

# SENATE UNIT VOTES \$844-MILLION CUT FROM AID REQUEST OCT 15 1971

Fulbright's Committee Will Weigh Other Reductions in \$3.3-Billion Program

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 —

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee tentatively cut nearly \$850-million today from the Administration's \$3.3-billion foreign aid request.

With several significant aid categories yet to be reached, the committee cut \$844-million from economic and military assistance items—including \$290-million in two key items of the President's international security assistance program, which is the keystone of the Nixon doctrine of helping other countries assume the burden of their own defense.

A third item in the security assistance program — foreign military sales—for which the President asked \$510-million, will be considered by the panel when it resumes its session Wednesday. Some members expect a significant cut in this figure and an over-all cut in the authorization bill of \$1-billion.

## Amendment Considered

The committee also considered an amendment by Senators John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, in effect denying the President authority to keep United States troops in Vietnam to stabilize the military situation or strengthen the Saigon Government.

But the panel put off voting on the proposal until the House had an opportunity to vote Tuesday on a related Senate-approved plan of Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the majority leader. The Mansfield plan would require withdrawal of all United States troops from Vietnam in six months if the Hanoi Government released United States prisoners of war.

Meanwhile, the Administration, seeking to head off a Congressional limit on American assistance to Cambodia, warned that the ceiling approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday could weaken Cambodian resolve and lead to an increase in North Vietnamese "aggressive action."

The State Department, reacting to the committee's actions, released to newsmen the full text of a letter by Under Secretary of State John N. Irwin 2d to the committee chairman, J. W. Fulbright. The letter said that those limits could "seriously threaten the capacity of

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\*See also "Joint Chiefs Said to Devise Costly Cambodia War Plan," NYTimes 13 Oct 71, filed Indochina.

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the Government of the Khmer Republic to defend itself."

The letter was sent to the committee yesterday before it voted to put a limit of \$250-million on all United States military and economic assistance in the current fiscal year and to allow no more than 200 Americans to serve in Cambodia. In addition, the committee voted to limit to 50 the number of third-country nationals who could be paid from American funds.

The Cambodian limitations were attached as amendments to the foreign aid bill, which still must go before the full Senate.

The Administration originally asked for some \$341-million in aid appropriations for Cambodia — about \$200-million of it in military assistance. Mr. Irwin, in his letter, said that "the Administration's best judgment" now was that an assistance package of \$330-million would be "the minimum essential to help the Cambodians consolidate their independence." Of this total, \$200-million would be in military aid,



Associated Press

**John N. Irwin 2d wrote to Senators that proposed curbs on men and money could encourage enemy.**

\$110-million in economic aid, and \$20-million in surplus food. The Foreign Relations Com-

mittee, in its first action today, voted 7 to 6 to order a 20 per cent cut in military aid grants to friendly free countries in which the United States has a security interest. The effect was to chop \$140-million from the Administration's \$705-million request for this purpose. Several earlier efforts to cut the amount by up to 30 per cent were inconclusive.

In a related action, a majority voted to make the same cut in the President's \$765-million request for so-called supporting assistance. This is a kind of economic aid in the form of budget support to allied countries maintaining larger defense establishments than they can finance without external help.

The same cut later was ordered in the \$400-million asked by the Administration for economic development loans, leaving the authorization figure at \$320-million. After that, technical assistance grants were cut to 10 per cent under the \$231-million asked by the Administration.

The President's contingency fund, for which the Administration asked \$100-million, was reduced to \$30-million to conform with the House-passed authorization bill.