

ROGERS HINTS U.S. WON'T CURB ALLY

Suggests Cambodia Deadline
Doesn't Apply to Saigon

By PETER GROSE

WASHINGTON, May 24—Secretary of State William P. Rogers indicated today that the Administration would not oppose continued South Vietnamese operations in Cambodia after American forces are pulled out, and he left open the possibility that American air support would be provided.

Mr. Rogers said that the Administration was "not concerned at all" at reports from Saigon that the South Vietnamese Army intended to continue operating in Cambodia after United States troops were withdrawn at the end of next month.

Any such operations, he said, could fall under President Nixon's doctrine that "Asians work together to solve Asian problems."

Mr. Rogers spoke cautiously with newsmen at Andrews Air Force Base before he departed for a ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Rome. He declined to say specifically that United States air support would be provided for South Vietnamese units on operations in Cambodia.

"Our forces will be out of Cambodia by July 1," Mr. Rogers said. "But insofar as other aspects of the war are concerned, there is no point to signaling the enemy in advance."

Klein Also Is Cautious

Similar caution on the question of air support was shown by Herbert G. Klein, President Nixon's director of communications, who was interviewed on the Columbia Broadcasting System's radio and television program "Face the Nation."

"I couldn't really rule in or rule out the possibility of air support," Mr. Klein said. "The question is probably too broad to give you a direct answer. I can only say that our aim is to protect the security of American forces."

In the last several days, it has grown clear that the Administration no longer is certain that the South Vietnamese will be bound by the limitations that President Nixon has imposed on the United States operation into Cambodia—principally the July 1 withdrawal deadline.

This uncertainty contrasts with the President's firm statement on May 8 that "I would expect that the South Vietnamese would come out at approximately the same time that we do, because when we come out our logistical support and air support will also come out."

Subsequent Administration statements, including those made today, have cast doubt on whether the President's statements on logistical and air support still were in effect.