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On Briefing Nixon

To the Editor:

In his telecast news conference on Feb. 17, President Ford stated in connection with Richard Nixon's proposed visit to China: "There has been no special briefing given to Mr. Nixon. He has received periodic briefings, or information concerning world affairs from the national or Federal Government. There was no special briefing given to him in relationship to this trip."

These statements are a cause of concern, to me at least. They imply that Mr. Nixon could be very well briefed concerning relations with China on a regular basis, hence, there would be no need for a special briefing. Of more concern are these questions: Why should Mr. Nixon be briefed at all on foreign affairs? Is there any return communication of Mr. Nixon's ideas either to President Ford or Secretary Kissinger? In other words, is Mr. Nixon taking a covert part in the conduct of the foreign policy of the United States?

It seems completely desirable that there should be no communication of any kind between a discredited ex-President and his successor, most particularly no semi-secret liaison such as there appears to have been.

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