

Foreign Press Critical of Nixon

London

President Nixon's speech on Watergate made headlines around the world yesterday. But official reaction of governments was muted.

Newspaper coverage was limited by traditional May Day celebrations in Europe and by strikes in Britain. But some of the comments were harsh.

In Dublin the conservative Irish Times said of the presidential address: "It is hard to believe anything other than that he has made matters worse for himself by his inept, devious and falsely sentimental performance."

Peregrine Worsthorne, a columnist who appears in the right-wing Sunday Telegraph, said in a BBC special program that Mr. Nixon's speech was, to him, "shameful and revolting." Worsthorne, who recently interviewed the President, said the address left him with a

sense of deep foreboding over the future of the United States under Mr. Nixon's leadership.

Newspapers in the Soviet Union carried no word of the dramatic developments. Soviet media have yet to explain to readers and listeners what Watergate is all about.

Denmark's Ekstrabladet asked, "Can we in future feel secure in negotiating with a man whose election was based on a fraud? How is one to react towards a chief of state of the world's mightiest nation, our NATO ally, when it stands revealed he secured re-election by using the methods of a godfather?"

The social-liberal Politiken queried, "What kind of authority can a man have who chooses advisers of such vulnerable character?" It described Watergate as an extension of the Vietnam war and of "the social and

moral crisis of a war based on false premises."

In Italy the presidential address took splash play in most papers with Turin's influential La Stampa asserting Mr. Nixon risks losing the support not only of most Americans but also of some of his allies.

President Salvador Allende of Chile linked the Watergate case with alleged efforts of ITT to prevent his election in 1970.

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