

NYTimes

ROGERS ADAMANT AGAINST AID CUTS

But Suggest a Limit for Cambodia Is Acceptable

By JOHN W. FINNEY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—Secretary of State William P. Rogers suggested to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today that the Nixon Administration might accept a ceiling on aid to Cambodia but otherwise refused any compromise with the Senate on a new foreign aid bill.

The Administration is insistent that Congress pass essentially the same version of the foreign aid authorization bill that was rejected by the Senate last Friday, but the Senate Foreign Relations Committee set about drafting a new, stripped-down bill that would probably provide at least \$1-billion less than the \$3.5-billion requested by the Administration.

The committee, striving to keep the initiative in its battle with the Administration, may complete the outlines of a new bill at a working luncheon it has scheduled for tomorrow.

One likely possibility, suggested today by Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, is that the Foreign Relations Committee might break the foreign aid package down into three bills dealing individually with economic, military and humanitarian aid.

In an attempt to salvage the Administration's bill, Mr. Rogers and Dr. John A. Hannah, administrator of the Agency for International Development, appeared at a closed session of the Foreign Relations committee. As one committee member later summed up the two-hour discussion, "It was a lot of give and take but no bend."

On both sides there was a realization that some sort of legislation continuing the foreign aid program would have to be passed before Congress adjourned. The battle now between the Administration and the Senate Foreign Relations committee is over the shape and size of the legislation.

In the House, where the Administration has a more sympathetic audience, Representative George H. Mahon, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, announced that he would introduce a resolution continuing foreign aid spending until Congress adjourns, probably in about a month. Without such a resolution or new legislation, authority for new foreign aid spending expires on Nov. 15.

Privately, Mr. Nixon has been informed by Senate leaders that his resolution probably will not be approved by the Senate. But the effect of the Mahon move, as Senator Fulbright acknowledged, is to increase the pressure on the Foreign Relations Committee to come up with a new bill lest it be bypassed by the appropriations committees with a continuing resolution.

After the meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Rogers made clear that, rather than a new bill, the Administration wants a continuing resolution that would authorize foreign aid spending at about the level requested by the White House. Before the foreign aid bill was killed by the Senate last Friday by a 41-27 vote, the amount had been reduced by the Senate to \$2.9-billion.

Delicate Balance Necessary

However, not even Senate Republican leaders who are working closely with the White House in the foreign aid battle believe that a continuing resolution can be pushed through the Senate, particularly in view of the opposition of Senator Allen J. Ellender, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. A continuing resolution, which authorizes spending by agencies that have not received their regular appropriations, must be passed upon by the Appropriations Committees.

As seen by Senate Republican leaders, the only course open to the Administration is to work for a new bill passed upon by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and then to fight to keep military and economic aid in the same package.

On this issue, the Administration must strike a delicate, still uncertain political balance. The Administration probably needs military aid in the package to win the support of conservatives for economic aid. But it is the increasing proportion of military aid—about 55 per cent in the Administration bill—that has driven many of the liberal supporters to oppose the foreign aid legislation.

Mr. Rogers made one concession today when he said that the Administration would accept a \$341-million ceiling on assistance to Cambodia "if that was the judgment of Congress." Just last week, before the Senate vote, Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser, told a group of Senators that inclusion of the Cambodian spending ceiling, which was subsequently approved by the Senate, would contribute to a Presidential veto of the bill.

In the committee meeting, Mr. Rogers reportedly gave assurances that the Administration had no intention of becoming militarily involved with troops in Cambodia or Laos. But the assurances failed to satisfy Senator J. W. Fulbright, the committee chairman, who told reporters after the meeting that he was "very unhappy about approving a program that seems to have within it the seeds of involvement."