

# No GI Pullouts Before July 1

United Press

Washington

Pentagon officials said yesterday that there are no plans for further United States troop withdrawals from Vietnam before July 1.

The statement, in effect, confirmed reports that U.S. military commanders were successful in their appeal to President Nixon to halt American troop pullouts for at least 60 days when he announced April 20 that 150,000 men would be withdrawn during the coming year.

No major U.S. units have been taken out of

See Back Page

## From Page 1

Vietnam since before April 15, shortly before the start of American and South Vietnamese operations into Cambodia.

The withdrawal on schedule might be coupled with an announcement that the operation had been such a success that the original 150,000-man withdrawal element could be expanded.

## LAIRD

While Defense Department spokesman Jerry Friedheim said there are no plans for further withdrawals before July 1, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird told a Pentagon gathering he hopes to "meet or beat" Mr. Nixon's schedule for withdrawal of the 150,000.

At a seminar for nongovernmental organizations, Laird said the Cambodia operation "already has had a substantial effect in insuring success of the Vietnamization program."

Friedheim, deputy assistant defense secretary for public affairs, said Laird has been in "continuing consultation" with military commanders to see if the Nixon schedule might be exceeded.

## POSSIBILITY

Friedheim's statement raised the possibility of the administration being able to increase withdrawals to help ease protests over the U.S. action in Cambodia.

Both the White House and Pentagon have insisted that U.S. forces, including advisers with the South Vietnamese army, will be withdrawn from Cambodia by July 1.

The withdrawal on schedule might be coupled with an announcement that the operation had been such a success that the original 150,000-man withdrawal element could be expanded.

Friedheim denied any such plan but repeated that consultations are continuing "to see if the schedule might be

exceeded."

After withdrawals from Vietnam began last year, they continued at an average rate of 12,500 men a month, although with fluctuations. The new timetable of pulling out at least 150,000 men in ten months will push the rate to 15,000 a month.

If even more men are added to the withdrawal list, the monthly rate will begin to reach the point which officials feel is about the maximum possible from the standpoint of air and sea transportation.

The two-month delay in withdrawing additional units already has caused minor problems in the Army and

Marines corp. in planning training and replacement schedules for Vietnam.

For example, the Marines had expected that the return to the West Coast of most of the First Marine Division would already have started. Instead, the division remains committed to action south of Da Nang in northern South Vietnam.

Before April 15, a total of 115,000 American troops had been withdrawn from the 549,500-man strength figure which had been authorized for Vietnam. The President's announced plan would thus, with earlier reductions, drop total strength to 284,000 by next May.