

Nixon's Friend In the Kremlin

London

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev still has lingering admiration for former President Nixon and doesn't understand why Mr. Nixon had to resign, a veteran U.S. diplomat, W. Averell Harriman, reported yesterday after a Moscow visit.

"They got along so well," Harriman said of Mr. Nixon and Brezhnev.

"He doesn't understand what President Nixon did in the United States, or Watergate," Harriman continued. "He only thinks of the progress they made together."

Harriman, 84, is a former ambassador to Moscow, governor of New York and ambassador-at-large for Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. He is now a foreign affairs adviser to Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter.

Harriman said he had been told in his meeting with Brezhnev last weekend that the Russians are remaining neutral in the U.S. presidential contest. He added that they had been disturbed by some of the early campaign rhetoric.

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