

Pat Nixon's

Arrival

In Africa

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Monrovia, Liberia

Pat Nixon arrived here yesterday for a one-week African Goodwill tour during which she said she hopes "to say hello to old friends and make a lot of new ones."

"It's just great to be here and I can't wait to get around and meet some people," she said shortly after her arrival in this humid seaport, the first stop in a trip that will also include visits to Ghana and the Ivory Coast.

Mrs. Nixon is in Liberia for the inauguration today of President William R. Tolbert Jr., successor to William Tubman, who died last July after 27 years in office.

Tolbert, a 58-year-old Baptist minister whose grandfather was a slave in South Carolina, was at the airport when Mrs. Nixon's White House jet landed, and he greeted her with a hearty hug and kisses on both cheeks.

"You have come among people who love the President and the people of the United States," he said in

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UPI Telephoto

A granddaughter of President Tolbert gave Mrs. Nixon a bouquet

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welcoming her to this most American of African countries.

Liberia, the size of Ohio with 1.5 million people, was founded 150 years ago by freed American slaves, who named its capital for President James Monroe in tribute to their freedom.

LOOK

Monrovia still has much of the look and feel of the Old South, with antebellum style houses on which the paint was peeling until a crash cleanup program began last month.

The soldiers here wear uniforms like those of the U.S. Army and the policemen dress in the blue New York City police summer uniform. Imported dollar bills are the currency, and this is the only place in West Africa with American hamburgers and milkshakes.

In their formal statements, both Mrs. Nixon and Tolbert referred to what the president called "the great relationship that exists between this county and the United States."

Mrs. Nixon, who wore a long-sleeved red, white and blue dress with a hem below her knees, was cheery and relaxed.

FACES

She exchanged funny faces with the Tolbert grandchildren, and tapped her foot to the rhythm of the 135-man marching band here for the inauguration from Grambling College in Louisiana.

About 50 other countries are sending delegations to the inauguration, but none is headed by anyone as well known as Mrs. Nixon. "We feel it's a special honor that the Americans sent her," said a civil servant in one of the flag-decked government buildings.

Mrs. Nixon was asked how Ghana and the Ivory Coast had been selected for her itinerary. She said "They were the first two countries that invited me, after it had been decided that I was coming here."

The American delegation to the inauguration includes evangelist Billy Graham, Bernard J. Lasker, New York stock broker and Mrs. John H. Johnson, a Negro whose husband is president of Johnson Publishing Co., which publishes Ebony and other magazines.