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NIXON SEES FAILURE BY U.S. ON SAIGON

COLUMBIA, S. C., July 10 (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon concurs in the view that the United States should not have permitted the fall of South Vietnam to the Communists and that as an unfettered President he could have prevented it, a former top Nixon aid reports.

Harry S. Dent, now an attorney here, said yesterday that Mr. Nixon made the comments in an hour-long telephone conversation.

Mr. Dent, chief political advisor to Mr. Nixon from 1968 until December, 1972, said he called to talk about politics.

"I commented on the former President's decisiveness and strong action, with which I agree 100 per cent, in dealing with the Vietnam problem and in his quest for world peace," Mr. Dent said. "I told him that if his Administration had continued, the South Vietnamese Government would not have collapsed. He emphatically agreed with that, but he was not being critical of President Ford's handling of the situation."

In reference to Watergate, Mr. Dent said, Mr. Nixon told him that in his heavy involvement with problems in Vietnam and in his quest for world peace, "he let some things slip past him."