

# Cambodia Bombing Escalated

## U.S. Adopts Policy to Hit Foe Anywhere

The United States has adopted a policy of bombing the enemy in Cambodia where he can be found, according to informed sources here and in Saigon.

The Nixon administration's rationale for this policy is the attempt to reduce American and allied casualties in South Vietnam.

The Associated Press, in a dispatch from Saigon yesterday, said "President Nixon has placed no geographical restrictions on U.S. Air Force strikes inside Cambodia against North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops and supplies."

At the Pentagon, Daniel Z. Henkin, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, declined to discuss geographic bombing restrictions on grounds that they involved military operations.

But, when asked to define the scope of U.S. air operations in Cambodia, he issued a statement that appears to give American pilots wide latitude in their bombing.

"U.S. air operations are designed to interdict enemy supplies and manpower that could pose a threat to the lives of U.S. and allied personnel in Vietnam, and that is and remains our objective — to reduce casualties in South Vietnam," Henkin said.

Under such a definition, Pentagon sources conceded, American pilots could bomb enemy troops in Cambodia virtually whenever and wherever they spotted them — not just along the main routes of supply.

While there are some restrictions on American bomb-

ing in Cambodia, such as in populated areas, the present latitude is considerably greater than that portrayed by the Nixon administration shortly after the Cambodian invasion.

On June 30, President Nixon indicated that American bombers would concentrate on interdicting enemy troops on the move toward South Vietnam — not those in Cambodia itself who were fighting Cambodians.

"We will conduct — with the approval of the Cambodian government — air interdiction missions against the enemy efforts to move supplies and personnel through Cambodia toward South Vietnam and to re-establish base areas relevant to the war in Vietnam," Mr. Nixon said. "We do this to protect our forces in South Vietnam."

The intensity of American air raids against Cambodia is rising, according to sources here.

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The sortie rate (the flight of one airplane to the target and back) has increased to about 80 a day, double the old figure, according to one source.

The stepped-up air war in Cambodia and the plan to give the Lon Nol government in Phnom Penh military aid have heightened fears of many lawmakers who want the United States to reduce its presence in Southeast Asia.

"Everybody is getting jumpy," said one senator in reporting on the mood of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as it was briefed by the State Department Friday on plans to help Cambodia.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said yesterday that "the profile" of the United States in Cambodia "is changing from low to discernible. I am concerned and uneasy by these step by step developments."

The concern about deepening American involvement forged an unusual alliance of senators last week as hawks and doves combined forces on an amendment to stop the Pentagon from paying South Vietnamese or Thai soldiers to fight in Cambodia or Laos.

Chairman John Stennis (D-

Miss.) of the Senate Armed Services Committee, chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) found themselves on the same side as they spoke in favor of the amendment.

If such an alliance holds together against military assistance generally, the Nixon Doctrine is in for trouble in the Senate.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird would like to ask Congress immediately for a supplemental appropriation to modernize the forces of allied nations where the United States hopes to reduce its troop presence. South Korea is one example.

Because of the current congressional resistance to increasing military aid, the supplemental money request is being held off. Even so, the Pentagon's leadership argues that American money must go in where American troops come out—or else the Nixon Doctrine cannot be implemented.

Already, the United States is organizing a military aid mission for Cambodia, according to an aide to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Dale S. deHaan, counsel for Kennedy's subcommittee on refugees said he learned during his recent visit to Phnom Penh that a fully staffed American aid mission is being planned for Cambodia, including a Post Exchange.

Also, Senate sources claimed that the General Accounting Office has discovered that American dollars earmarked for economic assistance have been financing covert military operations in Laos.

Such a report, coupled with a Symington subcommittee transcript coming out soon on some questionable military assistance practices in South Korea, are expected to place fresh obstacles in front of the Pentagon's drive to obtain more military aid money.