

Winging Her Way Back Home

By Donnie Radcliffe

BRASILIA — First Lady Pat Nixon flies home today from her 9,195-mile goodwill trip to South America, six full days of carefully programmed ceremony that took little note of harsher realities, past or present.

In Venezuela, where she and then-Vice President Nixon were spat upon by demonstrators in 1958, Mrs. Nixon sat through a two-hour-long, goose-stepping parade where the backdrop was Caracas' hillside slums.

"I love ceremony," she enthusiastically told reporters at the start, and perhaps less enthusiastically, at the end, summed up her impres-

sions with only "the precision was tremendous" and "a very interesting parade."

At Brzilia's international airport Thursday, where Brazilian soldiers formed a human chain preventing the American press corps from approaching her, Mrs. Nixon later said she had been "so enchanted with the uniforms and trooping the line that I didn't even notice anything else."

In the sterile splendor of this 13-year-old Brazilian capital city, where the military government staged the first real presidential inaugural ceremony in its 10-year-rule, Mrs. Nixon was frankly awed.

"Isn't this fantastic?" she said Thursday as she walked into Alvorada Palace, the magnificent modernistic residence of Brazil's president. "It's an unreal world."

Just how unreal may have escaped her. While President Ernesto Geisel was taking his oath of office yesterday in the presence of Mrs. Nixon, heading the U.S. delegation, the presidents of Chile, Uruguay and Bolivia, other foreign envoys and Brazilian leaders, the Brazilian citizenry was taking the day off hardly aware for the most part, that an inauguration was going on.

Residents of Brasilia flocked to their private

clubs to spend the day swimming and playing tennis. Traffic moved rapidly and constantly along city boulevards and there were no sizeable crowds outside in the Square of the Three Powers where the city's government sector is concentrated.

Mrs. Nixon received standing applause from her colleagues as she took her place at the ceremony, which was delayed a few minutes because she was late. But otherwise, little has been made of her presence by ordinary Brazilians.

See PAT, B3, Col. 1

PAT, From B1

It is more international soccer than international relations that grips the man in the street as he awaits the World Cup championship games this summer.

Headline-conscious White House advance men for Mrs. Nixon might well have arranged a meeting between her and Mario Zagalo, coach of Brazil's all-star soccer team. Mused one soccer fan, "that would have increased her prestige more than a picture of her meeting Geisel"

Local media coverage has warranted White House interest, but what has really counted on this Latin American mission is how U.S. newspapers and networks are playing it all back home.

"I got news for you," Mrs. Nixon told reporters on the second day in Caracas. "You all get A's."

The report cards, it seems, came directly from President Nixon, who sent Mrs. Nixon a message that press coverage of her arrival in Venezuela had been "beautiful—

In addition, there have been telephone reports from

Julie Nixon Eisenhower evaluating her mother's headline-grabbing ability, and cabled ones from the State Department.

State Department appraisals came daily a normal procedure for such visits, with comments on story placement, length in inches or air time and, sometimes, even on tone.

"It's like having Big Brother watching you," said one reporter.

Mr. Nixon's rapport with the press in her entourage has been friendly. She has often included them at events where local reporters sometimes find themselves barred.

During a meeting with Venezuela's new President Carlos Andres Perez in the presidential residence La Casona, she drew his attention to the "large group of press people" accompanying her.

"The new dictatorship," observed Perez, eliciting a wan smile from Mrs. Nixon.

In a departure statement issued upon leaving Caracas, Mrs. Nixon was quoted as saying "I would like especially to thank the hard working press and media

men and women. Your press daily demonstrates that democracy flourishes in Venezuela."

A White House spokesman said later, however, that the remark could not be interpreted as a disclaimer to President Perez's comment. "She never gets into political things like that," said the aide.

At a party Thursday night given by U.S. Ambassador John Hugh Crimmins and Mars. Crimmins in the ultra-modern U.S. Embassy residence outside Brasilia, Mrs. Nixon characterized the journey as "so much ceremonial." She was quick to explain that she wasn't being critical—"I like accommodation"—but she also likes getting out to meet people.

She knows she is at her best with children and rarely misses and opportunity to mingle with them when they are around.

Upon arrival in Brasilia, where 340 school children from the American school of Brasilia held a "Welcome Mrs. Nixon" banner, she shook most of the small outstretched hands and expressed delight at the chance to take home the sign as a souvenir.

But what the White House calls a "photo opportunity" became less than opportunistic on that occasion when

Brazilian soldiers stepped menacingly between Mrs. Nixon and the press.

Yesterday at Brasilia's "Tom Thumb" home for children of tubercular parents, she was hugged, kissed and seranaded in Portuguese and English (including a staccato chorus of "Happy Birthday") by more than two dozen pre-schoolers, while photographers crowded in to record it all on film.

