

The President speaks:

Good evening my fellow Americans.

One month ago I announced the decision ordering American participation in a series of operations against Communist-occupied areas in Cambodia which have been used for five years as bases for attacks on our forces in South Vietnam.

The past weekend, in the White House in California, I met with Secretary of Defense James A. Callaghan, General Abrams and other high-level officials on the progress of this operation. I can now state that this has been the most successful operation of this long and very difficult war.

Before going on to details which you will hear in this evening's news, I would like to review briefly why I consider it necessary to have this operation.

I have launched a series of attacks against a number of key cities in neutral Cambodia. Their objective was unmistakable: to link together bases they had maintained in Cambodia for five years in violation of Cambodian neutrality.

The entire 600-mile Cambodia-South Vietnam border would then have become one continuous hostile territory from which to launch assaults upon American and allied forces.

This posed an unacceptable threat to our remaining forces in South Vietnam. It would have meant higher casualties. It would have jeopardized our program for troop withdrawals. It would have meant a longer war. And carried out in the face of an explicit warning from this government, failure to deal with the enemy action would have proved the credibility of our promises.

Vietnamese took part in these operations along with 31,000 Americans. Our combined forces have moved with greater speed and success than we had planned. We have captured and destroyed far more in war materiel than we anticipated and American and allied casualties have been far lower than we expected.

In the month of May, in Cambodia alone, we captured a total amount of enemy arms, equipment, ammunition and food nearly equal to what we captured in all of Vietnam in its same time of the war materiel that has been captured.

This is some ammunition you see. We have captured more than 10 million rounds of ammunition. That's equal to the enemy's expenditures of ammunition for nine months.

troops, U. S. casualties would have been vastly increased. And here you see rice—11 million pounds of rice we have obtained. This is more than enough rice to feed all the enemy's combat battalions in Vietnam for over three months. But this rice you see will not be feeding enemy troops now—rather the war refugees you saw & monument signs.

Now with the rainy season now beginning, it will take the enemy months to rebuild his shattered installations and to replace the equipment we have captured and destroyed.

The success of these operations has enabled us to set for withdrawal of all American forces from Cambodia will be met. General Abrams advises me that 17,000 of the 31,000 Americans who entered Cambodia, create American casualties; that it would lengthen our involvement, that it might have cost more lives. But the operation was undertaken for precisely the opposite reasons and it has had precisely the opposite effect.

Let us examine the long-range impact of this operation. First, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

Second, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

Third, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

Fourth, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

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Sixth, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

Seventh, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

Eighth, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

Ninth, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

Tenth, we have eliminated an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

On April 27, I announced an additional 150,000 Americans would be home within a year. As a result of the success of these Cambodian operations, Secretary Rogers has resumed the withdrawal of 150,000 American forces from Vietnam, announced on April 27. I will now be out on Oct. 15.

As long as the war goes on, we can expect some setbacks and some reversals. But following the success of this effort, we can say now with confidence that we will keep our timetable for troop withdrawals.

Secretary Rogers and I have been particularly encouraged by the resolve of the 11 Asian countries at the Jakarta conference to the point of Cambodia, Cambodia seeks a solution to the problem of its own future. I share their confidence that they will find a way to live in peace.

Our differences over Vietnam. They, too, have come home.

There is one commitment yet to be fulfilled.

is to be a lasting peace in other parts of the world. I have kept the peace in Cambodia, it was subjected to a unprecedented barrage of criticism in this country. I want to express tonight my deep appreciation to the millions of Americans who have supported me then and who have supported me since in our efforts to win a just peace.

I also understand the deep division in this country over the war. I realize that many Americans are deeply troubled. They want to bring the boys home. Let us understand, one by one, the same year, 1971, and for all, that no group has a monopoly on the concerns. Every American shares those deep concerns. I share them very deeply.

Our differences over Vietnam. They, too, have come home.

There is one commitment yet to be fulfilled.

The President speaks:

Good evening my fellow Americans.

One month ago I announced the decision ordering American participation with South Vietnam in a series of operations against Communist-occupied areas in Cambodia which have been successful in driving out of our bases for attacks on our forces in South Vietnam.

The past weekend in the White House in California I met with Secretary of Defense James A. Callaghan, General Abrams and other senior advisers to receive a first-hand report on the progress of this operation. General Abrams's report, I can now state that this has been the most successful operation of this long and very difficult war.

Before going into details which are in the press for this operation, I would like to state that it is important to make his decision: What our objectives were, and our prospects for achieving them.

You will recall that on April 20, I announced the withdrawal of an additional 150,000 American troops from Vietnam within a year, which will bring the total number of American troops in Vietnam down to 280,000. I also reaffirmed our decision to make proposals for a new Vietnam peace.

At the time of this announcement I warned that if the enemy tried to take advantage of our withdrawal program by increased attacks in Cambodia, Laos or South Vietnam, it was that dangerous to the lives of

launched a series of attacks against a number of key Cambodian towns. Their objective was to take them together in Cambodia for five years in violation of Cambodian neutrality.

