

[Recently]

..... A high White House official*declared that the Administration has every reason to believe the South Vietnamese will pull their troops out of Cambodia about the^{same} time the U.S. is scheduled to do so, June 30th. But since then Vice-President Ky and other Saigon officials have made it clear they have no intention of pulling out by then. Today Defense Secretary Laird backed Ky, not the high White House official, and later today Presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler made the switch in positions complete by agreeing with Laird. Ziegler went even further, indicating that if the South Vietnamese troops do stay in Cambodia, they may get U.S. logistical and air support. Ziegler also repeated President Nixon's pledge that all American forces will be out of Cambodia by June 30th, but he would not rule out the possibility that some might have to go back in again. That helps explain why the Administration so strongly opposes any Senate resolution which would make permanent withdrawal mandatory.

Robert Pierpoint, CBS News, at the White House.

*President Nixon? He said at press conference May 8, "I would expect that the South Vietnamese would come out approximately at the same time we do."