

\$7.9-Million in U.S. Arms Being Rushed to Cambodia

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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, June 24—The United States, which has promised \$7.9-million in arms aid to Cambodia for this fiscal year, has stepped up its shipments to this country in the last several days.

Jonathan F. Ladd, political-military counselor at the United States Embassy, said today that almost all aid promised to Cambodia for this fiscal year had either arrived or would be here shortly.

In the day's military developments, Maj. Am Rong, the Cambodian spokesman, reported a bombing strike by American planes in conjunction with South Vietnamese and Cambodian planes, over Kompong Thom, which is 80 miles north of Pnompenh.

100 Miles From Border

This account of an attack about 100 miles from the nearest point on the South Vietnamese border represented the deepest reported penetration of American aircraft for combat support in Cambodia. [In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman acknowledged that Cambodians were flying with United States pilots to mark enemy targets, but again insisted that bombing runs by American planes were against enemy supply lines and not in support of Cambodian ground operations.]

On Sunday military officials in Saigon said that American raids were being carried out beyond the 21.7-mile limit set

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by President Nixon for the Cambodian operation, to attack supply lines. The officials said it was unclear whether these raids would cease on June 30, the deadline for the withdrawal of American forces from Cambodia.

Major Am Rong also reported renewed enemy activity around two towns within 30 miles of this capital — Kom-

pong Speu, 30 miles to the southwest, and Prek Tameak, 20 miles to the north.

On the arms shipments, the United States Embassy is apparently making an attempt to get all the aid here before the end of the fiscal year, six days away, even though the money can be carried over into the next year.

Until as recently as two weeks ago — and perhaps even later — almost none of the promised aid had arrived. The only arms that had come in, according to informed sources, were a "few" old M-1 rifles and M-2 carbines from World War II and shortly afterward.

Along with the stepped-up arms shipments, the American Embassy, until now fairly disorganized, appears to be making an effort to improve its operation.

Since last August, when the United States and Cambodia resumed relations after a four-year break, the embassy has been headed by a charge d'aff-

Envoy Is Expected

Many members of the diplomatic community here think this is a strong sign that an Ambassador will be sent here soon. The Cambodians, apparently trying to prod the Nixon Administration into acting, named an Ambassador to Washington, Sonn Voensai, nearly a month ago.

The speed-up in the delivery of arms, which were promised more than a month ago, seemed to coincide with the arrival on June 14 of Mr. Ladd, a 49-year-old retired army colonel with considerable experience as an adviser and Special Forces commander in South Vietnam. He retired from the army less than four months ago after 27 years of service and had been about to invest in a charter-boat business in Florida when the White House called him.

Mr. Ladd's arrival was followed a week later by the dismissal and departure of Col. William H. Pietsch, who had been previously responsible for the military aid shipments.

Cambodian officials, whose spirits have been sagging badly as their three-month war with the North Vietnamese and Vietcong continues to go against them, never complained publicly about the delay in the American aid, but they privately expressed disappointment.

Rise in Aid Expected

This morning the Information Minister, Trinh Hoanh, asked if he was satisfied with the American aid, said, "it is not enough." But he quickly added that he was optimistic that it would be increased in the 1970-71 fiscal year.

There has been speculation that the Nixon Administration might propose \$50-million in military aid for the coming fiscal year, but embassy officials have dismissed this figure as "too optimistic."



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U.S. planes were said to have joined bombing Kompong Thom area (cross).

aires, Lloyd M. Rives, a 49-year-old career Foreign Service officer. He began his tour here with a three-member staff—a political officer, a communications clerk and a secretary. In recent weeks the staff has grown to more than 30 and is still growing.