

# Bomb Halt Bill Signed By Nixon

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 1—President Nixon signed legislation today halting all American military activity in Indochina after Aug. 15 but said that if necessary he would ask Congress for further authority later.

Declaring that he would continue to take "the responsible actions necessary" to win peace in Southeast Asia, the President held out the hope that current negotiations may lead to a Cambodian cease-fire before the Aug. 15 deadline.

Mr. Nixon also signed the debt ceiling bill which provides for a 5.6 per cent increase in Social Security benefits beginning a year from now.

He had opposed both measures in their original form and earlier this week had vetoed an appropriation bill requiring him to halt all military activity in Indochina at once.

The last-minute compromises worked out between the administration and Congress brought to the appropriation bill and a joint resolution continuing government appropriations as the 1973 fiscal year ended Saturday midnight. Both appropriations measures contained bombing ban amendments.

Mr. Nixon's warning that he may have to ask further authority to bomb beyond Aug. 15 was regarded by most Capitol observers as for the record only. They do not believe Congress would extend the dead-

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line except under the most extraordinary circumstances.

The President made a distinction between an immediate bombing halt as the vetoed bill would require and an Aug. 15 halt.

"I believe that settlement in Cambodia can be secured so long as we maintain reasonable flexibility in our policies, and essential air support is not withdrawn unilaterally while delicate negotiations are still under way.

"A sudden bombing halt, however, would not have brought us the lasting peace that we all desire.

"As President, charged by our Constitution with respon-

sibility for conducting our foreign policy and negotiating an end to our conflicts, I will continue to take the responsible actions necessary to win that peace. Should further actions be required to that end later this year, I shall request the Congress to help us achieve our objectives."

Mr. Nixon worked in his office today, conferring with national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House staff chief, and press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler.

On Monday morning, James R. Schlesinger will be sworn in as Secretary of Defense at a ceremony in the President's office here.