

G.I.-Pullout Plans Await End of Drive in Cambodia

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WASHINGTON, June 4—Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird disclosed tonight that President Nixon's senior military advisers would meet at a site in the Pacific for what he called a "major re-deployment conference" shortly after the last American troops are withdrawn from Cambodia on June 30.

Mr. Laird said the conference would designate units that could be withdrawn from the Vietnam war zone under the timetable that the President announced last night—50,000 men out by Oct. 15. The Secretary provided no further details, but presumably the conference will also deal with the deployment of units remaining in South Vietnam.

In his televised address last night Mr. Nixon said that the Cambodia operation was going so well that Mr. Laird had "resumed the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam" and that a third of the 150,000-man cut announced in April would be completed by mid-October.

But Mr. Laird's disclosure of a redeployment conference indicated here that the bulk of the withdrawal would await the end of the Cambodian ven-

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ture. This was also the word today from Saigon and the Pentagon, where officers said that no major units would be removed from South Vietnam until the Cambodian operation was finished.

Mr. Laird also repeated the President's assessment of the Cambodian venture as a tactical exercise whose results are already plain.

Their feeling was that true success might not be determined until the fall. By then it could be seen whether the enemy had re-established his supplies and whether the South Vietnamese Army had actually been able to handle the combat role that it must assume when United States troops withdraw.

But other senior military officers were saying that the true test of the operation would be

the enemy's capacity to resupply the sanctuaries in Cambodia.

Special Telecast

Mr. Laird appeared on a special one-hour telecast of "Meet the Press," seen on the National Broadcasting Company network this evening.

Mr. Laird and Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, departing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, defended American policy in Indochina during the first half hour. Senator Charles E. Goodell, Republican of New York, and Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, both critics of the Administration, appeared during the second half hour.

"Meet the Press" is normally broadcast on Sunday and, with rare exceptions, is only half an hour long. It was not immediately disclosed how tonight's special broadcast had come to be arranged.

On the telecast both sides essentially recited arguments that are now familiar.

While Mr. Laird said he hoped that more than 150,000 soldiers would be able to leave by next spring, General Wheeler, in response to another question, said he did not know whether that was possible because "I don't know what the enemy is going to do."

Both Mr. Laird and General Wheeler agreed with the President's description of the Cambodian operation as a successful tactical operation that had weakened the enemy and shortened American involvement in Indochina.

It was on this point that Senator Church and Senator Goodell delivered their most vigorous rebuttals. For his part, Senator Church said he regarded the attack on the Cambodian sanctuaries as proof of the failure of the President's Vietnamization program of turning over more of the fighting to Saigon's forces.

And Senator Goodell declared that far from limiting the war, "what we have done is to expand the war" by raising the strong possibility that the United States was irrevocably committed to the present Cambodian Government.

He said further that these expanded responsibilities in Indochina would ultimately require "new infusions" of men and materials and would cause "serious consequences" among the American people.

Mr. Church said he had not been particularly impressed by Mr. Nixon's long recital of the accomplishments of the Cambodian operation or by the large quantities of weapons and material reportedly captured by American troops. He said he had been following the war for seven years and that so far as he knew, the generals had never announced a military defeat, but that "we haven't won the war."

Senator Church is co-sponsor, with Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, of legislation that would bar the President from further spending on United States military operations in Cambodia after June 30. The Administration opposes this restraint and it was disclosed today that President Nixon had written a letter of support for a neutralizing amendment sponsored by Senator Robert C. Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia.

The Byrd amendment has been offered as an addition to the Cooper-Church amendment, and would authorize the President to take "such action as may be necessary to protect the lives of United States forces in South Vietnam or to facilitate the withdrawal of United States forces from Vietnam."

Nixon Backs Amendment

WASHINGTON, June 4 (AP) — President Nixon signaled an

Administration effort today to loosen proposed curbs on United States operations in Cambodia by throwing his support to a key Senate amendment.

It was learned that Mr. Nixon, who has indicated all along that he is opposed to any Congressional action to restrict his options in Southeast Asia, has written a letter of support for the amendment offered by Senator Robert C. Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia.