

Nixon Is Back From Paris After Talks With Leaders

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By JOHN HERBERS APR 8 1974

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WASHINGTON, April 7— President Nixon returned to Washington today after conferring with Soviet and Japanese leaders and saying "au revoir" to a friendly crowd of Parisians on the street this morning.

White House assistants said that the weekend trip to Paris to attend a memorial service for President Pompidou had demonstrated that even though Mr. Nixon was under impeachment inquiry at home he still commanded respect abroad and was needed in the Presidency if the United States was to continue as a leader in world peace.

"It was very evident," said Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff, "that European leaders and world leaders with whom the President met continue to look to the United States and President Nixon as an essential factor in the realization of the continuing efforts to develop a structure for stable international environment."

During the two days of talking with high officials and mingling with crowds on the street, Mr. Nixon and his aides were clearly relieved by the absence of the opposition and criticism that he encounters in the United States. There were no hecklers, no "impeach Nixon" signs. Yesterday and this morning, heads of state came one by one to the American embassy residence for brief, informal meetings with Mr. Nixon.

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As if to assure the leaders that he will be permitted to continue in office, Mr. Nixon promised to visit Japan sometime this year, made plans for a summit meeting with Soviet leaders in Moscow in the early summer and made it plain he still hopes to visit Europe again this year.

Mr. Nixon arrived in Paris Friday night for yesterday's memorial services for President Pompidou. A spokesman said before his departure that, out of respect for Mr. Pompidou, it would be inappropriate for the President to have substantive talks with other leaders also in Paris for the service.

After the ceremony in Notre Dame yesterday morning, however, he immediately began a round of talks on what his

aides said was a wide range of international issues. He met yesterday with officials of France, Italy, Britain, West Germany and Denmark.

Meeting With Podgorny

This morning, Nikolai V. Podgorny, the Soviet President, arrived at the embassy residence at 9 for breakfast with Mr. Nixon. They talked for two hours.

Mr. Haig said of the discussions:

"There was a tour d'horizon, a discussion of U.S.-Soviet relations in the area of trade, some discussion of the agenda of the SALT discussions at the summit, a review of the situation in the Middle East. They primarily held a discussion of topics that the leaders would press in detail and in depth during the Moscow summit."

"During the breakfast meeting," Mr. Haig added, "it was very clear that the Soviets and ourselves are very optimistic about the outcome and it is clear that there will be positive results."

But he would not be specific, as shown by this exchange with reporters:

Q. Did they talk about the question of Soviet Jewish immigration and the trade bill?

A. They were broad-ranging discussions, yes.

Q. Can we assume [those specific issues] were in the broad range of discussions?

A. Broad-ranging discussions.

'A Viable Presidency'

Mr. Haig, who usually reflects what Mr. Nixon is thinking, said last night that world leaders gathered in Paris could not conceive of Mr. Nixon being impeached and convicted.

On the other hand he warned that "a viable Presidency is a cornerstone of world security." The same theme was expressed privately by other aides.

The indispensability of his leadership in foreign affairs, has been the cornerstone of the speeches Mr. Nixon has

been giving across the United States.

The White House view is that many of the foreign leaders at the weekend meetings are going through difficulties of their own, and that there was a general sense of rapport among the Western leaders, coupled with a feeling that continuing United States leadership is essential.

White House officials also believe that although the domestic difficulties being experienced by other government leaders might be different in character these leaders all respected President Nixon's ability to continue to work function effectively abroad.

Mr. Nixon also spent an hour today with Premier Kakuei Tanaka of Japan. Mr. Haig said the men discussed East-West relations, the role of Japan in the Atlantic community, the President's planned trip to the Soviet Union and other matters.

Pressed by Crowds

After his meeting with Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Nixon left for Orly airport. As he passed a crowd of several hundred gathered on the street outside the residence wall he got out of his car and began shaking hands.

"Au revoir. I will come again," he said in a curbside speech. "A very warm goodbye and a beautiful day, but we had a very good visit with our friends from France. Of course, we couldn't go into many matters because of the occasion, but also, it was an opportunity to see many other people from around the world."

On the way back to Washington on the President's plane, Mr. Haig said that Mr. Nixon was very optimistic about the prospects for progress at the forthcoming summit meeting in Moscow, despite Secretary of State Kissinger's failure to make substantive progress on disarmament when he was there recently.

After arriving in Washington, President Nixon went to Camp David for a brief rest.