

## Nixon's Jet Flees Escort

From News Dispatches

DAMASCUS, June 15—As President Nixon's plane approached Syria's capital today it was greeted by an honor guard of four MIG fighters—and took seven minutes of violent evasive action, shaking up the occupants, because no one had told the President's pilot to expect an escort.

Col. Ralph D. Albertazzie, pilot of the "Spirit of '76," made a sharp right turn and radioed Damascus control tower for identification of the fighters. Meanwhile, he continued to evade them, rocking the plane as he changed course and altitude.

The incident took place about 50 to 60 miles south of Damascus, the third stop of his five-country tour of the Middle East, as the President's party flew from Saudi Arabia.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger—a frequent visitor to Damascus during his shuttle diplomacy of recent months—said afterward, "I've been here 14 times, and none of this ever happened before."



United Press International  
**RALPH ALBERTAZZIE**  
... surprised by escort.