

SFChronicle FEB 21 1972

Nixon's Arrival in
Peking -- President
in High Spirit

A Cordial Welcome At Airport

N.Y. Times Service

Peking

President Nixon and the panoply of the American presidency arrived in China this morning to mark the end of a generation of hostility and to begin a new, but still undefined relationship between the most powerful and the most populous of nations.

Mr. and Mrs. Nixon, leading an official party of 15 but a total contingent of more than 300 Americans, flew in from the Pacific across the muddy mouth of the Yangtze river and touched down first at Shanghai's Hung Chiao airport at 8:54 a.m. (4:54 p.m. Sunday PST).

After taking tea at the terminal there, they took off at 9:53 a.m. local time with a Chinese navigator aboard for a flight across the wintry north plain to Peking, and a cordial, official welcome. They arrived in Peking at 11:28 local time.

AMIABLE

In high spirits, President Nixon chatted amiably with Chinese officials who greeted him at Shanghai when his presidential jetliner landed to refuel and pick up Chinese Foreign Ministry officials, navigators, radio operators and interpreters for the final leg of his journey to Peking.

In a gray overcoat and accompanied by Mrs. Nixon, who wore a red coat with a fur lining, the President walked down a red-carpeted ramp to be greeted by a waiting Chinese delegation. Most of his greeters wore deep blue overcoats and fur caps.

After shaking hands with his hosts, Mr. Nixon was escorted into the airport's modern terminal building. Inside, it was decorated with large pictures of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin.

At the end of the terminal

See Back Page

Nixon in Peking - - Cordial Welcome

From Page 1

were huge posters bearing poems of Communist party Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Each poem had a wide red border.

Mr. Nixon commented especially on one of the poems. He was told Mao wrote it during the Red Army's famed march in 1934-35.

An American flag stood on one side of the terminal door. A Chinese flag was on the other.

The Peking welcome was relatively restrained. Foreign diplomats stationed in Peking did not come to the airport and the ceremony was not the kind of full-throated reception given to China's warmest friends.

SYMBOL

Premier Chou En-lai led the reception committee at the Capital Airport.

And it was his handshake that symbolized the end of American ostracism of his Communist government. Mr. Nixon grasped the hand that John Foster Dulles spurned at Geneva in 1954, when the memories of conflict in Korea were still raw and the contest over Vietnam had just been joined.

There was an honor guard and the playing of anthems at the airport. But there were no welcoming speeches for the airport assemblage or the worldwide television audience that watched the arrival here over an especially imported satellite communications system.

Mr. Nixon and Chou are to meet again this afternoon for at least two hours of formal discussion, and they will probably trade toasts at an official banquet tonight. But for the moment they intend to say next to nothing in public about their conversations until they issue a communique near the end of the eight-day visit.

The schedule for the rest of the week in Peking and for brief visits to Hangchow and Shanghai next weekend has not been announced. But it appears that the American and Chinese leaders will meet almost every day, including one or two calls by Mr. Nixon on Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the founder and leader of China's Communist state.

Peking has been spruced

Local TV Coverage Of Nixon

Television networks said here yesterday that they planned to devote the following time today to coverage of President Nixon's China visit:

KGO (Channel 7) — 6:30 to 7 a.m.; 7:30 to 8 a.m.; 20 to 30 minutes of the Dick Cavett show, on from 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

KPIX (Channel 5) — Live coverage of banquet in the Great Hall of the People from 3 to 5 a.m.

KRON (Channel 4) — 6 to 7:30 a.m.; 11:30 p.m. to midnight.

up for the presidential party, but all of the repainting and restocking of supplies has been accomplished in the name of the just-concluded Spring Festival, marking the lunar new year.

Most — but not all — of the slogans denouncing American imperialism have been replaced by less directly challenging billboards. There is no way of knowing, however, whether China's energetic new campaign for good relations with non-Communist nations would not have inspired a similar toning down in any case.

AIR

There is said to be a general air of relaxation among the Chinese people now that the turmoil of the cultural revolution seems spent. The glorification of Chairman Mao has also been emphasized. And while purges have left many senior position sunfilled, the government seems to be addressing itself once again to the orderly conduct of business at home and abroad.

But there could be no question in Mr. Nixon's mind that he had come to a distant nation, far removed not only physically but also philosophically.

Mao's portraits stared down upon the visitors from prominent positions at both airports and many of the prominent buildings of the capital along the drive to the

government guest house, where the Nixons will stay. Also in view were portraits of the customary saints of communism — Marx, Engels and Lenin — plus the figure no longer worshipped even in his own country — Josef Stalin.

Huge red posters adorned the airport buildings, mostly with fairly neutral tributes to the Chinese Communist party and importunings to the "proletariat and the oppressed people and the oppressed nations" to unite. Along the route of the Nixon motorcade from the Peking airport were a series of stanchions proclaiming support for the "struggles of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America" against unnamed colonialists.

But none of this denied the Americans a glimpse of the China behind the slogans. Flying low into Shanghai, the President could see the vast stretches of rice paddies, green and gray patches around the endless clusters of villages.

When the visitors descended toward Peking, they found themselves over a bleak plain of wheat country, all ashen and brown, that stretched clear to the horizon, and the aircraft seemingly rolled right across the huddled homes of Chinese peasantry.

HOMES

On the drive into Peking, they could see homes little better among the barren fruit and nut tree orchards. They were squat stone homes, with boards in the windows and mud walls around them. As the road widened, they passed a series of brick factory buildings surrounded by rows and rows of low brick houses, all of them a dull dark red.

Then the main street — the wide and sprawling Chang An Chie, appearing even wider than it is because most of its houses stand hidden behind steel gray walls with only the tiled roofs peeking over the top.

Only Tian An Men square — the heart of the city and the country — conveyed some of the spectacular grandeur of China, old and new, on this first passage by any official American party in 22 years.