

Cheering Cairo Throngs Greet Nixon

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Sadat Hails His Guest as Man of Peace

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CAIRO, June 12 — Great crowds of Egyptians cheered President Nixon with unrestrained enthusiasm today when he arrived on the first stop of his tour of the Middle East.

For about 10 miles along a motorcade route from the Cairo airport, President Nixon, who rode in an open-top car with President Anwar el-Sadat, was proclaimed in chants and on banners as a peacemaker in a new era of friendly relations between the United States and Egypt.

For President Nixon and his party it was a sudden and welcome shift of emphasis in only one day. Yesterday, Secretary of State Kissinger's controversial news conference on wiretapping had centered attention on scandals in the Administration. Today Mr. Nixon once again was a world leader drawing popular acclaim. And he received an additional boost from President Sadat, who said in a welcoming speech:

"The role of the United States under the leadership of President Nixon is vital to promote peace and tranquillity in the area. It is a great challenge but I am convinced that with goodwill and determination, statesmen of the stature of President Nixon are apt to meet it."

Mr. Kissinger, who had laid the groundwork for the new

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Mr. Nixon waving as he and President Anwar el-Sadat rode through Cairo yesterday

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era in the protracted negotiations, was at President Nixon's side during most of the day, though he attracted little attention.

The outpouring of Egyptians was one of the largest and most enthusiastic Mr. Nixon had received in his long political career. And in Cairo, where celebrations are easy to organize, it was described as a public reception of major dimensions.

The blue and silver Presidential plane landed on schedule shortly before 3 P.M. under a hot sun. The Presidential party, which included Mrs. Nixon and the President's chief aides, was met by President and Mrs. Sadat, Vice President Mahmoud Fawzi and other officials. After inspecting an honor guard, the Presidents stepped into an open-top Cadillac surrounded by security guards and began a triumphant ride into the city.

Since President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in 1963, American Presidents rarely ride in open cars. The Presidential limousine has a bulletproof top and the Secret Service, which is charged with protecting the President, prefers that he sit under it.

Here, however, the Egyptians apparently gave assurances that there was little danger of trouble although hundreds of thousands would be on hand.

Police Lines Breached

In any event the heated enthusiasm of the crowds was apparent when the motorcade left the airport. A throng shouting "Welcome Nixon!" and "Long Live Sadat!" broke through police lines and surged toward the car as the Presidents, standing up, smiled and waved.

It was apparent that the demonstrations had been organized with the help of the Government. Pictures of Mr. Nixon and Mr. Sadat were held aloft along the streets. There were such banners as "We trust Nixon" and "You have our confidence, Nixon," that had been turned out in mass production.

Yet the smiles and the enthusiasm seemed genuine as the crowds shouted welcomes not only to the President but to everyone in the motorcade, including reporters and photographers, as if the grasp for friendship went beyond the leader to the country.

For mile after mile as the motorcade moved slowly into the city, the crowds waved banners, red flowers and branches. Policemen in white uniforms were barely able to hold them back. Balconies and roofs were lined with people shouting, "Nick-Son! Nick-Son!"

One large banner—"Nixon's America: Peace toward nations"—seemed to sum up the feeling. Others read "Peace for the land of peace" and "Keep it up, Nixon." A sound truck blared "Long live Nixon! Long live Sadat!" Men, women and children, seemingly unmindful of the intense afternoon heat, joined in the shouting.



Associated Press

Mrs. Anwar el-Sadat, top, greeting Mrs. Nixon yesterday in Cairo.

At the gate to Kubbeh Palace, the presidential palace where the Nixons are staying, the crowds were held back while the motorcade moved through spacious gardens to the colonial-style buildings of tan stucco and green trim. The Presidents and their parties then moved to a second-story balcony for brief ceremonies before a small crowd of dignitaries, reporters and television cameras.

President Sadat, appearing cool and cordial, said, "I am

not only convinced, but also confident that the visit of President Nixon will be a milestone in the shaping and evolution of American-Egyptian relations on a sound and solid basis and in such a manner that I hope would compensate for the long years of strain and lack of understanding."

He then gave his guest much of the credit for the peace negotiations and the cease-fire in the Middle East conflict, saying, "As you have mentioned, Mr. President, on many occasions, starting with your inaugural statement, you have dedicated this era for peace through negotiations rather than confrontation."

Mr. Nixon, wearing his usual blue suit with an American flag in the lapel, looked relaxed and stimulated by the reception.

"It has been too long," he said in response, "that our two nations have been through a period of misunderstanding and noncooperation." He added that the meeting here meant that "we cement the foundations of a new relationship between two great peoples who will dedicate themselves in the future to working together for great causes."

The causes the President mentioned were those considered most important to the Egyptians: "Economic progress in all fields for the people of your country, the people of this area, and peace, peace which is permanent and just and equitable."

Paying tribute to Mr. Sadat, he said, "The historians later will perhaps see all of these great events in perspective, but one fact stands out today, that without the wisdom, without the vision, without the courage, without the statesmanship of President Sadat of Egypt, we

would not have made the progress toward peace that we have made, and the world owes him a great debt for what he has done."

Later the two leaders met alone for an hour and 40 minutes. President Nixon's press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said that they had discussed "the international situation, including the Middle East, in some detail," and "U.S.-Egyptian bilateral relations in extensive detail."

There will be further such discussions tomorrow and Friday, Mr. Ziegler added.

The meeting today was, in effect, "the first session of the U.S.-Egyptian cooperation commission agreed upon by Dr. Kissinger with Egyptian leaders earlier," Mr. Ziegler said, but there was no indication of new agreements, and the emphasis was on ceremony.

President Nixon and his party were guests at a state dinner in the palace gardens. Amid

glittering lights, orchestral music and the scene of flowers, President Sadat presented honorary awards: to Mr. Nixon the Collar of the Nile, the nation's highest award; to Mrs. Nixon the order of the Komal, and to Mr. Kissinger the Collar of the Republic.

Mr. Sadat, in toasts that followed the dinner, told Mr. Nixon that his visit "reveals the change in your personal strategy and American strategy." He added, "We welcome this change and all its political and psychological implications."

Unless the national aspirations of the Palestinian people are fulfilled, Mr. Sadat went on, there can be no permanent peace in the Middle East. But he stressed that satisfaction for the Palestinians "does not mean the liquidation of Israel, contrary to what the Israelis claim to justify their expansionist plans."

Tomorrow Mr. Nixon and his



United Press International

President Nixon with President Anwar el-Sadat during a one-hour-and-40-minute meeting held after the welcome and motorcade through Cairo yesterday.

party will travel by train to Alexandria through the Nile Delta.

The visit by Mr. Nixon, who

had stopped over in Salzburg, Austria, and will go next to Saudi Arabia in the course of his nine-day Middle Eastern

tour, is the first by an American President since Franklin Delano Roosevelt was here in 1943.