

David Frost to interview Nixon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — British television interviewer David Frost announced Sunday that he has signed a contract with former President Richard M. Nixon calling for the televising of four, 90-minute interviews.

Frost said the programs would be distributed to stations throughout the world, but he said no arrangements have been made yet to show the interviews on American television.

At least two television networks, CBS and ABC, indicated they would not be interested in buying the interview. It would be unlikely that the financially pressed Public Broadcasting Service would be able to buy the production either. NBC had no immediate comment.

CBS, NBC and ABC in the past generally have refused to buy news productions developed outside their control.

That means that if the program is to be shown on U.S. television it would have to be done in some kind of syndication package. Frost said he hopes to release them "on a national basis" in this

country, but he didn't say how it would be done.

Frost declined to tell a press conference how much Nixon would be paid for the interviews. NBC News President Richard C. Wald has said NBC, which had been bidding for the television rights to Nixon's memoirs, dropped out of the bidding before it reached \$700,000.

Acting for a consortium of international television organizations that he did not name, Frost said he completed the contract Saturday night at the Nixon home at San Clemente.

Frost said the broadcasts will be delayed until after the November 1976 elections because Nixon did not "want to appear to intervene in the affairs of the United States."

"I have no reason to believe that former President Nixon will be anything but candid," Frost said. He said the 13-page contract setting up the interviews give him "total editorial freedom" in the content and editing of the programs.

He added there was no obligation to submit questions before the interviews,

estimated for at least 20 taping sessions. He did not say when the taping was likely to begin.

Frost, who has conducted an interview program both in England and America and has produced films and TV programs for his own company, said negotiations began with Nixon's agent Irving Paul Lazar three or four months ago, and "the tempo increased in the last month."

He said he was aware that other broadcasters were also dealing with Lazar; NBC announced last week that it had terminated its talks.

Frost told reporters he had spent 5½ hours Saturday with the former president, and "I saw no signs of the exhaustion that others have remarked upon."

Even though it was the one-year anniversary of Nixon's resignation from the presidency, Frost said the former chief executive appeared in good spirits Saturday.