

PRESS BRIEFING PAPER  
November 24, 1971

SUBJECT: Mrs. Nixon's Visit to  
West Africa

QUESTION: Why is Mrs. Nixon visiting the Ivory Coast?

ANSWER: Following Mrs. Nixon's designation as the President's Personal Representative for President Tolbert's inauguration in Liberia and her acceptance of Prime Minister Busia's invitation to visit Ghana, the Government of the Ivory Coast extended an invitation for her to visit that country. We have had extremely cordial relations with Ivory Coast and we hope Mrs. Nixon's visit will serve to underscore our interest in one of Africa's most rapidly developing countries.

QUESTION: When did Mrs. Nixon decide to go to Ghana?

ANSWER: Ghana's Prime Minister Busia visited President Nixon November 4. At that time he invited Mrs. Nixon to visit Ghana following the inaugural ceremonies in Monrovia, Liberia and Mrs. Nixon accepted.

QUESTION: Will this be Mrs. Nixon's first trip to Africa?

ANSWER: No. She accompanied her husband to Ghana's Independence Day ceremonies in 1957. They also visited Liberia and six other African countries at that time: Morocco, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya and Tunisia.

QUESTION: Why is Mrs. Nixon's trip limited to these three countries?

ANSWER: It is simply a matter of time. Her trip will last over a week as it is and it will not be possible for

her to extend it further.

QUESTION: Is there any reason why these particular countries were chosen?

ANSWER: The trip originally called for her to represent the President in Liberia at President Tolbert's inauguration. When Ghanaian and Ivory Coast leaders learned that she was travelling to West Africa, they asked her to visit their countries.

QUESTION: Were there invitations for her to visit other countries in the area?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: Who will accompany Mrs. Nixon on the trip?

ANSWER: We will announce names of the other members of the delegation and the members of Mrs. Nixon's party shortly.

QUESTION: Is this the first time a First Lady of the United States has visited Africa.

ANSWER: It is the first official visit to Africa by a First Lady of the United States.

QUESTION: Who is President Tolbert? What do we know about him?

ANSWER: President Tolbert is the former Vice President of Liberia who succeeded to his country's highest office upon the death of President William V.S. Tubman on July 23, 1971. He had been re-elected on May 1, 1971 along with President Tubman for a four-year term to begin January 3, 1972.

QUESTION: When do you hope to have more details on Mrs. Nixon's African trip?

ANSWER: We would hope to have full details including itinerary, members of the party, etc. about 10 days before she departs.

Clearances:

AF - Mr. Garter  
AF/P - Mr. Friedman  
AF/P - Mrs. Bell  
S/CPR - Mr. Coble  
S/PRS - Mr. McGurn  
AF/W - Mr. Aggrey

AF/W: ~~CA~~ all:bjr:ba 11/24/71