

NIXON CALLS OFF VISIT TO EUROPE

He Tells Common Market
More Work Is Needed
on Joint Declaration
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WASHINGTON, March 17—President Nixon has advised the European Common Market that he has canceled his plans to go to Europe next month for a meeting with European heads of government, it was disclosed today.

An administration official said that Mr. Nixon made this known in a letter last Thursday to Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany, whose country currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the European Community.

Mr. Brandt had formally invited Mr. Nixon the previous week to visit Bonn in April and participate in the signing of a joint declaration of principles between the United States and the European Community along with other European leaders.

In his reply Mr. Nixon said that the progress that he had expected in the work of drafting the declaration had not been achieved and that it would be better to wait until it was, the official said.

President's Warning

Last Friday in Chicago Mr. Nixon sharply criticized the Western Europeans, warning them that they should not "gang up" against the United States. He also said that he was against "papering over difficulties and not resolving them."

The administration official said that Mr. Nixon had written essentially the same thing to Mr. Brandt in explaining why he did not think there was time enough to resolve the difficulties before the end of April.

One of the difficulties is that the Common Market, following the demands of France, has refused to use the word "partnership" to describe the Atlantic relationship in the draft of the joint declaration.

The official said that Mr. Nixon had consulted with Secretary of State Kissinger before writing Mr. Brandt and before preparing his remarks for the nationally televised appearance at the Executive Club of Chicago.

Explaining the seeming discrepancy between Mr. Kissinger's evident attempt on Thursday to apologize for some of his own criticisms of the Europeans and the President's strong language on Friday, the official said that Mr. Nixon was evidently determined to stand up for the prestige of the Presidency in the dispute with the Europeans.

More Time Needed

The official said the President had told Mr. Brandt that the United States and the Europeans would do better if they took still more time in trying to work out a satisfactory text for a declaration on Atlantic relations, instead of laboring against the April deadline.

In his remarks Friday and in the letter, Mr. Nixon took note of his previous plans to go to Bonn in April to sign the declaration with the Common Market countries and then go to Brussels to sign a parallel declaration drawn up in the framework of the 15-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The NATO declaration on the Atlantic security relationship is virtually complete. The Common Market countries had submitted what they hoped was a final draft for the other declaration on March 4, but Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Nixon plainly felt it was inadequate. A meeting of United States and European negotiators scheduled for last week in Bonn was indefinitely postponed by the United States.

The official said that having made the United States position clear, Mr. Nixon would wait for a European response before considering a trip to Europe. Although April is plainly out of the question, he said, the President might consider going in May if an agreement was completed.

French Reaction Is Mild

NOGENT - SUR - MARNE, France, March 17 (AP)—Foreign Minister Michel Jobert reacted with surprising mildness today to Mr. Nixon's assertion Friday that Europe cannot expect military cooperation from the United States while engaging in confrontations in the political and economic spheres.

At a meeting of Gaullist members of the National Assembly, Mr. Jobert said: "What strikes me in President Nixon's statement is the desire to lump things together. Our views are different."

He said the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was an alliance with "two pillars—the United States and Europe."

"I think it's better to have two legs than one," he went on. "I'm pleading for the two-legged Europeans."

German Asks Summit Talks

BONN, March 17 (Reuters)—Franz-Josef Strauss, head of the Bavarian wing of the opposition Christian Democrats and a former Finance and Defense Minister, called today for a top-level Atlantic conference to repair the split between the United States and the Common Market nations.