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Suit to End U.S. Role in Cambodia

Washington

Eight congressmen filed suits in U.S. district court yesterday to have U.S. participation in the Cambodian war declared illegal.

They charged that the bombing in Cambodia is unconstitutional and violates laws directed at U.S. involvement there.

In the suit, the congressmen allege that the administration's Cambodia policy prevents them from participating "in the decision whether the United States should engage in the combat activities in Cambodia." They also allege that the policy violates the right of ordinary citizens "to determine, through Congress, whether or not this nation shall engage in hostilities."

Several previous suits attempting to obtain a court order to end U.S. participation in the Vietnam war have been rejected by various courts on the ground that participation in the war was a political question not applicable to a court's jurisdiction.

The congressmen filing the suit are Parren O. Mitchell (Dem-Md.), Herman Badillo (Dem-N.Y.), Benjamin Rosenthal (Dem-N.Y.), Don Fraser (Dem-Minn.), Bob Kastenmeier (Dem-Wis.), Don Edwards (Dem-Calif.), Michael Harrington (Dem-Mass.) and Bella Abzug (Dem-N.Y.).

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