

# Two Million Egyptians Hail Nixon

(Continued from Page One)

Nixon was exuberant from the tumultuous welcome, historic in terms of the program through private administration."

At times during the motorcade, the city of Cairo appeared to be carpeted with frenzied humanity. At no point were the streets deserted, and crowds six or seven deep lined most of the route.

EVERYONE RAISED hands to wave flags or flowers, some jumped, some danced, some pushed forward reaching for the car as if they felt an emotional need to touch it.

But amidst the gaiety of the sumptuous banquet after what Nixon described as one of the most memorable days of his life, Sadat injected a note of warning that the problems of the area are by no means solved.

Under the light-clustered palms Sadat cautioned that a solution to the Palestinian issue is "indispensable to the attainment of a just and durable peace."

Referring to the Arabs who were displaced when Palestine was set aside as Israel's homeland for the Jews, Sadat said a generation of war had resulted from "the aggression committed against the Palestine nation.

"This nation has been deprived by force of arms of its homeland, its property and all the prerequisites of life Sadat said. "Mr. President, let me be candid with you lest in the future there be a misunderstanding of the turn of events in our region.

"THE POLITICAL solution and the respect of the national aspiration of the Palestinians are the crux of the whole problem. Its solution is indispensable for the attainment of a just and durable peace."

Referring to the Palestinian problems mentioned by Sadat, Nixon said he did not come to Cairo "with ready-made solutions for these complex problems, some of which are going to require a great deal of dedicated diplomacy on the part of all parties concerned in order to find a just and equitable solution."

"However, I do say, Mr. President," Nixon added, "the United States will play a positive role (in the search for a just peace.) We in America want to be friends with this nation."

Nixon and Sadat had exchanged formal greetings on the balcony of Koubbeh Palace shortly after the President's arrival. The two leaders pledged continuing efforts to erase what they called the years of misunderstanding which have separated the two countries.

Nixon, smiling broadly with obvious elation at his welcome, said the two countries have been for too long going through a period of misunderstanding.

"TODAY MARKS the day when by your meeting with the President of the United States, the two Presidents of Egypt and the United States meeting together, we cement the foundation of a new relationship," he said. He added

the hope that the two countries would work together in the goal of peace.

Sadat, in return, said the Middle East disengagements had been achieved because of the "efforts of the United States under your leadership and wise guidance."

"I have never seen anything like it," Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler told reporters. "It is the largest and most dramatic and most spontaneous (welcome) Nixon has ever received during his years in office."

The spontaneity could have been questioned by those who watched preparations for the greeting, which included bringing in up to 100,000 cheerleaders to rehearse the crowds in chanting Nixon's name.

BUT ZIEGLER said Sadat told Nixon, "It is only when they feel it in their hearts they cheer like this."

Cairo has a population of 4.5 million, and the estimate that two million had turned out for the motorcade was furnished by Egyptian security officials. They numbered 30,000 of their own security officers to supplement the U.S. Secret Service detail accompanying the President. This number exceeded the one million Indians who greeted President Dwight D. Eisenhower in New Delhi in 1959 and the 750,000 Germans who greeted President John F. Kennedy in West Berlin in 1963.

Only one minor discordant sign was visible along the route—it said "Remember the Palestinians," a reference to the Arabs displaced by the mandate which carved the state of Israel out of the Arab map.

Most shouted their love in either English or Arabic, and some shouted "Nixon, You Are Our Brother," in Arabic.

When the two Presidents completed their public greetings at Koubbeh Palace, a 400-room mansion once occupied by the Egyptian kings and now turned over to the Nixons during their stay, the Nixons paid a courtesy call on President and Mrs. Sadat at Tabara Palace.

LATER NIXON met privately with Sadat in the first of a series of summit meetings he will have with Arab and Israeli leaders on his five-nation tour.

Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Cairo for a three-power summit conference near the end of World War II, but no other American presidents have visited the other Nixon destinations of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Syria.

Today, the two Presidents and their parties plan to take a special train to Alexandria, where the Nixons are to entertain at an American state dinner at Ras El Tin Palace and spend the night.

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## What a Day! No Nastv Signs

(Continued from Page One)

trips to China and the Soviet Union in his prime — 1972. It was infinitely bigger and better than the one that greeted him on the first stop of this curious tour, the layover in Salzburg.

He and his party arrived at that picture-postcard city at 10 o'clock Monday night in a dreary drizzle, and stood in it while enduring the strains of an off-key oompah brass band that must have caused the city's patron saint, Mozart, to whirl in his mausoleum.

Yesterday was a day that was so lovingly hospitable that it must have made him forget for at least a few hours all the problems and threats that have descended upon him in the past year and a half: Watergate, impeachment processes, subpoenas, tapes, defections, alleged bribes, dirty tricks, a popularity collapse without precedent in the annals of the polls and, as of Tuesday, the stunning possibility that Henry Kissinger might desert his stricken ship of state.

Seated beside President Anwar Sadat in a car the Secret Service would never permit him to ride in in the United States, Nixon waved back happily and gratefully at a throng whose size and enthusiasm recalled the triumphant trips of President Eisenhower near the end of his second term.

The colorfully garbed multitudes never stopped chanting their welcomes as he passed through seas of them on the trip to the sumptuous palace that was one of the pleasure domes of Egypt's last ruling slob King Farouk.

Forests of placards in Arabic and English waved by countless onlookers saluted the President with such morale-building inscriptions as Hail Nixon We Trust Nixon — A Man of Honour You Have Our Confidence. God Bless You Mr. Nixon.

In the course of a brief exchange of compliments on the balcony of Koubbeh Palace after the parade, Nixon said to Sadat that he was "enormously moved" by the reception the people had given him. (Some of them, trying to break through to his car to shake his hand, had been stopped by police.)

Then, in concluding his remarks, he turned to his swarthy and beaming host and said the historians years later will perhaps see all of these great events in perspective. "But one fact stands out today. That without the vision, without the courage, without the statesmanship of President Sadat, we would not have made the progress toward peace that we have made. The world owes him a great debt for what he has done."

So it was a good day for both

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