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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1972

Nixon, Aides Race Clock To Finish China Plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The lights burned late in a cottage atop a Maryland mountain and in the White House as President Nixon and his aides raced against the clock to complete preparations for his historic mission to China.

At secluded Camp David in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, where he flew yesterday by helicopter, Nixon worked into the night reading loose leaf notebooks containing classified material on China and its leaders prepared by Henry Kissinger's National Security Council.

At the White House and in adjoining office buildings, an army of aides ate midnight snacks at their desks as they coped with the complex logistics involved in sending a president and more than 200 other Americans into a country with which the United States has had little contact for two decades.

THE DETAILS of arranging a 20,395-mile, 13-day presiden-

tial journey are many.

For example, White House assistants are making certain that hundreds of suburban Washington schoolchildren, tiny American flags in hand, will be on the South Lawn with congressmen and Cabinet officials to bid farewell when the President leaves tomorrow morning.

They are making certain, too, that enough American champagne is carried into China for the reciprocal banquet Nixon will give his Chinese hosts in Peking.

They are tending to details of presidential security and wellbeing: from seeing that the scores of Secret Service agents are outfitted with warm clothing for Peking's wintry blasts to making certain the presidential jet carries an adequate supply of blood the same type as Nixon's.

THEY ALSO are tending to details of news coverage: assuring installation of 15 sound-

proof telephone booths in the Peking press center, making certain the reams of paper which will be furnished the 87 correspondents accredited for the trip actually reach China.

And they are tending to the detailed needs of White House staffers accompanying the President: shipping in electric typewriters for secretaries and making certain that multi-color maps of China are inserted into green loose-leaf fact books being given to everyone making the trip.

The staffers handling the Washington end of the logistics maze have been in constant contact with a group of White House aides already in China.

The advance team is arranging, among other things, for the Chinese-built automobiles which Nixon and his entourage will use during the week.

His big, black armor-plated limousine is being left at home—another departure from past foreign trips.