Angry Nixon ready to testify in 'love libel'

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former President Nixon is so angered by a magazine story saying he had been romantically linked with a Chinese woman that he has offered to aid the woman in her libel suit and give a deposition in his home, according to the woman's attorney.

"He was enraged because No. 1, it is a lie, and No. 2, it was a personal attack against him and his family," said attorney Robert Steinberg, who represents Marianne Liu in a \$5-million libel suit against the National Enquirer.

The Enquirer published a report that Nixon was involved romantically with Liu, that he had helped her emigrate from Hong

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MARIANNA LIU, WHO MAY GET NIXON'S HELP
She's suing paper that linked her with former president

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Kong to America and that he had been advised by the FBI that she was being investigated as a Communist spy.

"Mr. Nixon denied he was ever involved in any type of intimate relationship," said Steinberg. "He denied that he helped her get into this country illegally, He denied any knowledge of her being a suspected Red agent."

Steinberg said he had met with the former president and that Nixon told him he had met Liu casually during two trips to Hong Kong with his friend Bebe Rebozo in 1966 and 1967, prior to his election as president.

But he said that Nixon told him he had never been alone with her. She was a hostess at a hotel he frequented.

Steinberg said Nixon had told him he would be willing to give a deposition. "What Mr. Nixon means, I believe, is that if anyone wants to take a deposition he would be available in San Clemente," Steinberg said. "He said he would go to court if necessary."

Steinberg said he has requested Liu's file from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act. "William C. Sullivan, a former assistant director of the FBI, said to his knowledge she was never under suspicion," he said.

He said the Enquirer report quoted "an FBI source."

Steinberg said he has demanded a retraction, "but at this point they've refused to retract on grounds they made no direct accusations."

Liu, now a naturalized citizen, works as a restaurant hostess.

Nixon said he may have sent her flowers when a hotel executive told him she was hospitalized for surgery and that she may have been included in one or two small dinner parties.