

U.S. Discloses It Has Received a Specific Request From

By RICHARD HALLORAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 16 —

The United States has received a specific request from Cambodia for arms and military supplies, but not American troops, to fight North Vietnamese and Vietcong invaders, State Department officials said today.

The request, which reached addition to the general appeal to other nations for military assistance made by the new Premier, Lieut. Gen. Lon Nol. It was received here yesterday, the officials said.

The State Department spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey, disclosed the request today and said that the Administration was examining the list submitted by the Cambodians. He gave no indication of the United States response or when a decision would be made.

At almost the same time that the State Department made its announcement, Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Democratic Majority Leader, urged the Nixon Administration to reject the Cambodian arms request. Mr. Mansfield, speaking on the Senate floor, pleaded that the United States go no further into war in Southeast Asia "in any way, shape or form."

Retaliatory Strikes Possible

At his news briefing, Mr. McCloskey also sought to clarify the conditions under which the South Vietnamese troops could cross the border into Cambodia and American artillery and air strikes could be used against enemy hideouts there.

The spokesman left open the possibility that American and South Vietnamese strikes could be undertaken to retaliate against Communist attacks. Previously, the "protective reaction" of allied forces had been limited to immediate responses when they were fired on from Cambodia.

The Cambodian request for arms and supplies, details of which were not available, was the latest step in a diplomatic interplay between the United States and Cambodia that began shortly after General Lon Nol overthrew Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State on March 18.

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Cambodia for Arms and Supplies but Not Troops

Since then, the Cambodians have been hinting with increasing frequency and clarity that they would ask for American help. The Nixon Administration has been trying publicly and privately to discourage the request.

Mr. McCloskey indicated today that the United States would consult with France and American allies in Vietnam before making a decision on the Cambodian request.

Communist Raid Reported

By HENRY KAMM

Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, April 16 — Military spokesmen reported today that Vietcong and North Vietnamese invaders, staged a raid last night in Takeo, a provincial capital south of Pnompenh.

Six of the Communists were reported killed and an unspe-

cified number of civilians wounded.

In the situation map seen by newsmen today, the Vietnamese Communists, now estimated at 54,500, were shown to have advanced throughout the southern, densely populated border regions — beyond their earlier area of infiltration — since March 8, when the first anti-Vietnamese riots broke out in Svay Rieng Province.

The principal gains scored by the Vietnamese were shown to be in the area of Svay Rieng, which protrudes sharply into

South Vietnam, and the plantation region further north. The center of Krek has fallen and Memot is threatened and the families of the French planters in Memot and Krek were evacuated yesterday by plane.

Communist infiltration is heaviest in the northernmost, sparsely populated and mountainous province of Ratanakiri, which has long been considered largely beyond Cambodian control.

The Government has been successful in maintaining con-

trol over Pnompenh and other principal population centers and the provinces removed from the Vietnamese border. However, most of the countryside east of the Mekong River is sparsely defended and open to Vietnamese forays. No roads east of Pnompenh are safe after dark.

Saigon Units Enter Cambodia

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 16 — South Vietnamese troops were seen again entering Cambodia today at the bor-

der crossing on the highway connecting Pnompenh with Saigon.

Gary Sheppard, a TV correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System, said that he had filmed a line of trucks carrying troops across the frontier before American military policemen ordered him away from the South Vietnamese border post. He said that South Vietnamese policemen escorted him to district headquarters, where he was detained briefly.

A South Vietnamese military spokesman denied at a briefing

today that correspondents were being barred from the border area because of troop incursions that the Government was trying to hide.

Asked the reason for the travel restrictions, the spokesman said: "We think it's because of some reason we don't know about." He later said it might be because of the danger from fighting in the region.

The spokesman conceded officially for the first time that some South Vietnamese soldiers might have crossed into Cambodia, but he said if it had

occurred it was a "mistake by very small-size units" because "the border is hard to define."

Communists Accuse U. S.

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, April 16—North Vietnam and its Communist allies in the south accused the United States today of having penetrated deeply into Cambodia and of having helped the present regime in Pnompenh to "massacre" Vietnamese.

The accusations were made at the 63d session of the Vietnam peace talks here. They

were answered by similar ones from the American side, which charged the Communists with conducting "combat operations" in Cambodia and Laos.

Both sides agreed they had made no progress on the basic question of a settlement in Vietnam. The session reflected the spreading conflict to such an extent that it became apparent that the conference had now gone beyond Vietnam and had become concerned with Indochina as a whole even though there were no Laotian or Cambodian representatives present.