

# GOLDBERG OPPOSED '66 CAMBODIA PLAN

Says He Told Johnson He  
Feared Political Effects

By HOMER BIGART

Arthur J. Goldberg told Columbia University students yesterday that he had opposed a move within the Administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson to invade Cambodia in 1966.

Mr. Goldberg disclosed later that the sending of American troops into Cambodia had been urged by Henry Cabot Lodge, who was then Ambassador to Saigon. Mr. Lodge's arguments were similar to those that impelled President Nixon to order United States troops into Cambodia two weeks ago.

Mr. Goldberg, the Democratic organization's designee for the nomination for Governor, made these statements after signing a student petition asking Congress to halt the financing of military operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, effective Dec. 31.

To further strengthen his appeal as an antiwar candidate, Mr. Goldberg said that although he was a member of President John F. Kennedy's Cabinet at the time of the American-supported Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, he was not informed of the ill-fated adventure until after it began.

He told the students he rated his opposition to the proposed 1966 invasion of Cambodia as "one of my achievements as Ambassador (to the United Nations)."

**Awakened by Courier**

It was subsequently disclosed that Mr. Goldberg was awakened in the early morning hours of April 22, 1966, by a State Department courier with the text of a cable signed by Ambassador Lodge and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, then United States commander in South Vietnam.

The cable proposed military action against the Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops using Cambodian territory. At the time the United States First Infantry Division, engaged in a sweep along the frontier northwest of Saigon, was reporting heavy fire from the Cambodian side.

On receiving a copy of the Lodge-Westmoreland message, Mr. Goldberg immediately framed a counter-memorandum expressing "strong reservations" on any military action against Cambodia.

He said he had advised the White House, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara that any military advantages from such a move would be outweighed by "very grave political disadvantages."

The most serious and far-reaching consequence, he declared, would be to make it appear that the United States was "contemptuous of the rights of nonwhite, weak countries."

"The scale of Vietcong activities in Cambodia we can prove would simply not in their [Asian] eyes justify calculated United States military retaliation resulting in significant loss of Cambodian lives."

**Feared Reaction Abroad**

Mr. Goldberg said a Cambodian invasion would also bring an outburst of charges that the United States was determined to broaden the war in Southeast Asia.

He added that it would be a "bitter pill" for friendly powers to swallow, particularly Britain, and that there might be an "extremely emotional reaction" by Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia, who might seek help from France, the Soviet Union and China.

Former officials involved in United States foreign policy in 1966 confirmed that the idea of sending troops into Cambodia had been raised frequently, and that it had been rejected every time.

At a news conference earlier yesterday, Mr. Goldberg announced that three former Kennedy aides, headed by Stephen E. Smith, would direct his campaign.

Mr. Smith, a brother-in-law of the Kennedys who was chairman of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's New York State campaign, will be chairman of the Goldberg drive and will set over-all policy.

Day-to-day operations will be directed by Peter Fishbein, a professor of law at New York University, who was an aide in Robert Kennedy's Senate and Presidential primary campaigns.

**Committee Set Up**

Peter Edelman, who was a legislative assistant to Robert Kennedy, will be in charge of policy and planning.

Mr. Goldberg also announced the formation of a committee of elected Democratic officials who are supporting his team, which includes Basil A. Paterson for Lieutenant Governor.

Included are 17 of the state's 26 Democratic Representatives, 52 of 63 Assemblymen, 15 of 24 State Senators, 14 Mayors, the Borough Presidents of Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens and Abraham D. Beame.

Brooklyn, and City Controller Asked whether he wanted the support of Robert M. Morgenthau, who has withdrawn from the race for he governorship nomination, Mr. Goldberg said: "He was a fine United States Attorney and served the people well. I would welcome his support."

Mr. Goldberg is still opposed by Howard J. Samuels.

In Yonkers earlier in the day, Mr. Goldberg was endorsed by Mayor Alfred Del Bello.