

Assurance of U.S. Support Changes Policy on Cambodia, Fulbright Says

Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) said yesterday that Vice President Agnew's assurance of support for Cambodia's Lon Nol regime was directly contrary to previous White House policy.

But the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman added that he did not interpret Agnew's remarks as a commitment to the Cambodian government.

"I don't take it as a commitment and I would regret it if the President conceives of it as a commitment," Fulbright said.

The Vice President, en route to Asia, had said yesterday that "we're going to do everything we can to help the Lon Nol government" because "the whole matter of Cambodia is related to the security of our troops in Vietnam."

Fulbright was questioned on "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC) on whether he felt Agnew's statement and U.S. air support combat missions in Cambodia together indicated a change in U.S. policy.

"Yes," he answered, "this seems to be directly contrary to what the President said was our policy at the time he explained the Cambodian invasion."

French to Leave Chad

Reuters

PARIS, Aug. 23—France will withdraw its troops from the central African Republic of Chad by the end of next spring, except for a token force, the weekly journal L'Express said today. The troops were sent two years ago at Chad's request to quell a rebellion of nomads.

Last May, the President said that U.S. intervention in Cambodia would be limited to destroying Communist supply lines and "sanctuaries" in areas adjoining South Vietnam and that the purpose of the incursion was to protect U.S. servicemen in Vietnam and hasten their withdrawal.

During a separate interview on the Metromedia radio news "Profile" program, Sen. Gale McGee (D-Wyo.) yesterday said that a collapse of the Lon Nol government would not greatly harm U.S. interests in Southeast Asia.

At the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif., White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that Mr. Agnew's remarks represented no change in policy.

Ziegler said that the United States had supported a neutral and independent Cambodia since the signing of the Ge-

neva Accords and that Agnew was reaffirming that position.

Cambodia, he said, "is not that strategically important, either to Hanoi or to South Vietnam . . . Obviously, from our point of view, I would suppose, it would be better if the present government did not collapse, but it's not fatal if it does collapse."



SEN. J. W. FULBRIGHT
... sees policy change