

Ford Gets Nixon Report, Calls It Useful

By PHILIP SHABECOFF
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 22— President Ford received last week former President Nixon's report on his recent trip to China and found it "very interesting and useful," the White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, said today.

Mr. Nessen said that he did not know the contents of the report and could not describe them. No details about the report were available this afternoon from either the National Security Council or the State Department.

Mr. Nessen disclosed, however, that the National Security Council had not told the White House press office, and therefore the public, that the report had been received and read.

At his regular briefing for White House reporters, Mr. Nessen said that "the N.S.C. knew you and I were interested and failed to notify me."

"I complained about it," he said. "It won't happen again."

Mr. Nessen had said several times last week that the report had not yet been received at the White House. In fact, he disclosed today, it had reached the White House over the weekend of March 13, carried there from Mr. Nixon's California residence by a White House official named Warren J. Gulley. *

Mr. Nessen did not say why the National Security Council had not informed the press office. As described by Mr. Nessen, a degree of mystery permeates the entire handling of the report.

Mr. Gulley, who is the White

White House Press Office Was Not Informed of Its Arrival Last Week

House official in charge of liaison with former Presidents or members of their families, brought back two copies of the Nixon report from San Clemente. The copies were received by Lieut. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, the director of the National Security Council.

Copies Are Returned

Mr. Nessen said that General Scowcroft gave one copy to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger last Monday and the other copy to the President on Tuesday. ^{15 MAR} _{16 MAR}

Both copies were sent back to Mr. Nixon this past weekend at the request of the former President. According to Mr. Nessen, only four people in the Ford Administration read the report and no copies were retained.

The four were the President, Secretary Kissinger, General Scowcroft and George Bush, the director of Central Intelligence. President Ford's nominee as the United States representative in Peking, Thomas Gates, was not shown a copy of the report.

The only record of Mr. Nixon's report retained by the Administration, according to Mr. Nessen, is a half page of handwritten notes taken by General Scowcroft.

Mr. Nessen said that as a document written by a private citizen, the report is not secret. He said that the report did

contain some "sensitive information" but added, "I think it would be unfair to say that the report didn't contain any new startling information."

Mr. Nessen was unable to explain why no copies of the report were made by the Administration before Mr. Nixon's copies were mailed back to San Clemente this weekend. Mr. Nessen said that as far as he knew, Mr. Nixon had not asked that the Administration refrain from making copies.

Mr. Nessen was also unable to say why the contents of the report were not made public.

When Mr. Nixon's trip to China was first announced, President Ford said several times that the former president was going as a private citizen and that he had not asked for a report from Mr. Nixon when he returned. Mr. Ford was said to have been annoyed by the timing of the trip, which took place just before the New Hampshire primary election last month.

Mr. Nixon was the first American to have extensive discussions with high-ranking Chinese leaders since the recent death of Chou en-lai and the subsequent shakeup of the Chinese leadership.

* On Gulley, see WXP 3 Mar. 76, Edward Walsh.