

100-Mile Range For Bombers To Aid Allies

Examiner News Services

SAIGON — U.S. jet fighter-bombers and spotter planes are supporting Cambodian troops as much as 100 miles inside the Cambodian border, Allied military sources said tonight.

This is nearly five times the 21.7 mile limit for ground operations set by President Nixon.

The sources said French-speaking American pilots are flying missions as far as Kompong Thom, 100 miles from the South Vietnamese border, and that Cambodian airmen are being used in the "back seat" of the U.S. aircraft, the informants said.

Kompong Thom, about 80 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, has been under "harassment" for nearly a week. Phnom Penh dispatches said the air strikes had thrown back the Communist attacks.

The disclosure of the 100-mile penetration followed a Pentagon statement that U.S. planes have begun bombing land and river supply lines in Cambodia behind the 21.7 mile limit.

Jerry Friedheim, deputy assistant Defense Secretary for public affairs, followed an announcement by Gen. Creighton Abrams, American commander in Saigon.

Friedheim said the attacks began "within the last week" when it became clear the Communists had moved well beyond the sanctuary areas attacked by allied ground forces.

He said there was a limit on the depth of the raids but would not say what it was.

'As Required'

The Abrams announcement in Saigon said only that U.S. planes would be used "as required" to attack new Communist supply lines deep in Cambodia.

Nixon had set a 21.7 mile limit on the distance inside Cambodia American ground forces would operate before their scheduled withdrawal by June 30. But the allied drive has forced the Communists to move their supply lines deeper in Cambodia.

Washington has already said the air strikes would continue after June 30.

Pull-Out

Military sources today not-

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ed an accelerated withdrawal of U.S. troops from Cambodia moving 800 men back to South Vietnam. Another 10,000 remain in Cambodia.

In other Indochina developments:

- Phnom Penh dispatches reported the Cambodians, with the aid of Cambodian and South Vietnamese air

strikes, had turned back a Communist attack on Kompong Thom, 80 miles north of Phnom Penh. But they said the highway leading to the deep water port and oil refinery of Sihanoukville is still out.

- U.S. Navy spokesmen said 273 river boats would be transferred to the South Vietnamese navy tomorrow, the largest turnover of naval equipment of the war. As part of the Vietnamization program, this will put 80 percent of the boats operating in South Vietnam in South Vietnamese hands.

- Communist ground fire shot down two U.S. Army helicopters yesterday, one in the Mekong Delta and the other in the northern quarter of South Vietnam. Two crewmen were wounded.

Withdraw

The U.S. Command disclosed that portions of two battalions of the First Air Cavalry Division's Second Brigade began moving back across the border into South Vietnam today, with more expected to move tomorrow.

In the Kompong Thom area, a Cambodian spokes-

man said the fighting had died down today, and most of the North Vietnamese had pulled out of the town.

Kompong Thom has been isolated for more than a month, and the enemy force there apparently is being reinforced and resupplied.

Fighting flared again in the Mekong Delta where the South Vietnamese 21st Division, conducting a new sweep into the U Minh forest, claimed 26 enemy killed and seven captured. Government losses were listed as one

killed, five wounded.

Other troops of the same division killed 23 enemy and captured six in another battle 35 miles farther north, on the eastern edge of the forest. They lost one killed and two wounded, sources said.

American forces had their sharpest encounters of the weekend in Binh Dinh Province, and reported 27 enemy killed in South Vietnam and eight in Cambodia.

Total U.S. casualties were two killed and 17 wounded, the U.S. Command said.