

A 'Moment of Prayer' Designated by Nixon

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Key Biscayne, Fla.

President Nixon yesterday designated 4 p.m. (PST) today as a national moment of prayer and thanksgiving when the Vietnam cease-fire is scheduled to begin.

He also said the 24-hour period beginning at that moment shall be a national day of prayer and thanksgiving and asked Americans to observe it with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The President's proclamation said in part:

"A long and trying ordeal for America has ended. Our nation has achieved its goal for peace with honor in Vietnam.

"As a people with a deep and abiding faith, we know that no great work can be accomplished without the aid and inspiration of almighty God. No time can be more fitting for grateful prayer and meditation than the opening of the peace we have achieved with His help.

"I urge all men and women of good will to join the prayerful hope that this moment marks not only the end of the war in Vietnam but the beginning of a new era

Cease-Fire Bells to Toll

The churches of San Francisco were asked yesterday to toll their bells at 4 p.m. today, the moment the Vietnam cease-fire is scheduled to begin.

Mayor Joseph L. Alioto made the request of Catholic Archbishop Joseph McGucken, Episcopal Bishop C. Kilmer Myers and all other churchmen in the city.

Commented Archbishop McGucken: "While this event is an answer to our earnest prayers, it is also the cause for continuing prayer that this may indeed be a lasting peace."

of world peace and understanding for all mankind."

FAMILIES

In two ceremonies yesterday, Mr. Nixon met with prisoners of war or missing in action families and applauded their "bravery" in supporting his struggle for an "honorable" peace.

The first was at a White

House meeting with board members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

"The long vigil ends tomorrow night and in 60 days you will have the prisoners back or have information about the missing in action," he told the group.

Recalling the meetings he has had with the group before, the President said, "We often wondered whether we would have a meeting like this."

While some persons wanted peace at any price, the President said, most of the families of missing men "never wavered and said 'we want our men back but we want peace with honor for what they fought for.'"

Later, after flying to Key Biscayne, Fla., for the weekend, Mr. Nixon told another group of families of men held in Vietnam he was "sorry we didn't get them back by Christmas."

A crowd of about 1000 persons was on hand to welcome him, and he shook hands with those in the crowd.

To the wife of one prisoner of war, the President said: "We've got it now. You're very brave people — the bravest people I know."

Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon and his wife would attend special services at 6:45 p.m. today at the Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Nixon paused before a small girl sobbing uncontrollably in the crowd. Told by a woman nearby that the child had lost her mother in the crowd, the Chief Executive bent low and got the girl to say her name was Patricia.

"Where's Patricia's mother?" Mr. Nixon cried to the crowd.

Getting no response, Mr. Nixon said he would leave a Secret Service agent behind at the base to find the mother.

"If we can find those POWs," he said, "we can find Patricia's mother."

Associated Press