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Nixon Takes Campaign To New York

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New York

President Nixon, carrying his campaign to this big state for the first time this year, told a group of Jewish leaders here yesterday that no purpose would be served by a confrontation with the Soviet Union over the issue of payments demanded of Jews for Soviet exit visas.

The president also declared that nothing would be served by "politicizing or demagoguing" on the matter during the American election campaign.

Mr. Nixon told the Jewish group at a meeting in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel that the proper approach is through diplomatic channels, according to White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler.

"The President said that the Soviet government is well aware of the United States views on this matter," Ziegler said.

When Ziegler was asked whether the President was

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suggesting that Senator George McGovern has "politicized or demagogued" the issue, he declined to give a direct response.

McGovern has said that he would support the proposal of Senator Abraham Ribicoff (Dem-Conn.) to deny most favored nation tariff treatment to the Soviet Union if it continues to charge high fees to educated Jews who wish to migrate.

Indications are that the proposal for most favored nation treatment, which is part of the over-all trade package now under negotiation with the Soviet Union, will not be approved by Congress while the charges, or "ransom" as Jewish leaders call it, is in effect.

The administration had declined to say how it stands on the Ribicoff amendment, but there have been indications it believes the matter may be resolved without going to a vote in Congress.

MEETING

The President met for about 45 minutes with 32 Jewish leaders who have endorsed him for re-election.

To enter into a "harsh confrontation" with the Soviet over the issue would "only be counterproductive and instead of helping would hurt individuals," Ziegler said the President commented.

Ziegler said that the President told the Jewish group that he understood the deep feelings aroused over the issue and shared the human concern they had.

The President also reiterated American support of Israel. He promised that the U.S. would never impose a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on Israel but would continue to assist in seeking stability in the Middle East, Ziegler said.

CAMPAIGN

Mr. Nixon courted the New York ethnic vote in his first outright and unabashed campaigning here.

Mixing government and politics, the President coupled an official function, the dedication of the American Museum of Immigration in the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, with two obviously

political events, the meeting with the Jewish leaders and a speech at a \$1000-a-plate Republican fund-raising dinner, one of 30 held across the country.

Even the museum dedication had political overtones.

The audience of 3000 that sat in a broiling sun for nearly two hours to hear the President was composed largely of representatives of various ethnic groups, some in their native costume, and hundreds of Roman Catholic parochial and Jewish yeshiva school children who presented a sight rarely seen as they sat side by side in their uniforms and yarmulkas.

BOATS

All had been invited to the ceremony by the Republican National Committee heritage division and by the New York Committee to re-elect the President. Free boat trips to Liberty Island were provided for the audience as were buses for some of the school children.