The entire 600-mile Cambodia-South Vietnam border would then have become one continuous hostile territory from which to launch a new wave of American and allied forces.

This posed an unacceptable threat to our remaining forces in South Vietnam. It would have meant higher casualties. It would have jeopardized our program for troop withdrawals. It would have meant a longer war.

And carried out in the recent past, it would have meant an explicit warning to deal with the enemy action would have ended the credibility of the United States before the entire world.

At every intensive consultation with my top advisers I directed that American troops join the South Vietnamese in responding to the Cambodian threat. I said that our purpose is not to occupy these areas, but to drive them out of the sanctuaries and once their supplies are destroyed, we will withdraw our troops. I said that our purpose is not to occupy these areas, but to drive them out of the sanctuaries and once their supplies are destroyed, we will withdraw our troops.

Vietnamese took part in these operations along with 21,000 Americans. Our combined forces have moved with greater speed and success than we had planned. We have captured and destroyed far more in war materiel than we anticipated and American and allied casualties have been far lower than we expected.

In the month of May in Cambodia alone, we captured a total amount of enemy arms, equipment, ammunition and food nearly equal to what we captured in all of Vietnam in all of last year.

Here is some film of the war materiel that has been captured.

This is some ammunition, you see.

We have captured more than 10 million rounds of ammunition. That's equal to the enemy's expenditures of ammunition for nine months.

And here also you see a view of over 15,000 rifles, machine guns and other weapons we captured. They will never be used against American troops in Vietnam.

This enemy's equipment brought home effectively to a few days ago. I was talking with a South Vietnamese leader in Vietnam. He told me that he had moved earlier in Cambodia and might have captured killed this enemy weapon that he is now looking at. Some of the heavy mortars and rocket launchers and other weapons that have been captured by the United States, base camps and

troops U.S. casualties would have been vastly increased.

And here you see rice—11 million pounds of rice we have obtained. This is more than we had planned. We have captured and destroyed far more in war materiel than we anticipated and American and allied casualties have been far lower than we expected.

Now with the rainy season now beginning, it will be difficult to transport the enemy's supplies and to keep the equipment we have captured and destroyed.

The success of these operations to date has guaranteed that the June 30 deadline for American forces from Cambodia will be met. General Abrams advises me that 17,000 of the 31,000 American troops who entered Cambodia have already returned to Vietnam. The remainder will return by the end of this month. This includes all American support agencies and military advisers.

The only remaining American activity in Cambodia after July 1 will be air missions to Jacca and movement of heavy troops and material there. That is necessary to protect the lives and security of our men in South Vietnam.

Our discussions with the South Vietnamese Government indicate that their primary objective remains the security of South Vietnam; to create American casualties; that it would lengthen our involvement; that it might postpone troop withdrawals. But the operation was undertaken for precisely the opposite reasons and it has had precisely the opposite effect.

Let us examine the long-range impact of this operation. It has had an immediate danger to the security of the remaining Americans in Vietnam; and thereby reduced our future casualties.

Seizing these weapons and ammunition will save American lives. Because of this operation, American soldiers who might not otherwise be coming home will now be coming home.

Second, we won some precious time for the South Vietnamese to train, and prepare themselves to carry the burden of their national defense, so that our American forces can be withdrawn.

General Abrams's reports and from our advisers in the field, one of the most dramatic and heartening developments of the operation has been the splendid performance of the South Vietnamese Army. Sixty per cent of all the troops involved in the Cambodian operations were South Vietnamese. The effectiveness, the skill, the valor far exceeded our expectations.

Confidence and morale in the South Vietnamese Army have been restored.

On April 20, I announced an additional 150,000 Americans would be home within a year. As a result of the success of the Cambodian operations, Secretary Laird has resumed the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam. Fifty thousand of the 150,000 announced on April 20 will now be out on Oct. 15.

As long as the war goes on, we can expect some setbacks and some success of this effort. We can say now with confidence that we will keep our timetable for troop withdrawals.

Secretary Rogers and I have been particularly encouraged by the resolution of the 11 Asian countries at the Jakarta conference to seek a solution to the problem of Cambodia. Cambodia offers an opportunity for these 11 Asian nations, as well as other countries of the area, to cooperate in supporting the Cambodian Government's effort to maintain Cambodia's neutrality, its independence and its territorial integrity. We are hopeful for these Asian initiatives to succeed.

To the North Vietnamese I would say again—the door to negotiations remains wide open. The offer of a neutral, publicly or privately, we are ready to negotiate with them. However, if their answer to our troop withdrawal program, and to our offer to

is to be a lasting peace in other parts of the world.

This is the only way to end this operation, that we would withdraw from Cambodia—just as this Administration has kept every pledge it has made to the American people regarding the war in Vietnam and return of American troops.

Let's look at the record. In June of 1969, I pledged a withdrawal of 200,000 troops. In December of 1969, I came home year. I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1970, I said I would bring home 35,000 troops. In December of 1971, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1972, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1973, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1974, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1975, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1976, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1977, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1978, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1979, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1980, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1981, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. In December of 1982, I said I would bring home 100,000 troops. 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