

# SAIGON IS QUERIED ON PULLOUT ISSUE

U.S. Is Said to Order Aides  
to Seek Joint Policy on  
Troops in Cambodia

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By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 21—The Nixon Administration, clearly embarrassed by the controversy over the future status of South Vietnamese forces in Cambodia, was reported today to have instructed its two senior representatives in Saigon to discuss the problem urgently with the government of President Nguyen Van Thieu.

At the same time, according to authoritative sources, the Administration is seeking to resolve differences within its own ranks over the wisdom of trying to force the South Vietnamese to withdraw their troops about the time United States units complete their departure from Cambodia under the June 30 deadline set by President Nixon.

Influential officials in the White House and the State Department appeared to favor the withdrawal of the 30,000 South Vietnamese troops along with the Americans, while defense and intelligence officials argued that military factors required that some Saigon units stay in Cambodia for an indefinite time.

Administration sources said that the United States Ambassador to South Vietnam, Ellsworth Bunker, and the United States Commander in Saigon, Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, were instructed earlier this week to work out a joint policy on the withdrawals with South Vietnamese leaders.

Mr. Bunker carried the instructions with him when he left for Saigon Tuesday after consultations here. The Admin-

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istration had already been made aware of the South Vietnamese desire to continue the Cambodian operations.

New instructions in more urgent language were reported to have been sent to Ambassador Bunker and General Abrams today after top officials here read a statement by South Vietnam's Vice President Nguyen Cao ky, that "you will see the presence of our troops [in Cambodia] as long as the Communists fight there."

Both the White House and the State Department refused to comment publicly today on Vice President Ky's statements and they declined to be drawn into discussions about when the Saigon units might leave Cambodia.

The White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, asked by newsmen about the plans of the Army of Vietnam, said "I can't say what the ARVN forces will do."

This contrasted with statements last weekend at a news briefing by White House officials in Key Biscayne, Fla., that the Administration had every reason to believe that the South Vietnamese would leave around June 30. President Nixon said at his May 8 news conference that all American troops including advisers, would be out of Cambodia by the end of June.

The possibility that the South Vietnamese might remain indefinitely was acknowledged publicly for the first time yesterday by the State Department's spokesman, Robert J. Closkey, when he said that "determinations have not finally been made" on the matter.

Both Mr. Ziegler and Carl E. Barch, a State Department press officer, were vague about the reported disagreements between Saigon and Washington on South Vietnamese withdrawal. Mr. Ziegler said he could not confirm the reports of a dispute with South Vietnam while Mr. Barch said he would not comment on the instructions given Ambassador Bunker.

## Ky Says Troops Will Stay

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 21—Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky declared today that South Vietnamese troops were determined to remain in Cambodia after the planned withdrawal of American troops from that country by the end of June.

"I wish to make it clear that we will not let our hands be bound by anyone any more," Mr. Ky told a graduation class at the National Defense College here.

The remarks of the flamboyant 39-year-old Vice President, South Vietnam's leading hawk, was the strongest assertion to date of South Vietnam's right to launch operations against Communist sanctuaries and supply lines inside Cambodia.

## 'A Silly Argument'

He added:

"Some people put forth a hypothesis that if some day the Americans leave Cambodia, then the South Vietnamese will have to follow them out of Cambodia too. This is a silly argument of silly people.

"Our armed forces have the

capability of mounting military operations independently in Cambodia as well as in Vietnam. We will continue to maintain our military presence in Cambodia, not only to destroy the Communists but also to provide protection for the lives and property of 600,000 resident Vietnamese in Cambodia."

The office of President Nguyen Van Thieu made no comment on the Vice President's remarks. In the past Mr. Ky has often stated his own views rather than official Government policy.

## 2 Other Statements Agree

During the day, Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam told reporters at Saigon Airport on his return from the 11-nation Jakarta conference on Cambodia that "we have no timetable for the withdrawal of our troops from Cambodia."

Yesterday Lieut. Gen. Do Cao Tri, commander of III Corps now fighting in Cambodia, said that South Vietnamese forces in Cambodia were not "subject to and limited by the conditions President Nixon has set for United States troops."

The general, a former paratrooper, said that Saigon forces could continue the fight even after American troops had pulled out of Vietnam, and that "at any moment the situation demands, the Republic of Vietnam would be able to send her troops to Cambodia to destroy the Communists."

## Anti-Vietnam Feeling Voiced

Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, May 21—The spokesman for Cambodia's military command today stepped beyond his normal military briefing to address correspondents emotionally on his feelings toward the Vietnamese. Venturing outside the present policy line, Major Amrong declared that any Cambodian would rather die than live under Vietnamese domination.

Asked whether he meant the South Vietnamese as well as the Vietnamese Communists, the major said he meant all Vietnamese.

Four anti-Vietnamese posters were pasted up today on the downtown department store whose tearoom serves as Major Amrong's briefing center.

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