

Nixon's Telephone Talk With a POW

United Press

San Clemente

Describing it as "one of the most moving moments" of his White House career, President Nixon telephoned a released prisoner of war yesterday to express his pride in the freed captives and his admiration for them.

"I want you to know how enormously proud we are of you and of all of the men," Mr. Nixon told Air Force Colonel Robinson Risner at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

Mr. Nixon said he will meet with the prisoners af-

ter their reunions with their families. Press secretary Ronald Ziegler said no date for a meeting has been set.

Ziegler said Risner, one of the three senior POWs, made a call to the Western White House. When the President learned who was phoning, he immediately ordered the call to be returned.

Ziegler relayed the contents of the conversation to newsmen, including many direct quotes from Mr. Nixon.

Ziegler said Risner, 48, of

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Oklahoma City, a prisoner in North Vietnam for more than seven years, told Mr. Nixon that the released POWs would "like to meet you personally to express their gratitude for what you have done."

Mr. Nixon responded: "Because of the fact that you and the men have been through so much, nothing would mean more to me than to meet you personally and to express gratitude on behalf of myself and the American people for your sacrifice and what you have done."

After the call, Ziegler said Mr. Nixon "felt the call was one of the most moving moments of any he has experienced since he has been in the White House."

Ziegler said Mr. Nixon told Risner: "I want you to tell all of the men how proud I and others are of your families. They stood firm. There have been no stronger individuals than the wives and families of the prisoners of war and the missing in action."

The telephone call overshadowed the rest of a busy morning for the President as he cut short a stay at his oceanside residence and flew back to Washington.