

Nixon Leaves Monday on Mideast Tour

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The White House announced today President Nixon's itinerary for his visit to the Middle East next week, saying that he would seek to "consolidate what has been achieved on the road to peace."

The President will leave Washington on Monday and fly to Salzburg, Austria, where he will rest for a day. From there he is to travel to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Israel and Jordan, returning to the United States on June 18.

The President will be accompanied by Secretary of State Kissinger and by Mrs. Nixon.

Mr. Nixon will be the first American President to travel to the Middle East since Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the Cairo conference during World War II.

Gerald L. Warren, deputy press secretary, said the President's travels would not be a "goodwill trip" but a working tour in which the United States would press forward with diplomatic initiatives to help to build a permanent peace between Israel and the Arab States.

Mr. Warren declined to say whether the United States and Syria would resume formal relations during the President's visit to Damascus. The two countries broke relations after the six-day Israeli-Arab war in 1967.

Relations between the Unit-

ed States and Egypt, which were also severed in 1967, were formally resumed earlier this year.

Mr. Nixon will leave Washington on Monday and stop in Austria, where he reportedly will meet with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Salzburg.

The President will be in Egypt from June 12 to 14 and will meet with President Anwar el-Sadat. On June 14 and 15 he will visit Saudi Arabia, where he will confer with King Faisal.

On June 15-16 Mr. Nixon will be in Syria for talks with President Hafez al-Assad. In Israel, on June 16 and 17 there will be talks with the new

Premier, Yitzhak Rabin. On June 17 and 18, the President will be in Jordan to confer with King Hussein before flying for home on the 18th. A little more than a week later, on June 27, he will depart for Moscow.

Some critics have said it would be improper for the President to travel abroad and conduct diplomacy while Congress is considering his impeachment. The White House has rejected this criticism.

Last week the President's lawyer, James D. St. Clair, said he had no objection to the impeachment proceedings continuing during the President's absence.