

Bid to Cut Forces Overseas Killed

Washington

The Senate provided the administration with a major foreign policy victory yesterday by rejecting proposals for reduction of troops stationed overseas.

The Senate, by a 54-to-35 vote, defeated an amendment by Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, requiring a 125,000 - man reduction over the next 18 months in the 437,000 troops stationed in foreign countries.

Then, by the closer margin of 46 to 44, the Senate rejected a compromise proposal offered by Mansfield calling for a 76,000-man reduction.

California's Democratic senators split their votes on the first issue. Alan Cran-

ston voted with Mansfield and John Tunney cast his vote against the amendment.

On the compromise proposal, both senators supported Mansfield.

The amendments would have been added to the \$21.8 billion arms procurement bill for fiscal year 1975.

For Mansfield, who for nearly ten years has been seeking to reverse what he describes as an outdated postwar policy of substantial commitment of troops abroad, this was probably his worst defeat on the troop-reduction issue.

For the administration, which had lobbied intensively against the Mansfield amendments, this was probably its most significant legislative victory in defending its policy of overseas commitments.

In comparison with Senate votes in previous years, yesterday's votes indicated that sentiment is hardening in the Senate against any reduction of troops assigned overseas at this time, and for the administration's foreign policy of maintaining a considerable military presence in Europe and the western Pacific.

Last year, for example, the Senate, by a 48-to-36 vote, approved a 110,000-man reduction in overseas forces.

The Senate provision was

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