

30 Apr 75 ①

Nixon-Thieu letters - Two confidential letters from Nixon to Thieu are made public by Nguyen Tien Hung, once executive assistant to Thieu. Letters are dated 14 Nov 72 and 5 Jan 73, promising "swift and severe retaliatory action" should North Vietnam violate the terms of the peace agreement. Letters are made public in Washington.

"[Mr. Hung] told newsmen that he had had the letters in his possession for 'some time,' and had them when he came to this country two weeks ago [this would cover period 13 to 19 Apr] on an aide mission. Mr. Hung said he was making the letters public without Mr. Thieu's knowledge ... 'at the dictates of my conscience.'"

"Mr. Hung ... also quoted from letters but did not provide their full texts. These letters were dated Jan. 17 and Jan. 20, 1973." Paraphrase of quotations are included in story; texts of letters made public carried in full. AMP-B

NYT 1 May 75, Bernard Gwertzman - filed ~~PHS~~ Indochina

Dean, in lecture at Northwestern State University (story is filed from Natchitoches, La.), says he thinks "Deep Throat" was Earl J. Silbert. Denied by Silbert. (Silbert, one of the original Watergate prosecutors, has been nominated for U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.)

Bob Woodward, asked for his reaction, says, "As in the past, I won't confirm or deny such reports. This is because of the need to insure that a news source will receive anonymity when it is promised. I have not been released from my promise."

WXP 2 May 75 [AP]

"Deep Throat" }  
Earl J. Silbert } See entry, Dean, in lecture ...  
Bob Woodward }

30 Apr 75 ②

Nixon - William Safire, reporting on a visit to Nixon, says it was not for the purpose of an interview, that Nixon has not given any press interviews since his resignation and will not give one now. "Under those rules, a visit by a former colleague turned journalist hardly seemed a good idea before, but on the day that Russian-built tanks knocked down the gates of the presidential palace in Saigon, it seemed to me useful to history to spend some time with Mr. Nixon under any rules." This could be taken to mean Safire saw Nixon the day the PRG and North Vietnamese forces entered Saigon, today; however, it also could be taken to mean Safire decided today to visit Nixon. Safire does not give the date of his visit; his column, titled "Report from Elba," *AMP-A* is published 5 May.

Apparently as Safire is preparing to leave, Nixon "wonders what souvenir he can give the visitor to take away, since there are no more Presidential cuff links or golf balls for the concluding gesture he likes to make. A picture of Nixon in retirement - 'the blue-coat shot,' autographed by him, and not by Rose Woods for him - hits the spot."

It would be interesting to know the date of Safire's visit, in view of his unnecessary reference to Rose Mary Woods and another mention of her by Charles Hamilton 2 May. (See entry that date, Nixon-Thieu letters.)

NYT 5 May 75, William Safire

Rose Mary Woods - See entry, Nixon, William Safire ...

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Ⓐ - K.R. Eissler, M.D., in letter to the editor, says of the choice of this title for Safire's column, that "I assume that you do not mean to intimate that San Clemente is merely an Elba rather than St. Helena, and that we may have to endure Mr. Nixon's return, even if it were for 100 days only."

NYT 16 May 75, letter to the editor by K.R. Eissler -  
filed attached to Safire's column 5 May.

Ⓑ - See entry 8 Apr 75, "Secret agreements" ....