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Nixon Presses Support Of Cambodian Regime

WASHINGTON — Despite President Nixon's pledge to pull all U.S. troops and advisers out of Cambodia by July 1, he has no intention of abandoning

the Lon Nol government. There has been feverish activity behind the scenes to arrange emergency weapons, mercenary forces and, possibly, Allied troops to prevent a Communist takeover of Cambodia. The U.S. will furnish the weapons, finance the mercenaries and even pick up the bills for any South Vietnamese, South Koreans, Thais or Indonesians who may volunteer to go to the rescue of Lon Nol.

The only limitation, apparently, will be on U.S. personnel. Given the political climate at home, the President has strictly prohibited the use of Americans in the field in Cambodia after July 1.

Quiet preparations have begun, however, to expand the U.S. mission in Phnom Penh. The new arrivals will include intelligence specialists, communications experts, technological advisers and military men in mufti, who will be available, presumably, to give the Lon Nol government private guidance.

Cambodian Mercenaries

Meanwhile, U.S.-trained, U.S.-financed Cambodian mercenaries have already been rushed to Phnom Penh — minus their American advisers, of course — to help defend the Cambodian capital. Asian allies, including Thailand and Indonesia, have also been sounded out secretly about sending troops to Cambodia if Lon Nol should need them.

The Cambodians have also presented the U.S. with a long shopping list of military needs. This is being handled with great delicacy by the White House because of the outspoken congressional opposition to Cambodian aid.

Apparently, the Lon Nol government won't be given any sophisticated weapons that would require American advisers. But the President is willing to supply small arms, automatic weapons, light artillery, mortars, jeeps, trucks and communications equipment.

It remains to be seen whether the old adage about a little pregnancy is applicable to military involvement.

AGNEW OR REAGAN?

The nation's governors came out of the White House the other day disputing whether Vice President Spiro Agnew had sounded off behind closed doors against "radicals and rascals" on the campuses.

A governor, who took careful notes for his column, reported that it was California's

Gov. Ronald Reagan, not Agnew, who raved against the students.

All Agnew said, according to the notes, was that "radical elements" made it impossible for officials to keep the lines of communication open between the government and the students.

"I am sure no college would allow me to appear, or if I did appear, they would never allow me to speak what was on my mind," said the Vice President.

Gov. Reagan, in contrast, talked for 15 minutes about the "conspiracy" on the campus. He charged that the alleged conspiracy had its headquarters in a room on the University of California campus in Berkeley. Here, he said, the "revolutionaries" plotted together and kept in touch with other campuses.

Maine's Gov. Kenneth Curtis criticized President Nixon, implicitly at least, for describing some young people as "bums."

"We can't call them names and expect them to agree with us," said Curtis.

Praise from McKeithen

But Louisiana's Gov. John McKeithen praised the President.

"You lost Louisiana, but if you ran there today, you would win," boomed McKeithen. "Our people are behind you."

The President gave the governors, who sat around a huge table in the state dining room, a briefing on the Cambodian situation. He made these newsworthy points:

A "majority" of American combat troops will be out of Vietnam next spring, he said. He also stressed repeatedly that all Americans will be withdrawn from Cambodia by his July 1 deadline.

He declared that the U.S. "had nothing to do" with the overthrow of Prince Sihanouk and the establishment of a pro-Western government in Cambodia. "There were no CIA people in there at all," the President said.

'Not Part of Plan'

He insisted it was "never part of the plan" to capture COSVN, the Communist military headquarters, which he described as a mobile headquarters that "keeps moving around."

This contradicts what the President said, however, in his televised report to the nation on the Cambodian invasion.

Maryland's Gov. Marvin Mandel asked why it was necessary to use any American troops at all, why another 12,000 South Vietnamese troops hadn't been sent in instead.

Lt. Gen. John Vogt, the briefing officer, answered this question. "It is good for the Americans to be identified with the operation," he said, "good for the morale of the Vietnamese people."