

Nixon Back in California

El Toro Marine Base

Several thousand cheering, flag-waving, singing supporters greeted private citizen Richard M. Nixon on his return home to California yesterday, only hours

was the first time a crowd had been allowed on the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro after he relinquished the Presidency.

"Thank you very much," Mr. Nixon told the throng. It

was the first time a crowd had been allowed on the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro for the arrival of Air Force One.

"In a way, we have really never left you," the former President added. "I can assure you that in the years we have had thousands of

messages, the ones that have meant the most have been the ones we get right here in California."

However, Mr. Nixon said that "having completed one task does not mean that we can sit in the California sun and do nothing."

Gesturing to the plane he had renamed the Spirit of '76, he asked the crowd to remember what it was named for.

"America came into the world 200 years ago for the purpose of making the whole world a peaceful world," he said. "Over the past five years we are proud we have brought the whole world closer to the dream of peace

...
"I am going to continue to work for peace among all nations . . . And we are going to continue to be very proud of the fact that we, like you, are Californians and we are now home again."

Mr. Nixon was accompanied on the flight home by his wife Pat, his daughter and son-in-law, Tricia and Edward Cox, and several staff members.

The former President and Mrs. Nixon stepped from the plane first, smiling and waving to the crowd that had created a traffic jam in the vicinity of the air station.

They were greeted by base officials before Mr. Nixon stepped to a microphone for brief extemporaneous remarks.

"Hi," he began, then smiled and broke into laughter as the crowd cheered and waved American flags. At the conclusion of his remarks and as the party moved to depart for the Nixon home at San Clemente, the crowd of over 5000 sang, "God Bless America."

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