

Cheers Greet Nixon

Mideast Trip Boosts Peace, President Says

By Thomas O'Toole
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon returned to a warm White House welcome yesterday after a 10-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."

Waving and smiling his thanks to a low-key but enthusiastic White House crowd, the President said 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."

"While waging peace is more difficult than waging war, the rewards are infinitely greater," Mr. Nixon went on. "Let us be worthy of the hopes and trust of millions of people that most of us will never meet."

Sun-burned 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. He was followed down the helicopter steps by Mrs. Nixon and their daughters Tricia and Julie and his son-in-law David Eisenhower—the others joining Mr. and Mrs. Nixon for the helicopter flight.

Standing in the bright sun on the White House lawn, Mr. Nixon was met by Vice President Ford and all but two members of his Cabinet. The only absentees were Housing and Urban Development Secretary James T. Lynn and Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton, both of whom were out of town.

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 reference to the Watergate troubles he once again is facing. Instead, he spoke only of the peace-making mission he had left behind and the next one he is 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 with Israeli and Arab leaders in the Middle East, Mr. Nixon

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came to the White House said he noticed a "profound" change in attitude 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 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."

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 hope that the United States will make the peace last.

"I would like to say a word with regard to . . . literally 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 planned to stay at the White House only one night before going to Camp David, Md., the President's mountaintop retreat, for a long weekend of rest and preparation for the summit talks that begin with Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev in Moscow next Thursday.

This morning the President will brief congressional leaders of both parties on his Mideast trip and meet with the

Cabinet and the National Security Council before departing for Key Biscayne at 2 p.m.

Besides Cabinet members greeting Mr. Nixon, there were Office of Management and Budget Director Roy Ash, White House counselor Dean Burch, Republican National Committee Chairman George Bush and counselor Anne Armstrong.

Possibly the most curious member of the welcoming committee was Donald E. Santarelli, who has resigned as head of the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration because of statements he made in the turmoil of Watergate.

"Who let him in the gate?" somebody asked.

"He hasn't left," White House communications chief Kenneth W. Clawson said, "until he's been replaced."



By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post

President greets crowd at Andrews Air Force Base that turned out to welcome him back from his 10-day tour of the Middle East.

Tentative Schedule For Soviet Summit

MOSCOW, June 19 (UPI) — President Nixon will have at least five sessions with Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev, according to a tentative schedule released by American sources here.

It calls for Mr. Nixon to arrive in the Soviet Union June 27 and to remain until July 3. As during the President's 1972 visit, he will speak on Soviet television, the schedule indicates.

He will spend June 29 and 30 on the Black Sea coast, probably at the resort of Yalta, although it is possible the site may be Sochi. Monday, July 1 is set aside for Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia.