

between the nations involved but also on building a structure of peace for the whole world.

This trip will take us to a part of the world that has known nothing but war over the past 30 to 40 years. As we go to five countries, four of which have never been visited by an American President before, we realize that one trip is not going to solve differences that are very deep, that go back in some cases many years and in some cases centuries, but we also realize that a beginning has to be made. As a great philosopher once said, the beginning is often the most important part of the work. And the beginning has been made toward a different relation and a better relation between the nations in that area.

We have been proud to play a part in that beginning. The disengagement between Israel and Egypt and later between Israel and Syria, and on the part of Secretary of State Kissinger and others and that the United States played, is one that we can be proud of. But now as I go there it will provide an opportunity to reaffirm support for the initiatives that have been undertaken to explore ways that we can have new and better relations between the United States and each nation in the area and also to 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 and equitable peace that all of them, we know, want and, certainly, that we want.

As we go, above everything else, we will bring to all the people that we will see, most of whom we will not have a chance to meet personally, but we will bring them, we know from the hearts of all Americans, whatever their partisan affiliation, the best wishes, the hopes for peace and for friendship not only between our countries and theirs but among all countries in that area. And with that kind of backing, with that kind of message from the people of the United States, we believe this trip, like the other journeys we have taken, will contribute to that lasting peace to which we, as Americans, are so deeply dedicated.

Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT. Mr. President, on behalf of everybody here this morning on this beautiful day in the Nation's Capital, let me express our appreciation for the great job you have done, and on behalf of 211 million Americans who I think join us in wishing you and Mrs. Nixon well, we will look forward to the successes which will, I think, materialize, building on what has been done in the past as we broaden the effort and broaden the accomplishments for peace.

We wish you well. Our prayers will be with you every day you are gone, and we look forward to a wonderful and successful trip.

Let us all say, on behalf of all Americans, God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:37 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. Following his remarks, the President and the First Lady boarded the helicopter for the flight to Andrews Air Force Base.

The White House announced, on June 9, that the official party would include the following:

THE PRESIDENT

MRS. NIXON

HENRY A. KISSINGER, Secretary of State

U.S. Ambassador or senior representative in the host country:

AMBASSADOR JOHN P. HUMES, Federal Republic of Austria

AMBASSADOR HERMANN F. EILTS, Arab Republic of Egypt

AMBASSADOR JAMES E. AKINS, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

THOMAS J. SCOTES, Head of the U.S. Interest Section, Syrian Arab Republic

AMBASSADOR KENNETH B. KEATING, Israel

AMBASSADOR THOMAS R. PICKERING, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

AMBASSADOR STUART N. SCOTT, Republic of Portugal

ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR., Assistant to the President

RONALD L. ZIEGLER, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary

MAJ. GEN. BRENT SCOWCROFT, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR., Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

ARTHUR A. HARTMAN, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs

Subpoena of Presidential Tapes and Materials

Letter to Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, From James D. St. Clair, Special Counsel to the President. June 10, 1974

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to the subpoena of the House of Representatives directed to Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, dated May 30, 1974, and returnable at 10:00 A.M. June 10, 1974, I am directed by the President to advise you that he must respectfully decline to furnish the material called for therein.

His reasons for this are stated in a separate letter addressed to you, dated June 9, 1974, and delivered to you herewith.

Sincerely,

JAMES D. ST. CLAIR,
Special Counsel to the President

[Hon. Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.]

NOTE: The letter was made available by the White House Press Office. It was not issued in the form of a White House press release.

For the President's letter to Chairman Rodino, see the following item.