

Compromise on Nixon trip

LONDON — The Allies, warming slowly to the idea of a European visit by President Nixon, have come up with a compromise to bypass the American-sought summit meeting among the President and European leaders, authoritative diplomats said yesterday.

Nixon, who plans to visit Europe in the coming months, intended a joint summit to endorse a set of principles for a revitalized trans-Atlantic relationship. The plan was received with little enthusiasm. France, set on a go-it-alone course, opposed it outright.

A compromise is now being worked out by Europeans which will require a set of summit and semi-summit meetings with the President, with France taking a back seat.

Nixon would meet with the 15 leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels to endorse a declaration setting out new principles for an updated defense alignment. The participants would include British Prime Minister Edward

Heath, West German Chancellor Willy Brandt and — Premier Pierre Messmer instead of President Georges Pompidou.

Nixon would then meet separately with representatives of the nine European Common Market nations, also in Brussels. These might be merely the foreign ministers, to meet French objection to a summit while the European community is groping for a proper "European personality."

This semi-summit would endorse a declaration on the future relationship between Europe and the United States. France wants this to be endorsed by the community's individual members rather than by the community as an entity, the sources said.

Finally, Nixon would visit individual European capitals, including London, Bonn, Rome, possibly The Hague and Paris. In Paris he would meet with Pompidou in a strictly bilateral framework, the sources said.