

# Nixon in Exile— 'A Very Lonely Man'

## San Clemente

Two women who were allowed a brief glimpse into the private world of Richard Nixon say that the former President is lonely in exile — "like Napoleon at Elba" — but was surprisingly "very up" during the taping of a series of television interviews.

"I think he wants to finally tell America his side of Watergate, whether anyone believes him or not," said Arline Genis, an interior decorator, who, with Sandy Blake, designed the set for the interviews conducted by David Frost.

"I think people expect and hope that Nixon will be down," said Genis. "But he wasn't that way at all. He was very up. And very interested in all facets of the program. I think he's up because he has a project."

But Nixon "is a very lonely man," she added. "He can't go anywhere. He can't make statements on government policies like other ex-Presidents." The interviews are "not only a momentary thing to him, I believe, but a catharsis."

The interviews with Nixon, who resigned amid the Watergate scandal, will be broadcast by independent stations in four segments beginning May 4. Frost's company reportedly paid Nixon \$1 million.

Genis and Blake, both 43, said they tried to provide a "homey ambience" to the set. The taping was done at a Laguna beach home rather than at Nixon's San Clemente estate because Coast Guard radar near the estate would have interfered with the recording.

None of Nixon's own furniture was included, but "every single item on the set had to be cleared with him before it was used," said Blake.



AP Wirephoto

DESIGNERS SANDY BLAKE (LEFT) AND ARLINE GENIS  
They tried to give the Nixon interview set a homey ambience

The two women visited the Nixon residence in preparing for the interviews.

"He is now a prisoner in his own home," said Blake. "He is surrounded by security."

Genis said Nixon's San Clemente house includes small offices that are now empty. An aide "tells you that's where Ehrlichman had his office. . . that's where John Dean sat. It's just other-worldish."

"The biggest technical problem we had were the bookcases," said Genis. "The titles were very important. We had to handpick all books in camera range. We were told that it would be very embarrassing if someone blew up the titles behind Nixon and found 'All the Presi-

dent's Men,' for example.

"The Frost people specifically wanted books on the history of the United States, poetry, classics, law. Nixon sent us part of his collection."

Furnishing the set was somewhat of a problem, Blake said, because "you couldn't exactly take Richard Nixon to the Furniture Mart to see which chair he would like."

Nixon is a "sad, tragic figure" who is using the interviews to "cleanse his soul," said Blake. "I didn't know what I was going to feel for the man after Watergate. But my heart went out to his loneliness."

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