

U.S. AIDS SAIGON PUSH IN CAMBODIA
WITH PLANES, ARTILLERY, ADVISERS;
MOVE STIRS OPPOSITION IN SENATE

RISING PERIL SEEN

Nixon to Speak on TV Tonight—Action Is Termed Limited

Statements issued in Saigon
and Washington, Page 2.

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 29—

The United States announced today that it was providing combat advisers, tactical air support, medical evacuation teams and some supplies to South Vietnamese troops attacking Communist bases in Cambodia.

The South Vietnamese offensive, including thousands of troops, began this morning.

Announcing an expansion of the nine-year-old active United States involvement in Indochina, Daniel Z. Henkin, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, said that North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops operating from Cambodia had "posed an increasing threat" to American and allied troops in South Vietnam.

The Nixon Administration's unexpected move, which brought an immediate outcry in Congress, is to be discussed by the President in a televised address to the nation at 9 P.M. tomorrow.

Six Weeks of Debate

The decision came after six weeks of intensive debate over the risks and opportunities of alternative courses of action

against the Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. The issue arose following the ouster of the neutralist Chief of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, on March 18, and the decision of the new government to attempt to end the Communist forces' use of Cambodian territory.

It was primarily an American decision that the offensive into Cambodia be staged, officials said privately, even though public statements stressed the South Vietnamese initiative.

While Administration officials declined to say how many Americans would be involved or how long the South Vietnamese offensive might take, some sources stressed in private the limited nature of the decision, estimating that the number of Americans would be "in the low hundreds."

Brief Stay Expected

They also said that the South Vietnamese troops and their American advisers were expected to stay on Cambodian soil only until enemy arms depots and bases could be destroyed, perhaps in a week or two.

A statement issued by the United States command in Saigon reported that Americans were also providing helicopters and artillery support.

The officials declined, in an-

Continued on Page 2, Column 4

U.S. Aids Saigon Push in Cambodia With Planes, Guns, Advisers

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

More than three weeks ago General Lon Nol appealed to the United States, as he had to other countries, to provide weapons for an expansion of his 35,000-man army to about 200,000 men. As an interim measure Washington agreed to supply several thousand captured AK-47 automatic rifles through the South Vietnamese.

There was some speculation that the President would announce a decision to provide American weapons to the shaky government. There was even some speculation that he might hold open the possibility of providing support to Cambodian troops in actions against enemy forces near the South Vietnamese border, giving as a basis that they were a common foe of threatening the security of American forces and the via-

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said the decision to provide American support should not be viewed as Mr. Nixon's answer to the request of Premier Lon Nol of Cambodia for military aid.

Pentagon Begins to List Casualties in Laos, Too

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 29—The Defense Department has begun including casualties from Laos as well as Vietnam in its daily list of those killed and wounded in the fighting in Southeast Asia.

A spokesman said today that the department's monthly summaries would break down the casualties by country.

Today's list did not include any men from the New York area.

ability of Cambodian's control over her territory.

Mr. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon would discuss "the entire situation" in Cambodia as it relates to both Cambodia and U.S. forces in Vietnam.

Administration sources said the new South Vietnamese offensive might have the following effects:

¶If it succeeds in destroying most of the enemy's combat supplies in the area of Cambodia known as the Parrot's Beak, which juts into South Vietnam, it should undermine enemy plans to launch a sustained offensive in the southern part of South Vietnam.

¶It might shore up the Lon Nol Government by demonstrating strong outside support and by putting pressure on the enemy's rear areas.

¶It might underscore Mr. Nixon's warning to Hanoi, issued last Nov. 3—and repeated three times since—that "if I conclude that increased enemy action jeopardizes our remaining forces in Vietnam, I should not hesitate to take strong and

effective measures to deal with that situation."

The last point was underlined by officials concerned with the success of the Administration's strategy of withdrawal and disengagement, or Vietnamization of the war.

In the policy read by Mr. Henkin, the decision to support the offensive was explained as "a necessary and effective measure to save American and other free-world lives and to strengthen the Vietnamization program."

Military sources say the South Vietnamese offensive follows the pattern of search-and-destroy operations in enemy base areas in South Vietnam. Under these tactics, seldom employed any more in Vietnam, a large force moves in, searches for supply caches, headquarters, hospitals and base camps, destroying or removing anything of value to the enemy and then pulling out.

The American support, Mr. Henkin said, "will take the form of advisers, tactical air, air coordinators, medical evacuation, and some logistics assistance."

There are usually 100 to 200 American advisers, mostly officers of the rank of major to colonel, assigned to a Vietnamese division. They help plan operations and move into the field with commanders of subordinate units down to the battalion level.

The air support will be flown from bases in South Vietnam, the sources here said, with American "coordinators," of forward air controllers, operating from the ground and from small spotter planes to direct aerial attacks.

The officials say that the pace of American withdrawals from Vietnam, which has been averaging about 12,000 men a month since June, will probably be slowed temporarily until the enemy reacts to the latest move.