

Ford Is Still Briefing Nixon

Washington

President Ford is providing Richard M. Nixon with briefing papers on current U.S. policies, by sending them on a cross-country military courier plane which makes weekly deliveries at San Clemente.

Deputy White House Press Secretary John W. Hushen said yesterday the briefings are in keeping with "standard practice" relating to former presidents.

Former Presidents Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lyndon B. Johnson were similarly provided with intelligence briefings and at Mr. Nixon's request, Henry A. Kissinger and Alexander M. Haig Jr., both Nixon national security advisers at the time, went to the LBJ ranch in Texas to personally brief Mr. Johnson.

Hushen also said that it was "long-standing policy" to make available seats on military courier planes to

members of a former president's family when the plane was traveling to the home of the former president.

When asked whether one of the reasons for keeping the former president advised of current policy developments was to seek his advice, Hushen replied, "That's part of it."

The military courier plane trips to San Clemente are made solely when briefing information is shipped to the former president, according to William Gulley, an executive assistant in the White House military office.

He said a military Jet Star plane has made trips to California every seven to ten days with material for Mr. Nixon. The plane is allowed to carry members of the former president's family or staff on a space-available basis.

Gulley said the briefing information is sensitive material that cannot be carried on commercial planes.

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