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**Most Israelis Hail Nixon;
Some Cite Watergate Role**

By JOHN HERBERS

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JERUSALEM, June 16 — Israel showered President Nixon with praise and cheers this afternoon when he arrived fresh from conferences with Arab leaders in three countries.

Despite some apprehensions about the new American initiatives for friendship with Israel's enemies, Government leaders made every effort to make the President welcome and the people turned out in large numbers to cheer him.

However, he encountered, here in Israel, the first show of hostility of his Middle Eastern journey — signs, held by some in the crowds, disparaging his role in the Watergate affair.

"You are the first President of the United States to visit the state of Israel," President Ephram Katzir told Mr. Nixon in a ceremony at Tel Aviv airport. "You, personally, Mr. President, have demonstrated in a singular manner your amity and your constant readiness to come to our assistance. We shall never forget that you stood with us in hours of grave perils as well as in days of opportunity and hope."

The President was then driven into Jerusalem past crowds estimated by Israeli officials at more than 100,000, and to conferences with Government officials who were waiting with a long agenda of tough problems they wanted to

take up with the Americans.

Mr. Nixon came here from Damascus, where he announced the resumption of diplomatic relations with Syria, which has been a bitter enemy of Israel.

In response to President Katzir's praise, President Nixon said that, "As I travel to nations that over the past few years have been Israel's traditional adversaries, I have been glad to know that the people of this nation understand, that they appreciate the purpose of that journey. That purpose is the purpose of peace all over the world."

Outside the airport, a crowd of several thousand, mostly youths wearing orange, yellow, blue and red hats, cheered as the limousine carrying the two Presidents approached. The sunroof of the car had been opened so they could stand up and be seen. The motorcade then moved through groves of olive trees and into the city of Lydda where another big crowd was waiting.

They rode for 31 miles, past the Ramle Prison, where Adolf Eichmann was executed, through the valley of Latrun, past a Trappist monastery and lines of curious monks and into the mountains to the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Elaborate preparations had been made for the Nixon visit.

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Extensive security precautions had been taken to a greater degree than for the visit of former Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany last year. Streets were blocked for two hours before the arrival, causing huge traffic jams.

Mayor Teddy Kolek had distributed a large stock of American flags, along with a letter to citizens characterizing Mr. Nixon as "a great friend of Israel." Schools were closed for the occasion.

A group calling itself "the Ad Hoc Committee for the Impeachment of Richard Nixon" was denied a request to demonstrate against Mr. Nixon and had to hold its demonstration in a park before the President's arrival.

When the motorcade arrived in Jerusalem, the streets were teeming with people. Apartment houses were draped with American and Israeli flags. But for the first time on his trip, there were the kind of signs that Mr. Nixon encounters almost everywhere he goes at home. Samples:

A Big Hand for Kissinger

"Remove All the Expletives," a reference to his Watergate transcripts; "You Can't Run From Justice," "Welcome President Ford." And "We Are All Jew Boys." This was in reference to reports, which the White House has denied, that Mr. Nixon made disparaging references to Jews in some of the tape recordings.

When the motorcade got to the King David Hotel, a crowd outside cheered the President, but cheered louder for Secretary of State Kissinger, who seemed delighted. He waved and smiled.

Around the hotel, soldiers with guns and searchlights were visible on every roof as Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger moved in to confer with Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other officials.

It was not disclosed what specific subjects were dis-

cussed, other than that Mr. Kissinger briefed the Israeli officials on the Nixon discussions with Arab leaders. Israeli officials were said to be anxious to hear further explanations for Mr. Nixon's reasons for making nuclear power for peaceful uses available to Egypt, and to secure further agreement for military aid. They were also planning to press Mr. Nixon to ask for a higher quota of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union when the President meets later this month in Moscow with Leonid E. Brezhnev, the Communist party leader.

Nixon Visits Mrs. Meir

Mr. Nixon paid a visit to former Premier Golda Meir, along with Mr. Kissinger, United States Ambassador Kenneth B. Keating and Premier Rabin.

Mrs. Meir has not yet moved out of the official premier's residence, a pale yellow stucco structure in a residential second-floor windows as the

limousines pulled up. The meeting lasted more than one hour. Tonight Mr. and Mrs. Nixon and members of the presidential party were guests at a state dinner at the Parliament building.

Mr. Kissinger will leave the presidential trip tomorrow to attend the meeting in Ottawa of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. President Nixon, after a round of further talks and ceremony here, will depart for Jordan, the last stop on his Middle-East trip.

Possible Portugal Talk

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said that Mr. Nixon would probably confer with President António de Spínola of Portugal in the Azores, where Mr. Nixon plans to stop overnight Tuesday before returning to Washington. Mr. Ziegler said that General Spínola had requested the meeting.

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