

# Nixon Briefs Lawmakers On His Trip

Washington

President Nixon briefed congressional leaders yesterday on his trip to the Middle East and assured them that he had reached no secret agreements or understandings with Arab or Israeli leaders.

The President also sought to allay misgivings of the congressional leaders about the nuclear aid promised to Egypt and Israel, deputy White House press secretary Gerald Warren said at a regular news briefing that followed Mr. Nixon's meeting with Democratic and Republican members of Congress.

Warren said questions about the possible misuse of American nuclear aid were discussed "to a very limited degree" during the two-hour meeting at the White House.

He repeated administration assurances that there will be adequate safeguards and consultations with Congress over the nuclear materials that would be given to Egypt and Israel.

Mr. Nixon's assurances on secret agreements and nuclear aid may have been intended, in part at least, to

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put to rest fears expressed by some members of Congress that he may be making concessions harmful to the nation to ring up diplomatic successes that would help him in his fight against impeachment.

House Republican whip Leslie C. Arends of Illinois alluded to — the Watergate issue when questioned by reporters after emerging from the meeting with the President.

The President's trip "should put to rest any questions about whether he is leading this nation now," Arends said, adding:

"He is a world leader," in an apparent reference to speculation that the Watergate scandal and the impeachment process have impaired Mr. Nixon's capacity to manage the affairs of the country.

Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, the Democratic whip in the Senate, emerged from the meeting and told reporters that he is "concerned about possible misuse" of nuclear reactors that the U.S. would give to Egypt and Israel.

Byrd also said he could not see why the U.S. should give reactors to developing countries when the U.S. cannot seem to make the reactors work very well for its own extensive power needs.

Mr. Nixon met with the National Security Council yesterday afternoon to discuss plans for his forthcoming summit meeting with Soviet leaders. He is to depart Tuesday for Brussels en route to the Soviet Union.

Warren said in response to a question that there had been no advance agreement on a new Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty. He added that a strategic arms limitations agreement and a "threshold test ban" agreement would be discussed at the summit meeting.

The threshold test ban refers to a limitation on the size of underground nuclear blasts at an agreed-upon seismic level.

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