

^{St. Chronicle} Nixon Chats With People in Peking

Peking

Former President Nixon mingled with Chinese crowds yesterday chatting, shaking hands and patting babies' cheeks like an American political campaigner.

In what appeared to be a spontaneous gesture, Mr. Nixon walked off into the large Tien An Mien Square to meet the people of Peking, urging them "to visit us in the United States some time."

Observers could recall no other Western visitor who had attempted such a gesture and it seemed to take the Chinese by surprise.

At first the crowd melted away and not until he clearly indicated he wanted to shake hands did they relax and mill amiably around the beaming ex-president.

Later Mr. Nixon, on his third full day here, had a third session of talks with China's new acting premier, Hua Kuo-peng. No details were released.

Mr. Nixon, on a private visit, has now had about eight hours of talks with Hua and Chairman Mao Tse-tung. This is far more than most state leaders are allocated.

The ex-president, who had been in seclusion since the Water-gate scandal forced his resignation



Richard Nixon extended his hand to a child in Tien An Mien Square

UPI Telephone

on August, 1974, started the day by touring the recently reopened History Museum.

He peppered guides with questions and kept up a steady good-humored banter as he viewed exhibits ranging from stone-age fossils to Ching dynasty figurines.

In front of one showcase the conversation turned to the Chinese-Soviet border clash of 1969.

"Who started it?" Mr. Nixon

asked Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua.

"Of course, they started it,"

Chiao said, smiling.

"Good answer. Who won?"

"We just drove them away."

"Good diplomatic answer," said Mr. Nixon.

On leaving the museum Mr. Nixon walked out into the sunlit-square. People slowly gathered

around and Mr. Nixon asked one man whether he planned to have more than one child.

"Answering the call of our government, we are practising birth planning and will at most have two," was the reply.

At one point he declared to the crowd: "I bring you good wishes and friendship from America. If you come to America, I will welcome you."

Reuters