

Nixon trip to begin

First stop -- Cairo

Examiner News Service

WASHINGTON — President Nixon, at his nearby Camp David, Md., retreat, plowed through secret briefing papers yesterday in a last-minute preparation for a trip to the Middle East and a personal bid to strengthen a new relationship with the Arab world.

Aides said Nixon, who was scheduled to depart tomorrow morning, was studying intensively a pile of classified documents related to the economic, military and diplomatic issues he will be discussing with leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Israel during the 14,770-mile journey.

Cairo will be the Nixon party's first mid-east stop on June 12. Because of the haste with which the unprecedented presidential journey has been planned, the White House has not yet worked out details of the remainder of the journey, except that it will wind up in Jordan on June 18.

Advance teams of security, communications,

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press, housing and transportation personnel have been working around the clock since last weekend to put together the trip and carry out the necessary negotiations with the host countries.

The party will land first at Salzburg, Austria, for an overnight rest stop. When traveling overseas, Nixon routinely stops somewhere en route for about 24 hours to adjust to the time change and rid himself of travel fatigue before officially arriving at his destination.

Nixon will fly aboard his "Spirit of '76" plane and the accompanying party, including 130 members of the news media, will travel on two commercial jets.

The presidential party will include Secretary of State Kissinger, whose diplomacy paved the way for the first visit of an American president

to the Middle East since Franklin D. Roosevelt was there in World War II.

Everyone, including the Nixons, was advised to get six immunization shots including smallpox, cholera and polio.

White House officials told the travelers to expect temperatures ranging from 70 degrees in Salzburg to 100 degrees in Saudi Arabia.

No rain was expected, the presidential forecaster said, but they warned "it will be particularly humid in Saudi Arabia."

Nixon's talks with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia will be held in Jidda rather than in the capital of Riyadh because Jidda, on the Red Sea, has a better climate, officials said.

Precise location of the President's conference with Syrian President Hafez Assad has not been disclosed, and sources left open the possibility it may be held some place other than the capital of Damascus.