

President Nixon met today with more than a hundred and twenty members of Congress. There with the help of Henry Kissinger and others he was spelling out the ramifications of that new U S arms limitation agreement with Russia.

The President urging "a very serious inquiry" - into said pact; "because only in that way" - he told the congressmen "only in that way will you be convinced yourselves - and will the nation be convinced." But he also called for ratification - by September one; so we can then begin work - said he - on the next crucial phase of negotiations with the Russians.

At the same time, the President was stressing that Russia intends to go forward - "with programs for offensive weapons - not covered by the agreement;" which makes it imperative - he continued - that we also proceed with our own offensive weapon's programs. "We need a credible defense posture" - said the President - so that

the Soviet Union will have an incentive to negotiate."

***Kissinger adding, for his part, that the U S and
Russia - "are ideological adversaries and will remain so in
the foreseeable future." But, "each has an arsenal that
could wipe out the human race" - he went on; and so -
"we are compelled to co-exist."***

ECHEVERRIA

The White House again - a warm welcome today for visiting Mexican President Luis Echeverría. President Nixon hailing his guest as "a world leader of first rank." Whereupon Echeverría himself - added a homey touch; calling to the podium - two young women who were watching the ceremony along with their young daughters. It "must be our preoccupation" said he - that these children shall live in a "world of peace."

After that - the two men engaged in "frank and candid" talks; the subject of which - Echeverría later disclosed in part, in an address to a joint session of Congress; contending that "Mexican-US friendship - is an indefensible corner stone of our foreign policy."

SPACE FOLLOW ETCH

The head of the U S Space Agency, Dr. James Fletcher conferred with President Nixon, today regarding preparations for the joint U S and Soviet Space Mission scheduled for Nineteen-Seventy-Five. Dr. Fletcher then told White House newsmen how the joint training for joint flights - is "absolutely essential. Adding that thus he expects Soviet Cosmonauts - to begin arriving in Houston within a year; and hopefully - vice versa. The Space Chief noting: "Our astronauts are already studying Russian; they all want to go."

HANOI

In the air war over North Vietnam - a report today that Hanoi has been declared temporarily off limits. This - we are told - in deference to Soviet President Podgorny - who is currently visiting the North Vietnamese capital. At least one "well placed" source - quoted as saying: "You can be sure ~~that~~ we won't want to do anything -- to endanger President Podgorny.

Elsewhere in the North though - U S air strikes were continuing. ~~unabated~~. In the South - the crash of a ~~one~~ Cathay Pacific airliner near Pleiku; with a death toll more than eighty. ~~Unconfirmed reports A saying the airliner may have collided with another aircraft.~~

QUEENS

George McGovern today visited a Queens, New York police station. He says he opposes capital punishment - but asks for life sentences for big narcotics pushers. These - "the rottenest people on earth." Said he. Adding: "I just can't believe there aren't enormous payoffs - going to public officials to keep these people free."

WORLD OF BIRDS

If you are planning on visiting New York City this summer, or any time for that matter, here is a suggestion. There's something new at the Bronx Zoo. It's called The Lila Wallace World of Birds Building. Tomorrow for the first time it will be open to the public. The New York Times gave it four or five columns of space. And I suspect all communications media will do that - or more.

It would take at least a half an hour even to give a brief description. The New York Times calls it "a palace for the birds". It took years to build, and cost millions. The idea of taking animals out of cages and putting them in open spaces somewhat similar to their natural habitat, I believe originated with my friend Sir Edward Hallstrom at the great zoo in Sydney, Australia. Mrs. DeWitt Wallace, and I'm sure her husband is also much involved, has now done something similar for birds. Architect Morris Ketchum, Jr. Robert Goelet, head of the Zoo, and the ornithologists backed by the Wallaces, have done what

Hallstrom did for animals at the Sydney Zoo, but here it's for the birds.

The architecture, ultra-modern, includes some twenty-five sky-lighted habitats where you can watch birds from all over the world, see them as you would if you were in Venezuela, New Guinea, or wherever they are from.

You can even stand on the edge of a rain forest, watch the birds themselves in a tropical downpour, and not get wet yourself. In many of these there is no glass between you and the birds.

The Wallaces have done many remarkable things, as you know, even rescuing Ramses II from the waters of the Nile. But this World of Birds at the Bronx Zoo is the most dramatic of all. It costs you a couple of thousand dollars to go to East Africa to see the animals. Now, for a few cents you can see the World of Birds right in New York City!

LOS ANGELES

Presidential advisor John Ehrlichmann, on a visit to the West Coast today expanded on some public statements he made earlier this week; when he said the White House reporters - generally ask "flabby and fairly dumb" questions. As a follow up today he added: "News men are like insecure young ladies - they keep asking us if we love them."