

# Nixon Vows U.S. 'Will

Washington

President Nixon returned to a warm White House welcome after a ten-day trip to the Middle East that he described as "the beginning of a journey toward a lasting peace, not only in the Middle East but all over the world."

Mr. Nixon told a low-key but enthusiastic White House crowd that his five-nation Middle East tour convinced him there is among

the millions living in those lands "trust for America, respect for America, and really some very strong affection for America."

"We must not let these people down," Mr. Nixon said. "We must help, because America must play and will play the crucial role in continuing the progress toward peace."

Waging peace is, in fact, more difficult than waging

war," Mr. Nixon went on, but I think all of us realize the rewards are infinitely greater. Let us be worthy of the hopes and trust of millions of people that most of us will never meet."

Sunburned and looking tired, the President stepped from a blue-and-white Air Force helicopter onto the south lawn of the White House at 4:29 p.m. EDT. He was followed down the heli-

## Play Crucial Peace Role'

copter steps by Mrs. Nixon, his daughters Tricia and Julie and his son-in-law David Eisenhower, who had all boarded the helicopter at Andrews Air Force Base.

Standing in the bright sun on the White House lawn, Mr. Nixon was met by Vice President Gerald Ford and all but two members of his Cabinet.

In the crowd pressing around him were 200 teen-

age Republican guests and most of the White House staff, many of them holding tiny American flags.

"Two more years! Two more years!" chanted the crowd, some of whom were wagging two fingers of their right hands in tune with the chant. One woman with a loud, clear voice sang out: "Five more years . . . Ten more years."

Mr. Nixon made no refer-

ence to the Watergate troubles he once again is facing. Instead, he spoke only of the peacemaking mission he had left behind and the other one he was about to begin to Moscow.

"We must dedicate ourselves to stay the course," Mr. Nixon emphasized, "to stand tall until we reach our goal."

Looking back on his talks

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with Israeli and Arab leaders in the Middle East, Mr. Nixon said he noticed a "profound" change in attitudes in that part of the world.

"A profound and, I believe, lasting change has taken place in these respects," he said. "First, there was no hope for peace. There is now hope.

"Second, where there was hostility for America, there is now friendship . . . Third, where we did have the opportunity to meet new friends in Egypt and in Syria, we were able to reassure old friends in Israel, Saudi Arabia and Jordan."

The President was welcomed to the White House lawn by Vice President Ford.

"When you left a few days ago," Ford said, "There was some apprehension in some quarters that this vitally important mission might not achieve the objectives we all hoped for . . . but I think we have seen that the actions taken by you have cemented the great accomplishments of the secretary of State during his negotiations."

"It has been wonderful to see Mrs. Nixon," Ford continued, "where she actually charmed and captivated the people of all countries. I think it is fair to say that Mrs. Nixon could now be called the First Lady of the world."

Finally, Ford quoted an old Arab saying that he said "goes something like this: 'May Allah make the end better than the beginning.'"

For his part, Mr. Nixon dwelled on the peace that has settled over the Middle East. He said the tumultuous welcomes he received meant less a personal welcome than the hopes that the

U.S. will make the peace last.

"I would like to say a word with regard to . . . millions of people in Cairo and Alexandria and Damascus . . . welcoming the President of the United States and his wife," Mr. Nixon said. "What it really meant was not a welcome in the personal sense, but it meant something far more significant.

"It meant very simply that millions of people who have known nothing but poverty and war for the last 30 years desperately want peace," Mr. Nixon went on. "They believe that America wants peace, too. They believe that we will help in achieving peace and progress without exacting the price of domination over them."

Mr. Nixon returned to Washington after an overnight stop in the Azores, where he met with President Antonio de Spínola of Portugal. He said he had assured Spínola, who assumed the leadership of Portugal after a coup in April, that he would have all possible support from the United States.

Last night, Mr. Nixon went out for a two-hour dinner cruise aboard the presidential yacht Sequoia with his wife, two daughters, son-in-law David Eisenhower and secretary Rose Mary Woods.

The White House announced that Mr. Nixon had canceled his plans to go to Florida today prior to his departure next Tuesday to attend a meeting of NATO leaders in Brussels and to meet with Communist leaders in Moscow.

Mr. Nixon now plans to go to his Camp David, Md., mountaintop retreat to concentrate on preparations for the summit meetings.

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