The press secretary gave no details of the schedule to be followed in China by the President and Mrs. Nixon during their February 21-28 visit.

However, he said, Mr. Nixon might visit the Great Wall, the Ming tombs and the Forbidden City in Peking, an industrial exhibition in Shanghai and a scenic lake area near Hangchow.

In addition, he said, Mrs. Nixon will visit such sites as hospitals and schools.

Ziegler said the entire American press contingent will number about 80. While conceding this is about one-fourth the number of those who have accompanied the

President on other foreign travels, Ziegler insisted, "We are very pleased with the number." He said he felt it "represents a cooperative attitude" on the part of the Chinese.

Ziegler said the American press party would be seven to eight times larger than any that has accompanied any other head of state to China.

Asked why more newsmen would not be accredited, he said there are "a number of complex and detailed reasons." Under questioning, he acknowledged that the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries was one important factor.

American newsmen will be free to move about the three cities Mr. Nixon will visit, Ziegler said.

"I don't foresee any restrictive type measures," he said, and added, when asked if there would be any press censorship, "absolutely not."

The press aide said that only newsmen working for American organizations would travel to Peking with Mr. Nixon. He said foreign reporters and photographers would have to apply to the Peking government for visas and accreditation.

The American press party will have at least a couple of new experiences while on the Chinese mainland, Ziegler reported.

All will be invited guests at banquets at which President and Mrs. Nixon will be entertained by the Chinese leadership.

And on flights from Peking to Hangchow and from Hangchow to Shanghai, the press group will fly on Russian-made aircraft belonging to the Chinese.

Asked if the Nixons also would fly aboard Chinese-operated aircraft, he said, "we don't have the details to provide you."

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