

'Watergate' in Many Languages

By George Gallup

Paris

The Watergate affair, which had dominated the news in America, has been given front-page coverage almost daily in the other nations of the world.

The word "Watergate" has become not only a household word in the United States, it has entered the language of other nations as far distant as Finland and Australia and Uruguay.

Reaction of these people, as reported by the directors of 24 Gallup-affiliated survey organizations, in conference in France last week, falls into two broad categories. The first is the belief that Watergate will severely reduce President Nixon's effectiveness in foreign policy matters and put a new strain on political and economic relations between the U.S. and other nations.

In the second category, respect for the climate of open inquiry in the U.S. which permits the press to probe extensively in the higher councils of government with impunity is cited.

Typical of the comments falling into the first category is the statement of the director of a survey institute in a major European country. Commenting on the views of his countrymen, he said: "Before Nixon can be persuasive in asking Europe to make concessions to his new European plans, he will have to put his own house in order."

As a result of the heavy press coverage abroad, Watergate is fast becoming a household word in many nations. At this time, however, only the better-educated seg-

ment of the population in each nation covered is familiar with the specific details of the Watergate situation.

By and large, there appears to be little gloating or feeling of self-satisfaction among the informed citizenry of the nations reported on. In fact, people in some countries, according to the reports of these public opinion experts, have come to expect scandals in government and are not particularly exercised by the situation in the United States.

According to these reports, there is even a feeling of sympathy for the American people who must add still a new problem to the many others which they have faced during the last decade.

Each Gallup director reports that President Nixon's prestige — at a high point after the Vietnam peace settlement in January — has suffered, whether or not he is seen as directly involved in the Watergate affair. In the case of people in some nations, Watergate has confirmed the feeling that President Nixon cannot be trusted.

Others, however, feel President Nixon is the victim of circumstances.

Reports of public opinion on Watergate were from the following nations: Australia, Austria, Canada, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, India, Italy, Israel, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, The Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, West Germany and Uruguay.