

SCOTT, IN A BREAK WITH FORD, URGES LON NOL'S OUSTER

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Senator Says U.S. Should Press for a Government That Would Seek Truce

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WASHINGTON, March 10— Senator Hugh Scott, the Senate Republican leader, said today that the United States should use pressure to bring about a Cambodian transition government that could negotiate a truce and safe treatment of refugees.

Breaking with Administration policy, Senator Scott told reporters that he did not see how President Lon Nol could stay in power.

At a news conference last Thursday, President Ford ruled out any action to unseat Marshal Lon Nol. Mr. Ford said it would not be "the proper role of this government to ask the head of another government to resign." He contended that a settlement in Cambodia did not revolve around any one individual.

Ford Position Affirmed

The Presidential position was repeated today by the White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, who said the Administration believed the Lon Nol Government had a "50-50 reasonable chance" to survive until the rainy season begins in June if Congress quickly approved \$222-million in emergency military aid for Cambodia.

Mr. Scott has generally supported Administration policy in Indochina, but in recent weeks has been keeping his own counsel on the course of action to pursue. To a reporter, he acknowledged that the views he expressed today "are not the Administration position, but I am bound to say these are the realities of the situation."

Senator Scott, who doubts that Congress will approve additional military aid for the Lon Nol Government, said:

"Our Government should be using as much pressure, in the form of strongest persuasion, as possible to get a change of leadership at the top in exchange for getting out the refugees."

Similar recommendations have come from Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, chairman of a Senate Foreign Relations

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subcommittee that is considering the request for an additional \$222-million in military aid, and from Senator Mike Mansfield, the Senate Democratic leader.

In a brief statement on the Senate floor today, Senator Mansfield said that if the leaders of the Lon Nol Government left the country, "I think peace will be forthcoming." He noted that Prince Norodon Sihanouk, the nominal insurgent leader, has stated repeatedly that he would not negotiate with the Lon Nol Government.

But if Lon Nol and his associates, "leave the country, we will enter into talks with those in the lower brackets, and there would be no bloodshed," he said.

While all three Senators are urging the resignation of President Lon Nol, there were significant differences in their proposals for a new government.

Solutions Differ

Senator Mansfield was pointing toward a coalition government whose composition would be dictated largely by Prince Sihanouk and his insurgent forces. Senator Humphrey wants withdrawal of United States support so that the various factions in Cambodia could work out a truce and a transition government.

Senator Scott envisions creation of a transition government that could continue to be supported by the United States.

As described by Senator Scott, the "transition government would have to make its own decision on whether to carry out the war or seek an armistice." Any addition military aid from the United States, he said, would be "limited to carrying the interim government through to the rainy season."

He linked the creation of a transition government to an agreement providing protection for refugees wishing to leave Cambodia.

"The biggest problem is how to get the refugees out safely," he said. "There are thousands of them who will be slaughtered if we don't get them out of there."

Senator Scott is a member of the Senate Foreign relations subcommittee that meets tomorrow to consider the additional aid request.

With a consensus developing on Capitol Hill that neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate would approve the full request of \$222-million, the Administration was advancing an alternate proposal giving the Pentagon authority to transfer \$125-million worth of existing ammunition stocks to Cambodia. Such a transfer would not require that Congress appropriate new funds.

Senator Scott said he doubted that the proposed compromise would be accepted. He said the best chance now was to agree to a phase-out of aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia, with emphasis on humanitarian aid.

Assessment Is Gloomy

Meanwhile, members of a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee left a closed-door briefing by the Central Intelligence Director, William Colby, with a gloomy assessment of the future of the Lon Nol Government.

Pierre S. du Pont, Republican of Delaware, said: "The situation is very grim. How long the Cambodian Government can survive can be measured in days, not months or years."

L. H. Fountain, Democrat of North Carolina, said, "I don't see how the Lon Nol Government can hold out indefinitely, regardless of how much military aid we give." Michael Harrington, Democrat of Massachusetts, said of the Lon Nol Government, "It's about finished, and it is unlikely that much will change things."

The Senate, by voice vote, approved a resolution urging that at least half of the food aid be given to voluntary agencies for free distribution to civilians. The food aid is now going largely to the Cambodian Government, which then sells the food.

Comment by Humphrey

Senator Humphrey said in a telephone interview today that he believed the Ford Administration's real purpose in pressing for the aid despite what he called great odds against success was to show that the President kept to his promises for continued aid and to shift the blame to Congressional Democrats when the Cambodian Government fell.

Yesterday, Senator Humphrey challenged the Administration's public position when he said in an interview on the CBS television program "Face the Nation" that "privately, let me say the President and the Secretary of State and Hubert Humphrey have seen the same telegrams [from the American Embassy in Cambodia] and those telegrams give little or no encouragement to any solution in Cambodia on the basis of further military assistance."

White House officials, responding to Senator Humphrey's statement, sought to show that Mr. Ford's optimistic hopes were based on intelligence reports from Cambodia.

Mr. Nessen, the President's press secretary, said he was in possession of some of the cablegrams from the United States Embassy and that they supported the President's public position.