

Nixon Leaves For China Visit

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Repeating the words on a plaque left on the moon by Apollo astronauts — “We came in peace for all mankind” — President Nixon left today on his historic mission to China.

Standing on the south lawn of the White House on a gray, cold day, Nixon said in farewell remarks that if he had to add a postscript about what already has been said about the journey, it would be the words the first man to walk on the moon left there.

Helicopter

With several thousand persons cheering, the President, coatless, and Mrs. Nixon, in a yellow coat, shook hands along a line of dignitaries, including the bipartisan leadership of Congress, cabinet members, Vice President and Mrs. Agnew, and then reached their daughters, Tricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower.

Each parent hugged the daughters, and then Nixon stepped into the helicopter that carried them to Andrews Air Force Base in nearby Maryland.

There, Nixon's jet left the ground at 7:35 a.m. (PST), five minutes behind schedule, on a 10-hour flight to Kaneohe Marine Air Station at Oahu, Hawaii.

Leadership

The Nixons will spend tonight and tomorrow night in Hawaii, starting to get acclimated to the time change. They go on Saturday to Guam, and arrive in China Sunday night U.S. time.

Nixon met in the last hour before his departure with the congressional leadership in the cabinet room of the White House. Then, the Nixons walked through the diplomatic door of the White House.

A hint of snow was in the air as Nixon stepped to a microphone to address a nationwide television audience.

He again used the “journey for peace” phrase but said that he was under “no illusions that 20 years of hostilities can be swept away in one week of talks.”

Nixon recalled a toast his

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national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, exchanged with Chinese Premier Chou En-lai during one of two visits Kissinger made to Peking to make arrangements for the President's trip.

Common

“The American people are a great people. The Chinese are great people,” Nixon said, quoting the Kissinger toast, adding that the fact they are separated by an ocean should not mean that they cannot meet on a common ground.

“As we look to the future,” Nixon said, “we must recognize that the government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the United States have had great differences. We will have differences in the future.

“But what we must do is to find a way to see that we can have differences without being enemies in war. If we can make progress toward that goal on this trip, the world will be a much safer world and the chance particularly for all of those young children over there to grow up in a world of peace will be infinitely greater.”

Then he added what he



The President and Pat Nixon wave from the door of Air Force One

—AP Photo

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called a postscript and recalled the words of the plaque left on the moon: "We came in peace for all mankind."

Congressional leaders whom Nixon and Kissinger briefed at the White House reported that the President left without an agenda for talks with Chinese leaders

and with little expectation of an immediate resumption of diplomatic relations.

Spirit of '76

With the last moment saved for their children, the Nixons stepped into the helicopter known as Marine One, and 17 minutes later in Air Force One, which the President renamed Spirit of '76, they left for China.

No ceremony was arranged for the takeoff at Andrews but several hundred well-wishers lined the fences near the runway.

The crowd, largely composed of school children recruited by the White House, raised signs ranging from "Have a great trip, Presi-

dent Nixon," to "Negotiate from strength."

As the presidential plane taxied off the runway apron, its wing passed within three feet of a television camera location.

Flying to China with Nixon are Secretary of State William Rogers and Kissinger.

The official party was held to 15. In addition, there is what is called an "unofficial party" of some 20, mainly White House functionaries.