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Nixon Says Peril to U.S. Lives Might Restore Sense of Belief

Former President Richard M. Nixon said in an interview conducted last May and published yesterday that Americans had become so cynical that it might take the shock of an invasion in a country where American lives would be threatened to restore a sense of belief in the nation.

Mr. Nixon was also quoted in the interview, in the December issue of *The Ladies Home Journal*, as expressing satisfaction with President Ford's performance except to say that he was too accessible and thus subject to "absurdities" that might come from members of Congress or others.

The interview was conducted in the Nixon home in San Clemente, Calif., by William M. Fine, a New York textile executive and writer, who was described by a spokesman for the magazine as an acquaintance of Mr. Nixon and a close friend of Ronald L. Ziegler, Mr. Nixon's former press secretary.

Mr. Fine declined to answer questions about the interview. But a spokesman for the magazine, Howard Greene, said it had been granted at Mr. Fine's request, that Mr. Nixon read the account of the interview and requested changes. Some of the suggested changes were

made, Mr. Greene said, while others were not.

Mr. Nixon's chief remarks were not placed in quotation marks but seemed to be verbatim. Mr. Greene said this was because Mr. Fine, who did not use a recording machine, was not sure of every word but was confident Mr. Nixon was quoted accurately and in context.

Mr. Fine wrote that Mr. Nixon responded as follows when asked about the mood of the country:

"We are so cynical, so disbelieving—it may take the shock of an invasion—in Korea or in Thailand. If American lives are threatened, we may regain our sense of belief in our country and our need for strength. We are a compromised country at the moment."

As a result, he continued, the Communists are able to take strategic advantage in the Far East and Middle East without military force simply by applying "pressure points."

Mr. Fine "We have very little leadership in our country today," quoted the former President. "Can you name any strong religious leader? The media has abdicated its fact-gathering to nonbelieving young people, who seem to want to break down our values."