

# Cambodia 'A Success,' Rogers Tells Journalists

By Carolyn Anspacher

Secretary of State William P. Rogers said here yesterday that military operations in Cambodia have "succeeded" and pledged that United States ground forces will not again return to that country.

The tanned and smiling Rogers, en route to his third diplomatic tour of Southeast Asia, told some 600 editors and broadcasters attending a State Department foreign policy conference at the Hilton Hotel that the Cambodian

incursion served three purposes.

- It severely damaged the capacity of the enemy to conduct attacks against U.S. forces in Vietnam.

- It dramatically increased the confidence and capability of South Vietnamese forces.

- It increased prospects for the program of "Vietnamization."

Sandwiching his prepared text between slices of amiable improvisations, and submitting to a barrage of ques-

tions from the floor, Rogers said flatly that "the enemy can no longer count on a safe haven in Cambodia."

Anticipating by some 24 hours the report to the Nation President Nixon is to issue today on completion of the 60-day operation in Cambodia, Rogers said the continued presence of South Vietnamese troops, the increased flow of American weapons and the presence of U.S. air power together would frustrate new efforts by Communist forces to utilize Cambodian territory.

He charged that enemy troops are seeking every possible way to "destroy the will and fiber of the Cambodian government," but emphasized that this country has no other wish than to support and encourage Cambodia's "expressed desire to remain neutral."

Rogers also reaffirmed that the Cambodian operation in no wise modified U.S. policy in Vietnam.

"Our policy remains constant," he said. "We would prefer a negotiated settlement which results in all foreign troops leaving Vietnam."

Rogers, neither in his pre-

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JOSEPH SISCO  
Mideast warning



WILLIAM ROGERS  
An 'open' meeting

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pared text nor during the question-answer period, gave any explanation why President Nixon limited the Cambodian incursion to a 60-day operation.

The Secretary acknowledged somewhat ruefully, however, that while he expected an adverse public reaction, he had no notion that the response would be as "severe" as it was. He did not further elaborate on this theme.

## MEETINGS

Rogers came to the one-day conference directly from meetings with the President at the Western White House in San Clemente, and left for the Asian tour that will take him to Manila for the annual meeting of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. From there he goes to Saigon, to Tokyo for meetings with U.S. ambassadors to numerous Asiatic nations, and then to meet next weekend in London with Britain's new Prime Minister Edward Heath.

The conference at which Rogers made his appearance was unusual in several respects. It was the first time such a meeting has been held on the West Coast and it was the first time that at least some segments have not been off the record. In fact the day's entire proceedings were televised to the public.

The Secretary of State perhaps best synthesized the reason for the unusually open session by explaining:

"Vice President Agnew thought I should be more friendly to the press and the media. So I'll do my part." With this he grinned broadly.

## OTHERS

The six other speakers, all top policy makers for the government, were equally agreeable to the media representatives. They kept their speeches relatively brief, and then fielded questions, some hostile, some heavy handed, some probing.

The most direct and distressing assessment of this country's foreign problems came from Joseph J. Sisco, assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

He said that the Mideast presents the United States with a situation more dangerous than Vietnam and warned that if the present impasse between Arabs and Israelis continues in its present rigidity, the more unlikely will be a political settlement.

#### OPTIONS

The longer the conflict lasts, he said, options available for the disputing nations diminish, and he added: "There is great risk of the possibility, if not the probability of general hostilities being renewed at some time, if not in the near future."

Sisco expressed guarded optimism about last week's proposals offered by the United States under which Mideast nations would "stop fighting and start talking."

He said the proposals are being considered "seriously" by the concerned nations and said that replies are expected to be received quietly and without fanfare through diplomatic channels.

#### SALE

Until these replies are received, Sisco said, he would not discuss the possible sale of American planes to Israel.

Sisco declared that the most unstable force in the Middle East in the Palestinian liberation force which he said is increasing in political strength and its most radical faction is dedicated to the total extinction of Israel.

So far, he said, there is no Palestinian group with which to deal in seeking a basis for a cease-fire and future peace negotiations.

#### NASSER

In response to a question, he said that Egypt's Nasser is the one individual strong enough to develop a possible compromise. "I think if Egypt is willing to settle," he said, "Nasser still has the position and the prestige to make the solution stick."

Sisco expressed apprehension over the growing influence of Russia in the Middle East and he described as a "very serious development" the installation of anti-aircraft missile sites and the

use of Soviet pilots for operational flights.

"The spectre of a major power conflict between the United States and Russia could confront us unless stabilization of the situation is attained," he said.

#### WORLD

Our relationships with other segments of this vastly troubled world were as frankly assessed by the days speakers.

W. Beverly Carter Jr., deputy assistant secretary for African affairs, gave an encouraging report on this country's new and "mature" role in the 42 nations of that continent.

He spoke of a "new era" of relationships in Africa, marked by a "lower silhouette and an inconspicuous investment policy."

#### LATIN

John H. Crimmins, deputy assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, took note of the ferment and turbulence rife in Latin America with growing nationalism, increased frustrations and seemingly unbridgable culture differences.

He expressed cautious hopes that this country's \$400 million aid program will be maintained and that greater emphasis on people-to-people relationships will relieve mounting frustrations.

Marshall Green, assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs, found a good deal to be pleased about in his segment of the world — notably in Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan — all economically stable and growing stronger by the day. He spoke repeatedly of the success of the Nixon Doctrine, which he said has "greater modesty" than previous U.S. policies in the Pacific area, and gives more initiative to Asians.

Martin J. Hillenbrand, assistant secretary for European affairs, came under the gun during his question-and-answer period from a half-dozen newsmen of media whose audiences are largely composed of emigres from the so-called "captive nations" of Eastern Europe.

Hillenbrand said that while Soviet domination of Eastern Europe is a "historical tragedy," all the United States can do for the immediate future is hope for an eventual relaxation of the Soviet grip over these nations.

William D. Blair Jr., deputy assistant secretary for public affairs, presided as moderator and astronaut Michael Collins, now assistant secretary for public affairs, acted as official State Department greeter.