The Vice Presidents' Report

Richard Nixon

One morning in April, 1965, as a meeting of the National Security Council, President Eisenhower suddenly looked across the table at me and said, "Dick, I think you should take a trip to the Far East. Take Pat with you. Visit all the countries out there. It would be a good thing for you to know these folks better and for the two of us to know more about take a trip to the Far East.

As a result, Mrs. Nixon and I made two trips each to the Far East and one to Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean area. We traveled 22,000 miles — twice the distance around the world. We visited 12,000 hours of schools, farms, factories, churches, and shook hands with thousands of people.

One of the many things we learned about the people, the land, and the conditions we saw was the importance of education. We visited schools and colleges in every country we visited. We were impressed with the dedication and commitment of the teachers and students.

We also visited hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged, and other welfare institutions. At these places, we always insisted on meeting personally with as many people as possible. No one who was present could get the great impression these visits by Mrs. Nixon had. I know her visit to the orphanage in Panama, where she met with 150 infants, was a greater impression than anything I said or did in Panama. When we returned home, the President said to me, "Dick, I've just heard good reports on our trip." Turning to Mrs. Nixon, she smiled and said, "I'd like to be able to say the same thing too."

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