

Chinese WXPPost FEB 22 1976 Welcome Nixon

Ex-President Is Greeted As 'Friend'

From News Dispatches

PEKING, Feb. 21 — Former President Richard M. Nixon ended his self-imposed isolation today with a trip halfway around the world to the site of one of his greatest diplomatic triumphs.

Nixon and his wife, Pat, received a simple but warm airport welcome as a "friend" of China, but elsewhere in the Chinese capital there were no flags or other signs of greeting for the former president.

Nixon was greeted on the icy, windswept tarmac of Peking's airport by Acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng, who made his first public appearance since being named, in a surprise move, acting premier after the death last month of Chou En-lai.

[Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said today in Brasilia that State Department officials will want to speak with Nixon when he returns about his talks with Chinese leaders.]

As if to symbolize the progress made in Sino-American relations since Nixon's visit here in 1972, about 50 Chinese who have visited the United States since then were on hand at the airport to greet the Nixons.

Some 300 "representatives of the masses" waved small bunches of flowers and applauded near the ramp of Nixon's plane, a Boeing 707 of the Chinese national airline which had been sent to the United States to pick up the Nixons.

Preceding his wife, the former president descended the ramp slowly and raised one arm to salute the Chinese leaders and crowd waiting in the icy wind. Special floodlights lit up the scene.

The nine high-ranking figures on hand to meet the former president included

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Yao Lien-wei, vice chairman of the standing committee of the People's Congress; Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua; Minister of Public Health Liu Hsiang-ping and Huang Chen, chief of the Chinese Liaison Office in Washington.

Except for brief visits in the surrounding area of southern California, the trip to Peking was the first time Nixon has ventured from his home in San Clemente since he resigned the presidency on Aug. 9, 1974, in the Watergate scandal.

He returned to Peking four years to the day after he came there on a historic visit to open partial ties between the United States and China.

Absent from the airport reception was Senior Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, who was host to President Ford on his visit here last December.

Teng has been attacked recently in the Chinese press and in wallposters, and Western observers are watching the Nixon visit closely for possible sugges-

tions about the policies and personalities of the new Chinese leadership.

Also present was Harry Thayer, assistant head of the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking, who said his office had made no special arrangements for Nixon's visit.

When Nixon's plane landed in Tokyo for a refueling stop, Chinese and Japanese diplomats were there to greet him, but there were no representatives of the U.S. embassy, although Ambassador James D. Hodgson was a Nixon appointee.

There have been suggestions in Washington that Nixon's acceptance of the Chinese invitation and the timing of his arrival here only days before the New Hampshire primary will prove an embarrassment for President Ford.

Diplomats have speculated that China may use the occasion for further criticism of U.S.-Soviet detente and to attempt to spur Washington into establishing full diplomatic relations. Mr. Ford is under attack from former Gov. Ronald

Reagan of California on his policies toward both the Soviet Union and China.

There has been no Chinese reaction to this criticism.

After the 10-minute airport ceremony Nixon entered a large limousine bearing U.S. and Chinese flags and rode with Acting Premier Hua to the city center and Nixon's lakeside residence, the same one he used during his trip here in 1972.

The Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, did not mention today the imminent arrival of the man who helped restore Sino-American relations.

Hours before the Nixons arrived, Chinese officials still were declining to release information about the trip. However, when the itinerary was finally released it included banquets, gala cultural shows and visits to museums and a university—a schedule befitting a visit by a head of state.

Much of the current campaign by leftists against the pragmatists has been carried out through wall posters at universities, and Nixon's visit to Tsinghua University should include

glimpses of the current political upheaval.

Nixon also will hold talks with Chinese leaders, probably including chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Mrs. Nixon will have a separate program in Peking, including visits to the Children's Palace and kindergartens.

According to the schedule, the Nixons will leave Peking on Thursday and fly to the southeastern resort, Kweilin. On Saturday, they will travel south to Canton, returning to the United States on Sunday.

In a brief conversation at the Nixon guest house after their arrival Hua said that Feb. 21 "is a very memorable day for us" because it marks the time "four years ago—it was exactly four years ago—when Mr. Nixon took his courageous act in coming to China. It was during that visit that our two sides issued the Shanghai communique that opened the door to the development of relations."

Hua recalled that Nixon's daughter Julie recently was in China and met with 82-year-old Mao. It was during that meeting, Hua said, that "Chairman Mao told your

daughter he would welcome you back to China."

Laughing, Hua turned to Foreign Minister Chiao and said, "She called her father the very next day."

Kissinger Says U.S. Will Debrief Nixon

Washington Post Foreign Service
BRASILIA, Feb. 21—The State Department will want to talk to former President Richard M. Nixon about "the nature of his discussions and about his impressions" when Nixon returns from his current visit to China, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said today.

Kissinger said in response to a question that although the U.S. government did not initiate Nixon's trip, it favored "any act that stresses the significance either side attaches to the relationship" between the two countries.

"We will of course wish to learn about the nature of his discussions and about his impressions," Kissinger said. The remark is an about-face from an earlier State Department statement that Nixon probably would not be asked about his visit.

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