

Nixon Crosses Into East Berlin



CROSSING—Former Vice President Nixon, Mrs. Nixon and daughters, Patricia and Julie, cross border into East Berlin for tour. UPI Telephoto

BERLIN (AP) — Richard M. Nixon made a surprise trip through the Communist wall into East Berlin Wednesday night and entertained an East German night club audience with a piano rendition of the "Missouri Waltz" dedicated to Harry S. Truman.

It was the second trip of the day into the Communist sector for the former Vice President and his wife, Pat.

On the first trip, they were accompanied by about 20 carloads of Western newsmen and five carloads of Communist agents and newsmen intent on provoking him

about racial strife in the United States.

But on his unheralded second visit, only an official from the U.S. diplomatic mission in West Berlin, Jack Drown, a Nixon traveling companion from California, and a Western correspondent went along.

Explaining his decision to go into barricaded East Berlin again, Nixon said: "I want to go back over there without my Communist guides and try to get an idea of what life is really like in East Berlin."

Soon after Nixon's small party entered East Berlin the second time, a

man who appeared to be in his 50s approached and asked for a Western cigarette.

"Where are you from?" the man asked.

"We are from the United States," Nixon answered while the correspondent interpreted.

"Our only hope lies in you Americans," the man replied.

Suddenly, he motioned the Nixon party to keep quiet and pointed to the opposite side of the street.

An East German policeman, or Vopo as he is known in East Berlin, hove into view.

"Let's split up and go

our separate ways immediately," the man said and disappeared.

The policeman made no move to interfere.

After walking a distance, the Nixon party found a taxi.

Once inside the cab, the correspondent told the driver his passengers included the former Vice President of the United States and his wife.

The man immediately asked if he could have Nixon's autograph. He got it.

Nixon asked him why there were so few lights in East Berlin at night and why so few people were on the streets.

"That's par for the course in this town," the driver answered. "There's so much work we must do during the day that we're much too tired to do anything but rest at night."

"Anyway," he added, "there's not too much excitement to attract one in this town."

The Nixon party took the taxi to a small government-owned night club. Nixon had been told that if he wanted to see East Berliners at play, this was the place.

Soon after sitting down at a table, the word quickly spread that a for-

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