

CURB ON WAR AID BACKED IN SENATE

Armed Forces Unit Sets Up
Barrier in Paying Others to
Support the Cambodians
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WASHINGTON, July 14—The Senate Armed Services Committee has adopted restrictive language intended to keep the Administration from using Defense Department funds for indirect support of the Cambodian Government.

Under a revision by the committee to the defense authorization bill, the Defense Department could not use military-assistance funds to finance military operations or programs of other countries supporting the Cambodian Government. The Pentagon, for example, would be barred from entering into arrangements to provide additional pay to forces such as those of Thailand if they went to the assistance of Cambodia.

The Armed Services Committee, which includes many hawks, thus joined the doves of the Senate, concentrated in the Foreign Relations Committee, in creating strictures against American military involvement in Cambodia.

Two weeks ago, the Senate adopted the Cooper-Church amendment to the foreign military sales bill, drafted by the Foreign Relations Committee,

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to prevent the United States from becoming involved in military operations, directly or indirectly, in Cambodia.

One provision of the Cooper-Church amendment—the so-called antimercenary provision, which was opposed by the Administration—forbid the Administration to use any funds to provide troops or military advisers from a third country to aid the Cambodian Government.

The Cooper-Church amendment is still technically pending in the House of Representatives, which voted last week not to decide to accept or reject the amendment immediately.

Now the Armed Services Committee is trying to keep the Administration from using military-assistance funds earmarked for Southeast Asia to support military operations by other countries in Cambodia.

The Armed Services Committee's strictures were given in a 120-page report on the military procurement bill, au-

thorizing weapons procurement and research and development by the Pentagon. The report is scheduled to be made public tomorrow.

One section of the military procurement bill authorizes \$2.5-billion for support of South Vietnamese and other "free World" forces in Vietnam as well for "local forces" in Laos and Thailand. In effect, this is the military assistance fund for Southeast Asia.

Latitude Reportedly Asked

According to Senate sources, the Administration had wanted the Armed Services Committee to grant it considerable latitude in using this fund to support military programs in Cambodia but it was rebuffed by the committee.

Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi, chairman of the committee, declined to say whether there had been Administration pressure on the committee, but emphasized "we are an independent branch" of the Government.

If, the action is upheld by

the Senate and then a Senate-House conference committee, it could halt the discussions with Thailand over sending forces into Cambodia.

Several weeks ago the Thai Government indicated a willingness to send "volunteer" troops to aid the Cambodian Government. But the Thai Government has negotiated

with the United States for extra pay and allowances, like those provided to the Thai division sent to South Vietnam.

The only concession granted by the Armed Services Committee was that the Southeast Asia military assistance fund could be used to help finance operations by South Vietnam

and other "free world" forces in the border areas of Cambodia.

In the past, the law has read that the military assistance funds were "for support of Vietnam and other free world forces in Vietnam." For "in Vietnam," the committee substituted the words "in support of Vietnamese forces."