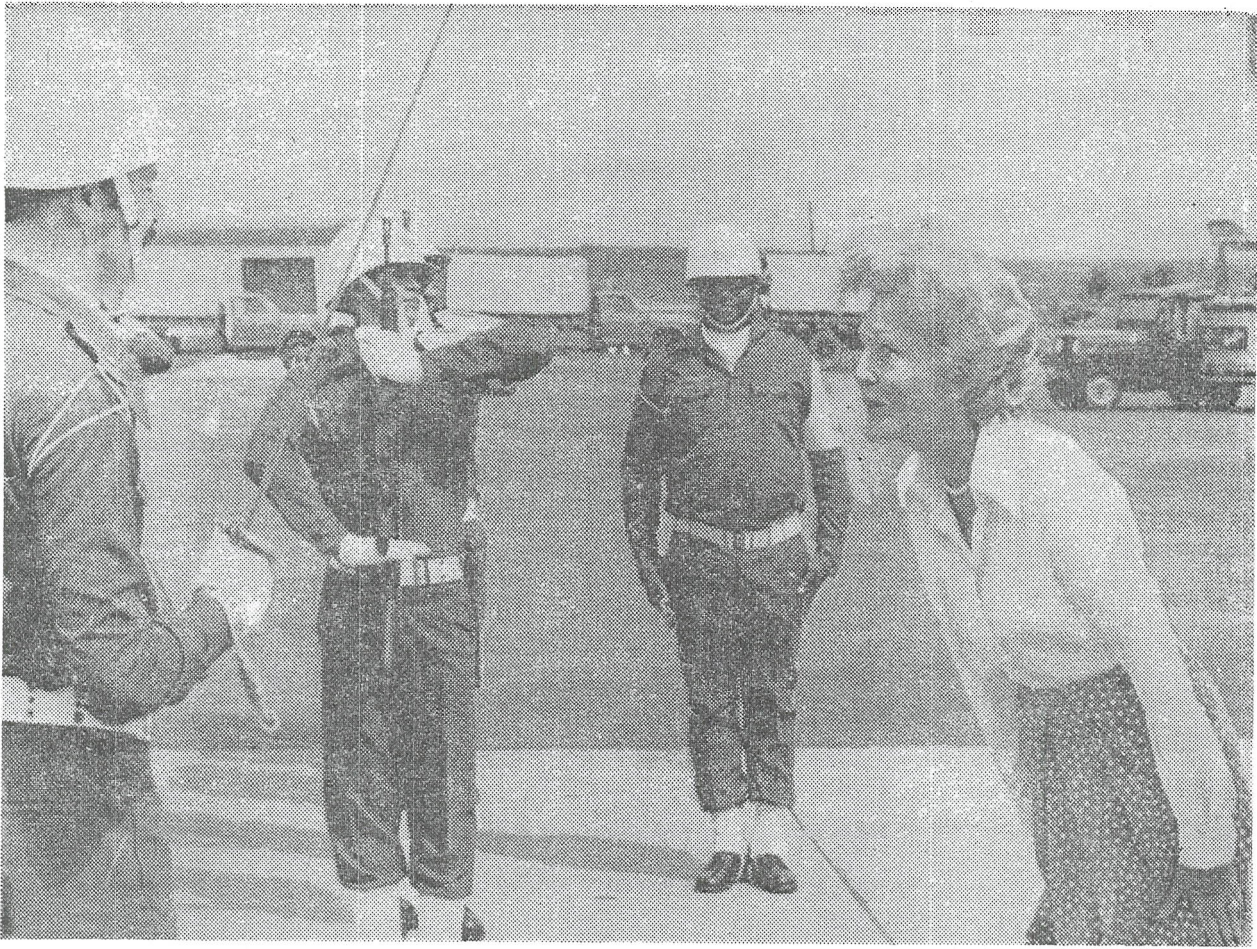
As the "nearest and dearest" ambassador to Richard Nixon's heart, she flies home today secure in the knowledge that diplomatic aspects of her mission were accomplished.

Her receptions by leaders in both Brazil and Venezuela were cordial and ties of friendship between those nations and the U.S. appeared to be firm.

Today's trip coincides with Mrs. Nixon's 62nd birthday and it will not go unmarked.

When the gleaming silver, blue and white Air Force One touched down at Nashville, Tenn., this afternoon, awaiting Mrs. Nixon will be a carefully orchestrated finale combining a presidential 'welcome home' with a birthday outing to the opening of the new Grand Ole Opry.

As arival photos go, there should be plenty of opportunities.



United Press International

Pat Nixon bows in greeting as an honor guard salutes her arrival at Brasilia's international airport. Mrs. Nixon, who arrives back in the United States today, was attending the inauguration of Gen. Ernesto Geisel as president of Brazil.