

Expert Holds Nixon Didn't

Sign Letters

AP 5-3-75

NEW YORK, May 2 (AP) — Charles Hamilton, an authority on signatures, said today that he thinks President Nixon did not sign the two letters sent to South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu while the Paris peace accords were being negotiated. Hamilton says he thinks Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, probably signed them.

Copies of the two letters were released to reporters Wednesday by Nguyen Tien Hung, an American-educated economist who was South Vietnam's minister of planning in Thieu's government which dissolved last week. They were dated Jan. 5, 1973, and Nov. 14, 1972.

One of the letters warned of an end to American aid if Thieu refused to sign the accords. The other showed Nixon promised on Jan. 5, 1973, that the United States would use "full force" to punish any Hanoi violations of the impending peace agreement, which was signed Jan. 27, 1973.

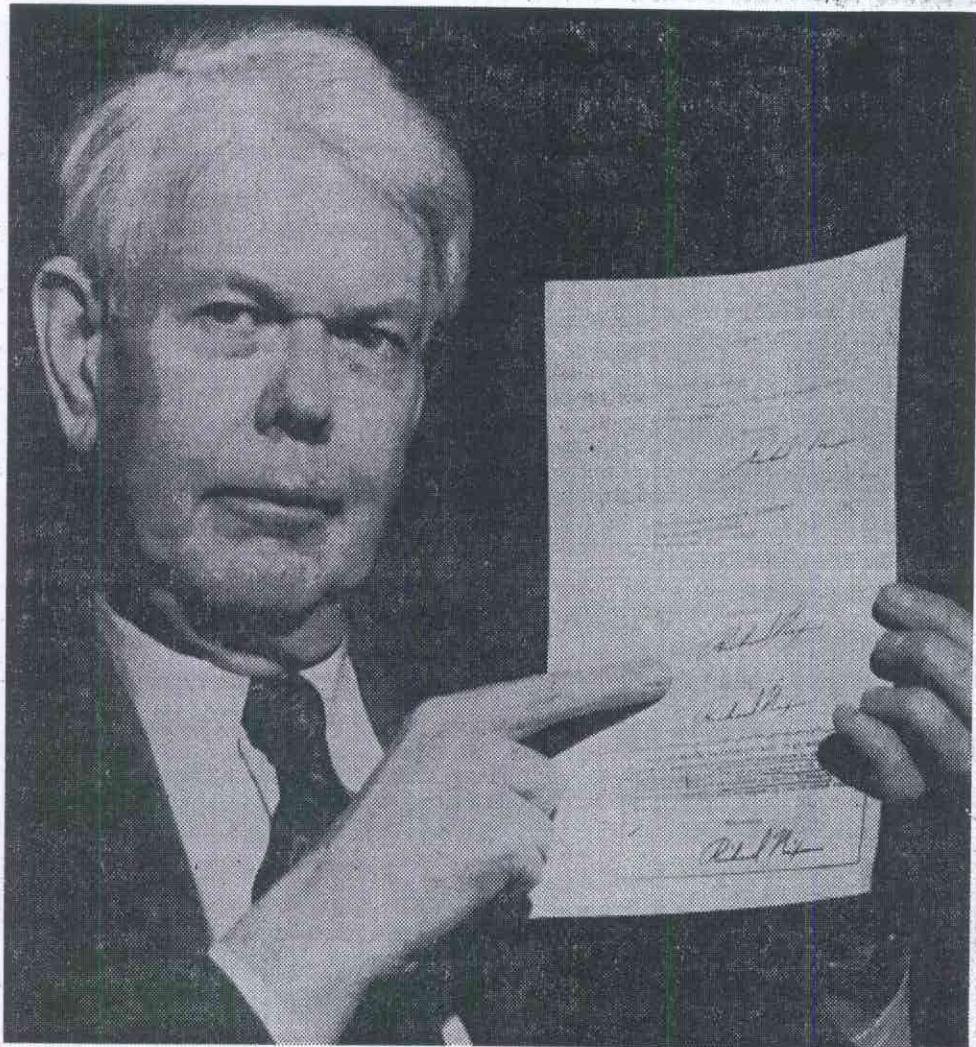
The White House has acknowledged the letters were genuine "as far as we can determine," according to press secretary Ron Nessen.

There has been no response from Nixon.

Hamilton said he does not think the two signatures are Nixon's because he said they do not conform to the signature Nixon made during his presidency. He said that signature always omitted the second "r" from "Richard" and the "o" from "Nixon."

However, he said the signatures on the two letters revealed Wednesday contained the second "r" and the "o." He said the two signatures also matched signatures of the former President's name made in 1963 and 1972 and which were signed to routine correspondence and photographs.

Miss Woods, who joined Nixon in 1951 as his personal secretary when he was a U.S. senator from California, is still on his personal staff.



CHARLES HAMILTON
... Miss Woods' hand?