

MAY 11 1970

## CHINESE REACTION DISCOUNTED BY U.S.

Richardson Says Risk Was  
Weighed in Cambodia Step

By PETER GROSE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 10 — The Under Secretary of State, Elliot L. Richardson, said today that when the Administration decided to send United States troops into Cambodia, it believed the possibility of Chinese Communist intervention in Indochina was remote enough to constitute an "acceptable risk."

He added that the Soviet Union had maintained a "rather restrained posture"



United Press International

**Ellsworth Bunker, U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam, predicted it would take 10 months for Communists to rebuild Cambodian bases.**

since the military operation in Cambodia began 10 days ago. Mr. Richardson said he doubted that Moscow would make any moves toward convening an Indochina peace conference while the allied sweep was going on.

Mr. Richardson gave this assessment of Communist reaction to the United States drive against North Vietnamese base areas in Cambodia in an interview on the American Broadcasting Company's radio and television program "Issues and Answers."

Veiled threats that Chinese "volunteers" might join North Vietnamese forces fighting in Laos and Cambodia have come through several low-level diplomatic channels in recent weeks, according to Western diplomatic sources here.

### 'An Acceptable Risk'

Mr. Richardson said that the intelligence estimates given to President Nixon before he decided last month to send troops from South Vietnam across the Cambodian frontier took this possibility into account.

"I don't think I could exclude it as a possibility," he said, "but nonetheless it was a fairly remote, that, looking at concluded that this was an acceptable situation on balance, it was a acceptable risk."

The Under Secretary acknowledged that he, and other Presidential advisers, had expressed "misgivings with respect to possible wider repercussions" from the Cambodian action, but he quickly added: "I do not regard myself as having been an opponent of the decisions that were taken."

Mr. Richardson, a former Attorney General of Massachusetts, has been considered less than enthusiastic about the Cambodian operation. His aides concede that he played no major role in the decisions leading up to the action, but insist that he has actively supported the policy in discussions with Congressmen and public delegations.

He did not explain whether the wider repercussions he feared were foreign or domestic, but he admitted that the reaction of dissent in this country "has been more intense than I personally expected."

### Bunker Doubts New Raids

Asked what the United States would do if Communist forces in Cambodia threatened to occupy Phnompenh, or the capital, overthrow the present Cambodian Government, Mr. Richardson said: "The only categorical answer I can give you is that I do not foresee that we would involve United States combat forces to prevent this."

The United States Ambassador to South Vietnam, Ellsworth Bunker, also commented today on the Cambodian action. He said he doubted that American troops would have to make repeated raids into Cambodia to keep the North Vietnamese forces from rebuilding base areas that are now being destroyed.

He predicted that it would take Communist forces 10 months to reconstruct these base areas "to get functioning in the same magnitude."

"This operation gives more time to develop the Vietnamese forces—I think the Vietnamese can handle whatever situation develops at that time," he said. One advantage of the present operation against the Cambodian refugees, Mr. Bunker said, is that it buys time for the improvement of the Vietnamese armed forces.

Ambassador Bunker returned to Washington for consultations late last week and conferred with President Nixon yesterday.