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Nixon

Leaves for

China Today

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President Nixon leaves Washington today on the first leg of an unprecedented trip to China that he originally called "a journey for peace."

The President is being accompanied by Mrs. Nixon and a small official party that includes Secretary of State William P. Rogers, White House national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger and H. R. Haldeman, the President's special assistant.

Three interpreters are also going with the President.

On Capitol Hill yesterday.

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Nixon Starts Trip To China Today

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Democrats and Republicans took the floor to wish the President well in his journey. The House passed, by voice vote, a resolution supporting his goals. In the Senate, Democratic leader Mike Mansfield applauded the President for playing "an exceptional personal role" in trying to end hostility between the United States and China.

BRIEFING

Before leaving, the President will brief Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate on the purposes of his trip.

Then at 10 a.m., he will be given a gala sendoff at a ceremony on the White House south lawn.

Following the China visit, it was announced yesterday, Marshall Green, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, and John Holdridge, a senior member of the national security council staff and a China expert, will visit other Asian countries to report on the Peking meetings.

Green and Holdridge, who are members of the President's official party, will go to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, South Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand.

After stops in Honolulu and Guam, the President and his party will reach Peking at 11:30 a.m., local time on Monday, which is 7:30 p.m. PST Sunday.

The arrival will be broadcast live by satellite to the U.S. The party will be welcomed at the Peking airport by Premier Chou En-lai and other senior Chinese officials.

There is speculation about whether Chinese Communist party chairman Mao Tse-tung will greet Mr. Nixon at the airport. Mao last welcomed a foreign visitor at the airport in September 1959, when he greeted the late Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

The President will spend five days of his eight-day China visit in Peking. He also will visit the scenic resort of Hangchow, where the Chinese Communist party was founded in 1921 and the coastal metropolis of Shan-

ghai, regarded as the center of China's most active political radicals.

TALKS

Mr. Nixon will devote most of his time to talks with Mao, Chou and other Chinese officials. But he will also see such celebrated sights as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the tombs of the Ming Dynasty emperors, who ruled China from the 13th to 17th centuries.

The major sightseeing burden will be borne by Mrs. Nixon. She is expected to visit schools, a children's hospital, a glassware factory, a petrochemical plant, and a "people's commune" (collective farm).

Mr. Nixon's talks are expected to cover an assortment of subjects ranging from Taiwan, the Indochina war and the U.S. troop presence in South Korea to the future role of Japan and Soviet policy in Asia.

It is anticipated that the President and the Chinese leaders will agree to cultural, scientific and journalistic exchanges between the U.S. and China.

Mr. Nixon will be the first U.S. President to visit China while in office. President Grant visited Peking after his last term expired and Herbert Hoover worked as an engineer in China before his election to the presidency.