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Nixon Aide Calls 'Love Letters' a Hoax

San Clemente

An aide to Richard Nixon yesterday called reports that the former president wrote loveletters to the wife of a European diplomat "a sordid hoax."

Colonel Jack Brennan, Mr. Nixon's chief of staff, said the letters suggesting that while president Mr. Nixon was having an affair with the unidentified woman "are obvious forgeries."

Brennan said Mr. Nixon's Washington attorney had contacted

British literary agent Scott Meredith, "putting him on notice of the fraudulent nature of the letters purportedly in his possession."

Two British newspapers, quoting Meredith, reported Thursday that Mr. Nixon wrote the purported letters during the height of the Watergate affair.

The papers quoted Meredith as saying he believed the 22 loveletters are genuine, and that handwriting experts have studied them and "regarded them as being in Mr. Nixon's hand."

The newspapers quoted the literary agent as saying the woman — described as beautiful and looking younger than her age — admitted in conversations with Meredith that she had "a friendship with Mr. Nixon." But she reportedly would not confirm or deny the former President wrote the letters.

Brennan's statement said:

"The news reports alleging that there exist handwritten 'loveletters' from former President Richard Nixon are part of a sordid hoax.

"Such allegations are totally

false, and the purported letters are obvious forgeries. Mr. Nixon's personal attorney has today (Friday) sent a telegram to Mr. Scott Meredith, the source of such stories."

Mr. Nixon's lawyer, Herbert J. Miller Jr., said in his telegram "they at best are a hoax and at worst a fraud. This telegram is to formally advise you of these facts so that any future statement or action taken by you with respect to these letters will be with the knowledge that they are forgeries."

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