

Nixon Copter Gift Cost \$3 Million

Washington

President Nixon's gift of a Navy helicopter to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in June cost the United States at least \$3 million, the Office of Management and Budget has reported.

In a letter to Senator Joseph M. Montoya (Dem.-N.M.), a spokesman for the budget agency said funds to pay for the aircraft would come from the Agency for International Development.

"About \$3 million will be required in total, which includes the amortized value of the helicopter, spare parts, support equipment,

and tools, all of which are now in Egypt, and training for pilots and mechanics," an OMB spokesman wrote.

Mr. Nixon presented the VIP version of the Sikorsky military helicopter to Sadat during his recent visit to Egypt. Sadat reportedly expressed his approval of the aircraft in which the two were flying and Mr. Nixon told him he could keep it as a gift from the United States.

The OMB spokesman said the procedure was permitted under the Foreign Assistance Act.

Associated Press