

Vice President Ford and other administration officials gave Mr. Nixon a sendoff on the White House lawn. Tricia and Edward Cox are at left

Nixon in Austria to BeginTour SFChronicle

Salzburg, Austria

President Nixon arrived last night in Salzburg, completing the first leg of a journey that will carry him through the Middle East to seek what he called a "permanent and lasting and just and equitable peace."

"Every nation in the world has a stake in maintaining peace in the Middle East," Mr. Nixon said after stepping from his jetliner into an Austrian rainstorm.

"We trust this journey will contribute to peace not just in that area but to peace generally in all the world."

The presidential jet touched down after an 8½-hour flight from Wash-

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ington. Chancellor Bruno Kreisky greeted Mr. Nixon, his wife Pat, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and other members of the official party. He proclaimed Mr. Nixon "a pacemaker for peace."

Standing beside the American President in the rain, Kreisky said the world is fortunate that such powers as the United States and the Soviet Union are making "strenuous efforts for peace in the world."

Mr. Nixon's aides said that during a 36-hour stay in this Alpine city the President will continue "intensive preparations" for his swing through five Middle East nations which he said in Washington have "known nothing but war over the past 30 to 40 years."

The President seemed to be trying to put behind him his domestic problems of Watergate and possible impeachment. En route to Salzburg, Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler refused to answer questions by reporters on the subject, saying such inquiries would be handled by the White House counsel's office in Washington,

More Nixon trip news on Pages 18 and 19.

In his arrival comments, the President referred to his visit here in 1972 en route to Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders. Kreisky did, too, saying the journey to Moscow had led to reduced tension in the world.

In contrast to his 1972 arrival, when Vietnam, war protesters thronged through Salzburg's airport, Mr. Nixon was greeted last night by an applauding crowd of several hundred persons.

After the arrival ceremonies, the President was driven by limousine to an 18th cenutry guest house that once housed Salzburg nobility.

Mr. Nixon told a farewell crowd at the White House that "We realize that one trip is not going to solve differences that are very deep, which go back many years and in some cases centuries. But we also realize that a beginning has to be made."

"Now, as I go there, it will provide an opportunity to reaffirm support for the initiatives that have been undertaken," he added. The President is scheduled to begin the diplomatic portion of his trip with a flight tomorrow to Egypt. He also will visit Saudi Arabia, Syria, Israel and Jordan before returning to the U.S. June 19.

Associated Press



Austrian Chancellor Kreisky (right) greeted President Nixon at Salzburg airport. Mrs. Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger are at left.