

New U.S. Pullout Leaves 9,700 G.I.'s in Cambodia

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 22 — Units of two American battalions reportedly pulled out of Cambodia today from border regions where they had been searching for enemy facilities.

The withdrawal, reported by an American military spokesman, was said to leave 9,700 United States combat troops in Cambodia — plus a small number of other Americans advising South Vietnamese forces there — eight days before the deadline set by President Nixon for a complete American pull-out.

The units withdrawn today are parts of the Second Brigade of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile). The American spokesman did not specify the number of men involved. American forces remaining in Cambodia are continuing the

search for Communist caches of arms and supplies amid the mud and the torrential downpours of the monsoon season. "We're really having to grope and search now," one source said.

Informed sources guess that so far approximately 30 per cent of the enemy caches believed to have been in the Cambodian border region have been uncovered. They base their calculations on estimates of guerrilla supply requirements, including food, arms and ammunition.

South Vietnamese troops continue to operate in southeastern Cambodia, much farther inland than the 21.7-mile limit set for American troops and advisers by President Nixon. A military spokesman said a South Vietnamese task force was back in the Chup rubber plantation, six miles from the Mekong River town of Tonle Bet, where there has been sharp fighting between Cambodian and Communist forces.

U.S. to Transfer River Boats

Tonle Bet is across the river from Kompong Cham, a provincial capital and military headquarters 20 miles northeast of Pnompenh, which has been repeatedly threatened by encircling Vietnamese Communist troops.

In Saigon, the United States Navy prepared to turn over 273 river patrol boats, assault craft and other river craft to the Vietnamese Navy tomorrow. Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee, who will be at the ceremony, said in a news conference that by the end of the year almost all forces operating on the rivers would be

South Vietnamese, with the United States providing logistic, supply and air support.

In answers to questions, Mr. Chafee reiterated the American position that United States Navy craft have respected the 21.7-mile limit on incursions into Cambodia, and that Neak Luong, a ferry crossing on the Mekong just within this limit, was the farthest point to which American craft or advisers were permitted to go.

Action on the military front in South Vietnam and adjacent areas of Cambodia was generally light today.

Foe Encircles Preyveng

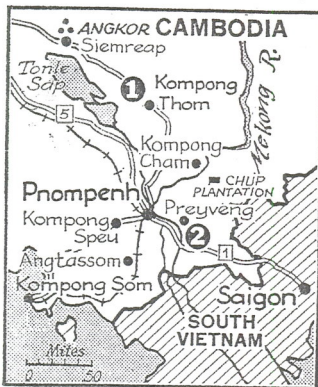
PNOMPENH, Cambodia, June 22 (AP)—Two North Vietnamese regiments were reported today to be taking up positions around the important provin-

cial capital of Preyveng for what may be a major attack.

Preyveng is 31 miles east of Pnompenh and an enemy strike there may be part of a campaign to aim a major blow at the Cambodian capital.

Enemy attacks on nearly every provincial capital and military regional headquarters have scattered the Cambodian army widely and severely drained the forces that were to have been held for the defense of Pnompenh.

Preyveng has been encircled, and is defended only by two South Vietnamese marine battalions, which are being supplied by South Vietnamese helicopters.



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Siege of Kompong Thom (1) was over, with enemy troops leaving the area. A Communist build-up was reported near Preyveng (2).