

No Date Set by Nixon For Watergate Talk

POST 8/14/73
The White House said yesterday that the decision on when and how President Nixon will make his promised statement on Watergate has not yet been made.

However, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said it was reasonable to expect the statement within two weeks, assuming that the Senate Watergate committee concludes the current phase of its hearings in that period.

There have been a variety of reports on the President's plans, but Warren would confirm none of them. One report is that the President would make a television address and at the same time issue a long document in support of his position. He would then follow the speech within a few days with a news conference.

Officials have said that the President will make his statement in Washington. He is expected to go to California shortly thereafter for a vacation extending over Labor Day.

If this plan is followed, the press conference may be held in San Clemente, Calif., rather than at the White House.

The President "has not begun writing anything yet," Warren said when questioned about plans for the statement. The counsel's office has been working on documents for the President's use, he said.

Often when the President goes to Camp David alone, as he did late Thursday, it is to work on a speech, major statement or press conference. But Warren said the President would be working on legislative and other business this weekend, not a Watergate statement.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, who has been assisting the President on Watergate and related matters in recent days, took the weekend off to go to California.

Warren reported that Mr. Nixon is feeling well and is following his doctors' recommendation to take periodic rest periods "to some extent."

Mr. Nixon has appeared pale and somewhat drawn ever since leaving the hospital July 20.