

# KEY SENATE UNIT OPPOSES SENDING CAMBODIA ARMS

Decision Is Still Pending on  
the Request, Rogers Tells  
Fulbright Committee

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Soviet Opposes Indonesian  
Call for Parley on the New  
Crisis in Southeast Asia

APR 28 1970

By JOHN W. FINNEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 27—

The Nixon Administration encountered nearly unanimous bipartisan opposition in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today to the extension of military aid to Cambodia.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers told the committee that the Administration had made no decision on the urgent request of the Government of Premier Lon Nol for military aid running into hundreds of millions of dollars. But he suggested that the Executive branch had authority to send at least limited amounts of military equipment without seeking Congressional approval.

Mr. Rogers appeared before the committee in closed session for two hours and 15 minutes to discuss the crisis on Cambodia, where the Vietnamese Communists are on the attack, and to obtain the committee's advice on whether to provide military aid.

[The Soviet Union expressed opposition to the convening of an international conference to deal with the crisis in Cambodia. Authoritative articles in both Pravda, the Communist party newspaper, and Izvestia, the Government paper, criticized Indonesian efforts to organize an Asian regional meeting on the situation.]

### Nixon Cancels Appointments

President Nixon, meanwhile, continued to ponder his decision on the aid—a decision widely regarded on Capitol Hill as a fateful one. A meeting of the National Security Council scheduled for today was postponed until tomorrow and the President canceled several appointments so he could confer on the Cambodian crisis.

In the Senate hearings, the advice to the Administration, not unexpectedly, was negative, but what was surprising to the committee members was the virtually unanimous and bipartisan nature of the opposition.

Senator J. W. Fulbright, committee chairman, told reporters after the meeting that the committee members were "virtually unanimous" and "very firmly" against "sending any military assistance under the present circumstances alluded to by the Secretary."

The opposition came not only from Democrats but also from such senior Republicans as Senator George D. Aiken of Vermont and Senator John J. Williams of Delaware, both of whom have tended to support

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# Key Senate Unit Opposes Extension of Arms Aid

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the Administration policy in Vietnam.

Senator Aiken expressed the hope afterward that "the President will take into earnest consideration the views of this committee."

## Stand Called Ambiguous

Secretary Rogers, who promised earlier this month to consult with the committee before any decision was reached, was described by committee members and aides as having been ambiguous about the Administration's inclination on the aid issue, to the point where one

left with the impression that the Administration was intent on giving aid and another came to the opposite conclusion.

An insight into the Administration's thinking was said to have come when Mr. Rogers suggested that Communist control of Cambodia would interfere with the success of the Vietnamization program and with the withdrawal of American forces from South Vietnam.

He was said to have agreed with a majority of the committee that the overthrow of the Government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk last month and the consequent increase of North

Vietnamese and Vietcong military activity against the new Government had not yet resulted in any significant change in the military situation.

Mr. Rogers was said to have argued that there could be a significant military difference, particularly in Vietnamese use of Cambodia as a base for operations into South Vietnam, if the Communists succeeded in asserting military dominance.

That drew a protest from Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri. Noting later that North Vietnamese troops had been using Cambodia as a base for five years, he

asked, "Why should the fact this Government is overthrown affect in any way our policy on Vietnamization?"

The sentiment of the committee, Senator Fulbright reported, was that the extension of military aid to Cambodia would result in a widening of the Vietnamese war and make it "more difficult to carry out disengagement."

## Dissent Linked to McGee

Eleven of the 15 members were present. The only reservations to the majority view were said to have been expressed by Senator Gale McGee, Democrat of Wyoming, who told reporters

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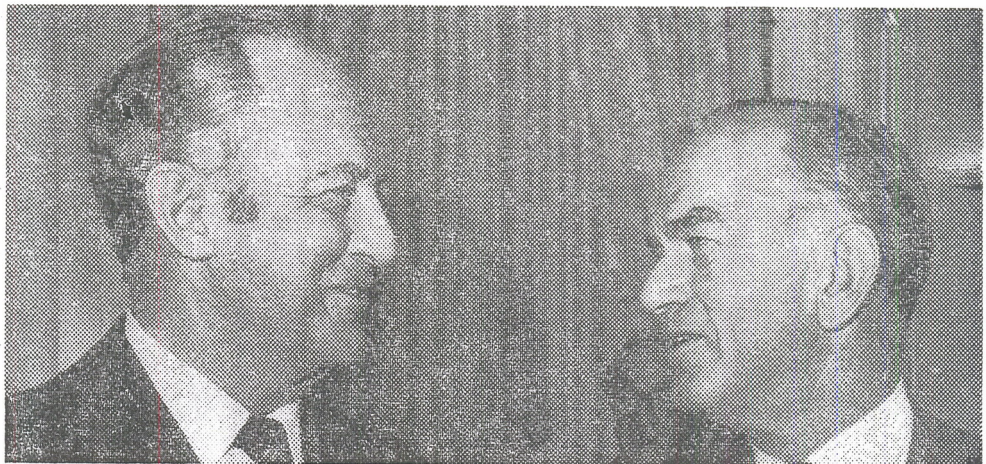
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## to Cambodia

after the meeting that most of the committee members "talked about Cambodia as if it were some valley of the moon."

Mr. Rogers found himself at odds with some committee members over whether the Administration could give military aid to Cambodia without obtaining congressional approval. He suggested that the deciding point was the amount given.

Mr. Rogers disclosed to the committee that the Cambodian government had requested large amounts of aid, which Senator Fulbright said afterwards totaled "hundreds of millions of dollars."



United Press International

AT BRIEFING ON ASIAN SITUATION: Secretary of State William P. Rogers with Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee