

Ford, Nixon stay in touch by telephone

By Helen Thomas
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WASHINGTON — President Ford says he has kept up a personal relationship with former President Nixon and they have frequent telephone conversations.

In an interview this week with three columnists, Ford said he called Nixon on his birthday Jan. 9 and on several other occasions "where there was some significance for a personal call.

Several heads of states still are reported to be keep-

ing in touch with Nixon. When the Shah of Iran was in Washington a few weeks ago he spoke to Nixon by telephone for an hour and a half. The former President also apparently has retained ties with Chinese and Russian leaders.