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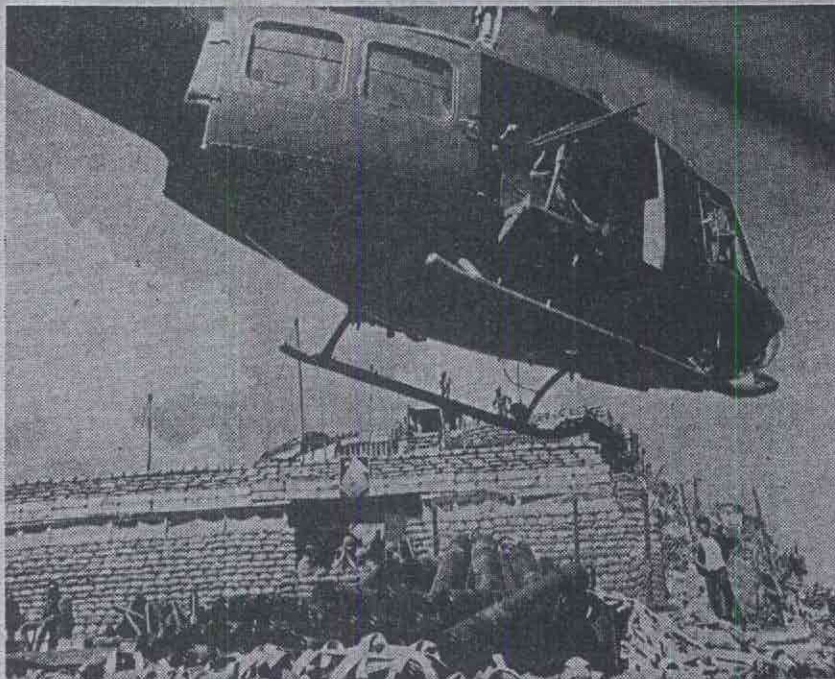
Agnew Pledges U.S. To Aid Nol Regime

Vows to Do 'Everything We Can'

GUAM, Aug. 23 (AP) — Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, heading for Asia, said today that "we're going to do everything we can to help the Lon Nol government" in Cambodia because "the whole matter of Cambodia is related to the security of our troops in Vietnam."

At another point, however, Agnew insisted, "We have no commitment to Cambodia" but view events in that Southeast Asian nation only in terms of how they affect conditions in neighboring South Vietnam.

His statement about helping Lon Nol was the strongest by any U.S. official so far for the embattled Cambodian regime. (In San Clemente, however,



Associated Press

SUPPLYING FIREBASE — An American helicopter takes off from Firebase O'Reilly in the hills west of Hue, South Vietnam,

after bringing in mortar shells, contained in cans in foreground. The base has been under heavy mortar attacks.

a White House spokesman said that Agnew's Statement represented no change in U.S. policy of supporting an independent and neutral Cambodia.]

"There is no way that any judgment that I make about Cambodia could be made without it being attached in substantial measure to the security of our troops in South Vietnam," Agnew said.

Asked if the only way American troops would be sent back to Cambodia would be to protect U.S. forces in Vietnam, he replied: "That is exactly right."

"There is a 600-mile border that would make it impossible for the Vietnamization program and the disengagement of American troops if Cambodia falls," the Vice President told reporters aboard Air Force Two as he flew across the international date line to this mid-Pacific isle after a refueling stop in Hawaii.

Military leaders and Gov. Carlos Camacho welcomed Agnew at Anderson Air Force Base here as he arrived for an overnight stop before flying on Monday to Seoul, South Korea, the first of four scheduled Asian stops.

His talks with President Chung Hee Park will revolve around U.S. plans to help with the modernization of Korean military forces in view of the scheduled withdrawal by June 1971 of 20,000 of the 63,000 American troops there.

Asked about specific U.S. aid plans for Korea, Agnew saw "little likelihood that as a result of my conversation any specific action will be proposed to the Congress."

See AGNEW, A6, Col. 1

Agnew Sees U.S. Aid to Cambodia

AGNEW, From A1

Agnew charged that Friday's Senate action barring U.S. financial support for Thai or South Vietnamese efforts on behalf of the governments of Laos and Cambodia is "a debilitating factor that could indirectly hurt the security of U.S. forces in Vietnam.

"I doubt very strongly whether the House will go along with it," he said.

The Vice President indicated the Nixon administration might find some other way to underwrite the proposed dispatch of 5,000 Thai troops to help the hard-pressed Lon Nol government, which has been fighting off Communist attacks on the capital of Phnom Penh.

"I don't think," he said, "that necessarily troop financing is critical if alternative means of financial relief can be found for the country which would allow it to finance its own troops.

"To carry out the Nixon doctrine," Agnew replied to a follow-up question, "the President is going to find whatever means he has to make certain that the concept of the doctrine is met."

Under the doctrine first enunciated by President Nixon here 13 months ago, the United States plans to reduce its Far East forces while reaffirming its treaty commitments and helping those allies willing to help themselves.

Unrelated to Campaign

Agnew said: "I really don't expect that this trip will have any relation to my campaign assignments" for the November congressional elections but agreed with a questioner that the trip would permit him to speak more knowledgeably about foreign affairs.

Agnew said there was "no plan for me to go into Cambodia" during the trip. On his previous trip he said there were no plans to go to Vietnam, where he eventually went for 24 hours. This time, it is on his schedule although no date has yet been announced.

Both President Nixon and

Adm. John S. McCain Jr., the top U.S. commander in the Pacific with whom he met in Hawaii, are very much encouraged by the course of events in Vietnam, the Vice President said, especially the Vietnamization program and the strengthened status of the government of President Nguyen Van Thieu.

In stating U.S. determination to prevent the Cambodian government of Lon Nol from falling, Agnew said, "we cannot predict in advance, based on the multiple contingencies that one could imagine, exactly what we would do in any given situation.

"That kind of diplomacy is very dangerous, and I wouldn't undertake it," he went on.

Refuses to Speculate

Asked if the support the United States might provide included sending in U.S. troops if Lon Nol asks for them, Agnew replied: "No, I think I made it perfectly clear that I wouldn't attempt to anticipate the contingent situations that may arise.

The Vice President was then asked if this meant he was not ruling out possible use of U.S. troops if the situation deteriorated. Agnew said it depended upon what was meant by deteriorated.

"If you meant that if the Communist Chinese suddenly attacked Cambodia in force would I commit that we wouldn't do anything about it?" he asked. "I couldn't make that commitment obviously."

But he noted that the President "has no intention of recommitting" U.S. troops into Cambodia and said any South Vietnamese decision about action in that country "has to be left to their diagnosis of what's vital for their own security.

"We will not encourage it or discourage it, only insofar as it affects the security of American troops," Agnew said.