

Ky Blames Vietnam's Fall on Watergate

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Former South Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky blames Watergate for his nation's fall, saying that a strong Richard Nixon would never have let South Vietnam collapse.

Ky, now operating a liquor store-delicatessen in suburban Norwalk, viewed former President Nixon's televised interview with David Frost Thursday night and said, "I don't want to blame Mr. Nixon."

"If Nixon had stayed in, and with the power of the United States President intact, he could have put a lot of pressure on the Communists to respect the treaty. What happened was Watergate, and the power of the American President was no more."

By the time Ford came to power, Ky said, "He had another situation on his mind. Ford had nothing to gain by sticking to the (South) Vietnamese."

Ky said that what Nixon claimed to be his "solution" to the war — the Vietnamization program — was in fact a policy that Ky himself thought of and Nixon implemented at his suggestion.

Ky, who lives with his wife and several relatives in a \$108,000 home in nearby Huntington Beach, says he has not spoken to Nixon since coming to California.

"I don't want to bother him," Ky said. "He has enough problems with American people."

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