

For immediate release  
Monday, Oct. 27, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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Pearl Bailey will entertain tonight at the State Dinner honoring Egyptian President and Mrs. Anwar Sadat.

Miss Bailey has been a guest twice before during the Ford Administration ( February 20, 1975, The Governor's Dinner; and May 15, 1975, the State Dinner honoring the Shah and Empress of Iran), but has not previously been the entertainment.

She entertained twice during the Nixon Administration, and was a guest during the Johnson Administration (President Johnson came to see her perform in "Hello, Dolly. "). Miss Bailey also sang at the inauguration of President Eisenhower.

Miss Bailey was a guest of the Egyptian government in June, 1974, and performed during her stay twice at the Sphinx Theatre in Cairo. President Sadat presented her with the First Order of Arts and Science.

Miss Bailey will perform with a three piece combo, whose members include her husband, jazz drummer Louis Bellson; pianist Joe Harnell; and Bassist John Williams. Among her selections will be an Egyptian folk song in Arabic (name: "Bladi Bladi"); "Hello Dolly;" and "Peace on Earth. "

Pearl Bailey has starred in "Hello Dolly" for more than two years, currently playing in Boston at the Schubert Theater. (She and the cast open in Washington Dec. 22) She received a Tony Award for her title role in the Broadway hit and won the Entertainer of the Year Award in 1968 from Cue Magazine.

Miss Bailey was raised in Washington, D. C., where her father was a minister. She began her career following in the footsteps of her brother, Bill Bailey, famous for his tap dancing. She was with the first USO troupe that toured during World War II and made her stage debut in 1946 in "St. Louis Woman." She has also starred in a number of films , including "Carmen Jones, " "Porgy and Bess" and "That Certain Feeling. "

She is the author of four books: "Raw Pearl, " 1968, her autobiography; "Talking to Myself, " 1969; "Pearl's Kitchen;" and "Duey's Tale. " She is currently working on a fifth book, "Hurry Up America and Spit. "

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