

27 Mar 75 ①

Haig sees Ford. (See entry 22-23 Mar 75.)

"[Nessen said today] that [Haig] flew to California last Friday [21 Mar] on a military plane to address an unspecified 'military group' and not just to visit ~~Emmer~~ [Nixon]. [He] said that General Haig ... had been in Ottawa as military commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. His flight from there to Los Angeles was also 'official business,' Mr. Nessen said. He said he did not know whether President Ford knew in advance about General Haig's reported visit with Mr. Nixon at San Clemente. The general saw President Ford [today]. Asked if the President might also meet Mr. Nixon if the Fords spend their Easter vacation in California, Mr. Nessen said, 'I know of no plans.'"

NYT 28 Mar 75, Notes on People

Nixon (foreign gifts) - "The General Accounting Office, after nearly a year's investigation, has issued a report that could enable [Nixon] and his family to keep all valuable foreign gifts received by them while he was in the White House. These gifts, 824 from foreign government officials worth at least \$2 million and 2,632 more of unknown value from private foreign donors, include jewels, paintings, objects of gold and silver, rare procelains, antique furniture, and other works of art. Some are in storage here with the [GSA], others are in San Clemente and elsewhere.

....

"The GAO, in a 66-page study of the way the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act of 1966 is administered in all branches of government, asserts that the present legislation is so 'vague' in its wording that it cannot be enforced." (The study was requested by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last April and received it "this week.")

Story says that last September ^{Ford's} WH lawyers embargoed shipment to San Clemente ^{of} some 1,100 packing crates until a ruling could be obtained from the Justice Dep't clarifying public-versus-private ownership, and that these crates were "full of foreign and domestic gifts." A temporary restraining order was obtained by Nixon's lawyers in October. "Some 20,000 gifts, both foreign and domestic, are among the 'presidential materials' that Nixon is suing to claim as his property rather than the government's."

*(See entry 22 Sep 74)

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Earlier clippings on the Nixons and foreign gifts are filed Nixon, under date of 14 May 74.

WXP 28 Mar 75, Maxine Cheshire

"Presidential materials" - See entry, Nixon, foreign gifts, third paragraph.

Operation Leprechaun - Dougald McMillan, head of the Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Force in Miami, is transferred from Miami to WX, at his request; Justice officials say privately the department had been considering removing him for "at least a week" since he had been "neutralized" in Miami.

On Gerstein: "Despite the fact the Justice Department has not prosecuted Mr. Gerstein, some of its officials have persistently 'leaked' to the press their suspicion that he was involved in criminal activity but never supported this. Indeed, during the Watergate case several newsmen were told that Mr. Gerstein was allegedly under investigation."

NYT 28 Mar 75, Nicholas M. Horrock

SFC 28 Mar 75 [AP]

Gerstein }
Dougald McMillan } See entry, Operation Leprechaun

Baker - "While getting national exposure in the televised Watergate hearings as an even-handed investigator, Baker behind the scenes was [Nixon's] de facto attorney. That may explain why his eyes visibly lighted up in August 1973 when the committee questioned CIA officials. By tying CIA to Watergate, he could simultaneously be the fearless investigator and loyal Nixon defender.

"What worries [CIA defenders] most is that Baker, bright and resourceful, is not merely seeking newspaper headlines but attempting to defend his own credibility and reputation. That defense becomes crucial to Baker's presidential hopes if he continues to privately hint to Republicans of CIA culpability in Nixon's fall [that Nixon was the victim, not the corrupter, of the CIA]."

WXP 27 Mar 75, Rowland Evans and Robert Novak