

A surprise trip to Camp David

Associated Press

CAMP DAVID (Md.) — President Nixon made a surprise trip to Camp David for an overnight stay with wife Pat before returning to the White House for a meeting with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger late today.

The Nixons took off unannounced by car for their Catoctin Mountain retreat in mid-afternoon yesterday, driving through rolling hills dotted with trees in autumn foliage on a balmy, sunny day.

Aides characterized the President's jaunt to Camp

David as a "breather" after a weekend in which the latest Watergate tapes crisis and the search for a Middle East peace kept him busy.

Nixon trips to Camp David on weekdays often presage a speech or press conference. However, associates indicated that, while Nixon was concerned about "continuing to present our point of view" in the tapes controversy, he had no immediate plans for a television-radio address to the nation on the subject. A possible speech later remained one of the options under consideration, however.

Nixon has been increasingly secretive in recent months about his comings and goings. Word that he had driven to Camp David came only after a reporter made inquiries.

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Similarly, Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren told a reporter Sunday evening Nixon had no plans to go anywhere, after the newsman reported observing preparations for a presidential motorcade.

Yesterday morning, having been told that a reporter saw Nixon leaving the White House, Warren acknowledged that Nixon had driven to daughter Julie Eisenhower's house in suburban Maryland after dinner.