



AP Wirephoto

Mrs. Nixon was greeted at Andrews Air Force Base by the President and David and Julie Eisenhower

A Warm Welcome For Pat Nixon

Washington

With a homecoming kiss from his wife Pat and messages from world leaders, President Nixon celebrated his 59th birthday last night in what had all the appearances of a big campaign rally.

Mr. Nixon took a helicopter to Andrews Air Force Base in chill rain to welcome the First Lady back from her trip to Africa. Hundreds of persons, including Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and Secretary of State William P. Rogers, crowded into hangar 6 for her rousing return home.

Mr. Nixon, who announced for re-election last week, walked down a red carpet and up the steps of the Air Force 2 to embrace his wife, who was wearing a bright green coat and blue scarf. They stood together on the steps while the Marine band played "God Bless America."

ROSES

At the foot of the ramp, Mrs. Nixon was handed a bouquet of American Beauty roses by 9-year-old Crystal Mason, a black, and was showered with hugs and kisses by her daughters, Julie Eisenhower and Tricia Cox.

The welcome was given all the pomp accorded heads of state with the exception of the 21-gun salute.

After the applause quieted, Mr.

Nixon thanked the crowd, estimated at 1350, for coming out on a rainy night. But he said "the best birthday present and the greatest sacrifice was made by Mrs. Nixon who flew 4000 miles" to be back at the White House for the family celebration.

Summing up her trip, Mr. Nixon said, "I thought it was a success."

SPEAK

But he said he might be biased so he asked Agnew to speak because "the Vice President always says just what he thinks."

Agnew said it was a "wonderful celebration" for Nixon's birthday and his wife's return. He said Mrs. Nixon "makes all of us very proud."

Finally it was Mrs. Nixon's turn to speak. "I really had a wonderful journey," she said. "The people could not have been more friendly, gracious or hospitable."

Then the family boarded the helicopter back to the White House for a private family party.

The President had spent a quiet day in his hideaway office across the street from the White House. He received best wishes from Queen Elizabeth II, President Tito of Yugoslavia, President Chiang Kai-shek of Taiwan, and King Baudoin of Belgium.

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