

President seeks 'lasting peace'

Nixon's Mideast journey begins

WASHINGTON — President Nixon embarked on an historic tour of five Middle East nations Monday in hopes of firming up a troubled peace abroad and shoring up his public standing at home.

"We believe this trip, like the other journeys we have taken, will contribute to that lasting peace which we as Americans are so deeply dedicated," he said in a brief speech on the White House lawn.

Recalling his 1972 visits to Peking and Moscow, Nixon said, "Both of those journeys were ones that had a profound impact not only the relations of the nations involved but also on building a structure of peace for the whole world."

After a two-day rest stop in Salzburg, Austria, the President and his party will head for Cairo, Egypt, where an anticipated tumultuous welcome awaits him Wednesday morning. He also will visit Jiddah, Saudi Arabia; Damascus, Syria; Tel Aviv, Israel; and Amman, Jordan, before returning to Washington next week.

Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Cairo for a summit conference in 1943. Nixon noted that no other American president has visited the four other countries

on his schedule, and said the trip would "take us to a part of the world that has known nothing but war over the past 30 to 40 years."

"We realize that one trip is not going to solve differences that are very deep, that go back some cases many years, and in some cases centuries," he said. "But we also realize that a beginning must be made."

Nixon's remarks were addressed to a group of diplomats and officials gathered at the White House to wish him well before he boarded the helicopter which ferried him and his party to his "Spirit of '76" jet liner,

Air Force 1, at nearby Andrews Air Force Base.

Referring to cease-fire agreements that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger — who accompanied him on the trip — negotiated recently between Israel and Egypt and between Israel and Syria, Nixon said he was taking the opportunity to "reaffirm our support for these initiatives."

He also wanted, he said, "to explore ways that we can have new and better relations between the United States and each nation in the area . . . and also explore ways in which those nations in the area may have better

relations with each other and build toward the permanent and lasting and just equitable peace that all of them, we know, want and certainly that we want."

The day was hot, sunny and humid. Nixon wore a blue suit, and the First Lady wore a powder blue suit with white trim.

The rest stop in Austria was scheduled to help overcome the so-called "jet lag" involved in the seven-hour time zone difference between Washington and the Arab world. A similar overnight stay at the Azores Islands in the Atlantic was listed on the return itinerary.

Golan withdrawal continues

A spokesman for the United Nations observer force on the Golan Heights cease-fire lines reported Monday that the separation of Syrian and Israeli troops is "proceeding smoothly."

Military sources in Tel Aviv said Israel was withdrawing troops and weapons on schedule in preparation for turning over

occupied territory to Syria beginning on Friday.

Virtually the entire 1,260-man complement of the U.N. Disengagement Observation Force has taken up positions in the buffer zone between the two armies under the terms of a disengagement agreement engineered by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Nixon will arrive in Cairo Wednesday for a three-day visit followed by stops in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Israel and Jordan.

In a Damascus press briefing, U.N. spokesman Rudolf Stauduhar said, "All reports received so far indicate that the

separation of Syrian and Israeli troops has been proceeding smoothly and no incidents have been reported."

Under the terms of the disengagement accord, Israeli and Syrian troops are to be behind their new defensive lines by June 26.

Syrian and Israeli representatives are meeting regularly under U.N. supervision at UNDOF's post of Tal Shams in the Golan Heights.

Senate approves missile

WASHINGTON — After a rare secret session Monday, the Senate refused to stop the Pentagon from developing a "silo killer" missile warhead.

Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre, D-N.H., forced the secret session so he could quote classified documents in an effort to prove American missiles were already so accurate that any improvement could lead the Russians to believe the United States was seeking a "first-strike" capability.

Guards locked and blocked the doors to the Senate chamber after McIntyre, chairman of the armed services research subcommittee, strode in carrying a fat file from which protruded Defense Department documents stamped "Secret" in large red letters.

McIntyre argued that more accurate American missiles make the Soviet ICBM force more vulnerable and this "gives the Soviets an incentive to strike first" in a crisis.

News From United Press International

House refused tapes despite its warnings

WASHINGTON — Defying warnings that he risked both impeachment and contempt of court, President Nixon refused Monday to comply with subpoenas issued by a House committee for tapes and by a judge for criminal evidence.

Acting through aides while a plane carried him abroad on a mission he hoped would offset his deepening troubles at home, the President:

— Refused to surrender 45 subpoenaed tapes on post-Watergate conversations despite the House Judiciary Committee's warnings that further defiance of its subpoenas "might constitute grounds for impeachment."

— Told U.S. District Judge Gerhard

Gesell that he would not turn over all documents subpoenaed by the judge on behalf of John D. Ehrlichman, who wanted them for his defense in the forthcoming conspiracy trial which grew out of the Ellsberg break-in.

Nixon also told U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica that a portion of a Sept. 15, 1972 tape should not be turned over to a grand jury investigating alleged White House attempts to use the Internal Revenue Service for political purposes.

Sirica originally said 17½ minutes of the tape, which was first subpoenaed by Archibald Cox and surrendered last November, was unrelated to Watergate.

But on Friday Sirica said he was mistaken and he would give the prosecutors that portion of the tape.

In each case, Nixon invoked executive privilege, the doctrine that a President has an unalterable right to keep certain confidential documents secret.

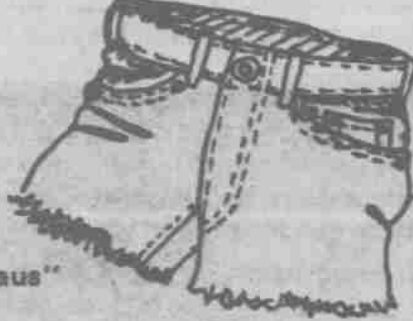
In the House, Rep. Robert McClory, R-Ill., a member of the House Judiciary Committee, said he was expecting to introduce a resolution on the floor Tuesday that would direct Nixon to surrender all 98 tapes subpoenaed by the committee so far.

Such a resolution could be voted upon within a week and "could lay the basis" of a House vote to hold the President in contempt of Congress, McClory said.

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With soup & salad \$1.50 Without \$1.17

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