

# NIXON DESCRIBES CAMBODIAN DRIVE AS GREAT SUCCESS

Says It Insures Continuance  
of Withdrawal—50,000 to  
Come Home by Oct. 15

ADDRESSES NATION ON TV

Implies U.S. Planes Will Not  
Fly Tactical Support for  
Remaining Saigon Units

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*Text of the Nixon address  
is printed on Page 18.*

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WASHINGTON, June 3 —

President Nixon said tonight that the invasion of Cambodia was "the most successful operation of this long and difficult war" and that he was now able to resume his withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam.

Speaking from his Oval Office in the White House, Mr. Nixon told the nation that the Cambodian mission had "insured the continuance and success of our withdrawal program." One-third of the 150,000 men whose withdrawal he announced on April 20 will leave Vietnam by Oct. 15, he said.

The President also reaffirmed earlier pledges to bring the Cambodian operation itself to an end on June 30. He said the only remaining American activity in Cambodia after July 1 would be air attacks on enemy troops and supplies, implying strongly that the United States would not fly tactical missions in support of South Vietnamese operations in Cambodia.

## Shows Captured Material

Mr. Nixon took pains to demonstrate what he viewed as the success of the controversial Cambodian operation. For the first time in his broadcasts to the nation over television, he showed some film of ammunition dumps, rifles, and other war material captured during the operation.

Before the talk, moreover, newspaper correspondents were handed a complete inventory of all equipment and supplies captured or destroyed in the operation.

The President justified the operation in both military and diplomatic terms, and he revived some of the tough rhetoric that had characterized his original announcement of the invasion April 30.

While promising to end the war eventually, he yielded little to his most severe critics and those who would have him disengage either at once or much more rapidly.

"I have pledged to end this war," he said. "I shall keep that promise. But I am determined to end the war in a way that will promote peace rather than conflict through the world. I am determined to end it in a way that will bring an era of reconciliation to our people—and not a period of furious recrimination."

He said that failure to respond to Communist threats in Cambodia last month would have damaged American "credibility" in the eyes of the na-

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tion's allies as well, he implied, as its enemies.

And he included what has now become his almost standard threat to "take strong and effective measures" should the enemy take further actions that jeopardize "the safety of our remaining forces in Vietnam."

Though he pledged to remove 50,000 American troops from Vietnam by Oct. 15, he left himself considerable flexibility. Had he decided to withdraw troops at the average rate of 12,500 a month, which has prevailed since his program began last year, some 75,000 troops would be out by Oct. 15.

In addition, he did not commit himself to any monthly rate for the withdrawal of the 100,000 other troops who under Mr. Nixon's original timetable would be scheduled to leave between Oct. 15 and April, 1971.

Defending his original decision—which he conceded had caused "deep divisions in this country"—Mr. Nixon contended that three major objectives had been involved.

First, he said, the mission had reduced future casualties by eliminating an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam.

Second, he said, the operation gained precious time for

the South Vietnamese to train and "prepare themselves to carry the burden of their national defense."

Finally, the time thus gained and the "dramatic and heartening" performance of the South Vietnamese themselves, had in turn guaranteed that American troops could be withdrawn, Mr. Nixon said.

The President added that he could provide no evidence of success at the bargaining table, and wasted little effort on the diplomatic aspects of the war in Vietnam.

"To the North Vietnamese tonight I say again—the door to a negotiated peace remains wide open," he said. "Every offer we have made at the con-

ference table, publicly or privately, I herewith reaffirm. We are ready to negotiate whenever they are ready to negotiate."

The President once again appealed for public support, but in more restrained terms than he had used earlier.

"I want to express my deep appreciation tonight to the million of Americans who supported me then and who have supported me since in our efforts to win a just peace."

And while he did not yield to the cries of his critics for a quick end to the war, he at least acknowledged their complaints, asserting that he disagreed with them only on the method of ending the conflict.

"I also understand the deep divisions in this country over the war," he said. "I realize many Americans are deeply troubled. They want peace. They want to bring the boys home. Let us understand once and for all that no group has a monopoly on these concerns.

"Our differences are over the best means to achieve a just peace.

"As President, I have a responsibility to listen to those in this country who disagree with my policies. But I also have a solemn obligation to make the hard decision which I find are necessary to protect the lives of the 400,000 young Americans remaining in Vietnam."