

# Seizure of Red Arms Caches Told

SAIGON — (AP) — The U.S. incursion into Cambodia captured large amounts of Communist arms and supplies, and on that score alone some observers say President Nixon can make a fairly strong case that the Cambodian venture has accomplished most of what it set out to do.

Example: 95 captured tons of small-arms ammunition, 66,787 mortar rounds, 1500 rockets, 19,303 individual and 2514 heavy weapons and 450 trucks.

But U.S. officials admit they do not know what percentage of the enemy's supplies they got. "In order to know that, of course, we'd have to know how much was there in the first place," said one 3rd Corps officer.

### Salvage Factor

An additional factor is how much the enemy was able to pull out of caches in advance of the invasion.

Reliable information in Saigon and Phnom Penh makes it apparent both sides saw signs of something developing before the March 18 coup that overthrew Prince Norodom Sihanouk and read them the same way.

### Moved Supplies

In Saigon, officials say the U.S. Command ordered hastily assembled weather and Cambodian terrain data on March 10, two days after the first civil disturbances in Svay Rieng in eastern Cambodia and one day before the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong embassies were burned by Cambodian mobs in Phnom Penh.

Diplomatic sources in Phnom Penh with direct contact with the North Vietnam-

ese say the enemy began moving supplies out of sanctuaries in commandeered trucks.

U.S. officials in Saigon admit that the Communist command, apparently having anticipated an Allied move into Cambodia when the first indications of political upheaval appeared, got away with a lot of material, perhaps half their supplies.

### Took Heavy Weapons

That they gave top priority to their most important weapons and munitions may be indicated by the fact that the 19,000 individual weapons captured or destroyed by the Allies included only 2300 AK47s, the standard assault rifle used by enemy troops. The remainder was nearly 4000 older, semi-automatic SKS rifles, 3800 older Soviet-made rifles, and an incredible hodgepodge of other weapons.

The enemy troops apparently took as many rocket grenades, mortars and other

heavy weapons as they could manage, leaving behind a lot of small arms and other types of ammunition, "the kind of stuff that is easier to replace," one source said.

In terms of Nixon's originally stated tactical objectives, the operation's major

failure was the escape of the Communists' headquarters known as COSVN, Central Office for South Vietnam.

"I just wish we had gotten in there six hours earlier," said one 25th Division officer. "COSVN was the big prize. I wish we had gotten it."