

# South Vietnamese and U.S. Statements

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NYT

Following, as supplied by the news agencies, are the texts of statements issued yesterday in Saigon by the South Vietnamese Defense Ministry and the United States command on an operation in Cambodia and of a statement issued in Washington by the Defense Department:

## By Saigon Ministry

With a view to neutralizing the North Vietnamese Communists' scheme of using the Cambodian territory as operation bases to infiltrate, shell and attack in the territory of the RVN [Republic of Vietnam] the ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam] have launched an operation on April 29, 1970, to destroy the enemy's bases along the border in the Parrot's Beak, southwest of Tayninh.

This operation is an indispensable and efficient measure to save the lives of the people and the lives of the soldiers of the ARVN as well as allied forces. Furthermore, this operation is also a nec-

essary measure in the framework of the policy of the RVN to gradually take more of the responsibility to defend its land and to replace American troops by Vietnamese troops.

In this operation the Joint General Staff of the ARVN has requested and has got the support of the American forces in combat support. Logistics assistance and medical evacuation, etc.

The units participating in the operation have received orders to strictly respect the lives and properties of the people, if any, in the area of operation. These units have also received orders to return to the territory of the RVN right after the completion of the operation in the spirit of the respect of the independence, neutrality and the territory of neighboring Cambodia.

## By U.S. Command

In response to the request of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, advisers, air, logistics, medical and artillery support, as required, is

being provided by Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) operating in counterattacks against North Vietnamese Army and Vietcong forces deployed in the Parrot's Beak area of Cambodia just across the border from the Republic of Vietnam.

Such support in the form of helicopters, artillery and tactical air was provided initially by the RVNAF.

Supplementary support to help save the lives of free world forces and to help accomplish RVNAF objectives was requested by the Government of Vietnam from U.S. sources.

Authority to provide the requested supplementary support was given in Washington, as announced in a statement there.

## By Defense Department

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam has announced in Saigon that its forces currently are conducting operations in the Parrot's Beak area along the Cambodian border. The Government of Vietnam has stated the purpose of these operations is to destroy an extensive complex of North Vietnamese and Vietcong bases and depots in Cambodian territory, barely 35 miles from Saigon.

These bases and depots have posed an increasing threat to the security of free world forces in South Vietnam as a result of increased enemy activities in Cambodia and along the Cambodian-South Vietnamese borders.

The United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in response to the request of the Government of Vietnam, is prepared to provide support. This support will take the form of advisers, tactical air, air coordinators, medical evacuation and some logistics assistance.

Before the RVNAF launched its current operations on the Cambodian border, the United States Government was fully consulted. The determination was made that the action is a necessary and effective measure to save American and other free world lives and the strengthen the Vietnamization program.