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**NIXON SEES PERIL
TO PEACE IN HALT
IN CAMBODIA RAIDS**

**President Assails Congress
and Warns Hanoi Against
Staging an Offensive**

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 — President Nixon marked the end of the American bombing in Cambodia with a new denunciation of Congress today for forcing the cutoff—an act that he said “undermines the prospects for world peace”—and with a new warning to North Vietnam not to take military advantage of the cessation.

A statement read by Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White

*The White House statement
appears on Page 7.*

House press secretary, said that Mr. Nixon continued to have grave reservations about the wisdom of the forced ending of all American combat activity in Indochina.

Mr. Nixon blamed Congress, as he had in a statement on Aug. 3, for an action he saw as eliminating an important incentive for negotiations in Cambodia, weakening the security of Cambodia's neighbors and eroding the Vietnam cease-fire accord.

Threat to Peace Seen

The statement, issued about 12 hours after the last American bombs fell in Cambodia, went beyond the Aug. 3 document to accuse Congress of endangering world peace:

“Most importantly, this Congressional act undermines the prospects of world peace by raising doubts in the minds of both friends and adversaries concerning the resolve and capacity of the United States to stand by international agreements when they are violated by other parties.”

Throughout the Vietnam war the Johnson and Nixon Administrations warned that if the United States broke its commitment to its Southeast Asian allies, it would lead to an erosion of other alliances and pos-

sibly encourage Communist states to take bolder risks.

The United States has no treaty commitment to Cambodia, and Mr. Warren was asked what “international agreement” was being broken by the end of the bombing there.

He replied that he was referring to the Vietnam cease-fire

Continued on Page 6, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

agreement reached Jan. 27. The Administration has said that it was permitted to bomb in support of the Government of President Lon Nol as long as the insurgents, backed by Hanoi, refused to negotiate the settlement called for in that accord.

The end of combat activity at midnight was ordered by Congress on June 30 and reluctantly accepted by Mr. Nixon. The cutoff was attached as a rider to an appropriations bill needed to keep the Government functioning.

The White House statement today noted that Congress had first sought a June 30 cessation date and that the Aug. 15 date was “a necessary compromise to avoid a major disruption in United States Government operations and to allow the Khmer Republic more time to adjust to the new situation.”

In the six weeks since June 30, according to the statement, the combination of American combat air support and the Cambodian Government's efforts to strengthen its forces have left it in better shape to defend itself.

Gloomy Picture Painted

“We hope that the Government will be able to defend itself and to hold its own against the insurgents and their North Vietnamese sponsors,” it added.

Administration officials have painted a rather gloomy picture of the Lon Nol Government's ability to defend Phnom Penh without air support. Implicit in the White House statement was the view that the cutoff was a serious blow to Cambodia's chances.

It reiterated that the United States “will stand firmly with the Khmer Republic in facing the current challenge and will continue to provide the maximum amount of economic and military assistance permitted by present legal constraints.”

A major Administration concern has been that the North Vietnamese might be encouraged by the cutoff to mount a large-scale offensive against South Vietnam. To deter this the United States has kept its bomber force on station in Thailand and Guam, and Mr. Nixon has pledged to seek Congressional authority to resume bombing in case of such a breach in the cease-fire agreement.

In this regard, the White House statement said that “it

should be clearly understood in Hanoi that the President will work with Congress in order to take appropriate action if North Vietnam mounts an offensive which jeopardizes stability in Indochina and threatens to overturn the settlements reached after so much sacrifice by so many for so long.”

'Intransigently Opposed'

Efforts to achieve the negotiated end of the Cambodian fighting have been unavailing, the statement said, adding that “the Communist side remains intransigently opposed to any compromise.”

The whole question of Cambodian negotiations has been cloaked in controversy and ambiguity. After the Vietnam agreement Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, said he expected similar agreements to follow in Laos and Cambodia. A Laotian cease-fire was negotiated in February, but Cambodian fighting continued, with the exception of a short lull early in February.

When Congress began considering a bombing cutoff in June, Mr. Kissinger told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that a major diplomatic effort was under way to try to bring about a cease-fire in Cambodia. He argued that a cut-off would set back the chances for a negotiated settlement.

On July 1 President Nixon, in signing the appropriations bill containing the cutoff, said that delicate negotiations were going on. Prince Norodon Sihanouk, nominal head of the Cambodian insurgents, who had proposed talks with Mr. Kissinger, announced about the same time that he would not agree to negotiations and said that none had taken place.

Administration officials said that the negotiations referred to by Mr. Nixon involved discussions with the Chinese, North Vietnamese and Russians. The officials now assert that as a result of the cutoff the insurgents are under no pressure to negotiate and all efforts have failed.

With Congress in recess until after Labor Day, there were few comments on the halt in bombing. Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota and a leading dove, said the United States should end all military assistance to Cambodia. Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, commented that it remained to be seen if the halt on bombing was wise. “I pray that it was, but I have my doubts,” he said.