

# Nixon Tells Hanoi: 'Time To Negotiate'

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SAN CLEMENTE — Laying down strict guidelines for future U.S. and South Vietnamese military activity in Cambodia, President Nixon today hailed the success of the controversial Allied operation and told Hanoi that "the time has come to negotiate."

In a 14-page white paper that carefully catalogued the reasons for committing 32,000 U.S. troops to Cambodia, Nixon pledged that only air missions to disrupt enemy supply lines into South Vietnam would continue.

Nixon announced that all Americans, "including logistic personnel and advisers," had withdrawn with a majority of the 48,000 South Vietnamese troops that participated in the incursions.

Future guidelines barred U.S. combat troops and U.S. advisers from being reintroduced, providing only for an increase in military and economic assistance to the Cambodian government.

Pledging to "renew our efforts to bring about genuine negotiations," Nixon reminded Hanoi that "there is no military solution to this conflict." He reiterated that all previous American proposals "remain on the conference table."

## "Peace Must Come"

"There is nothing to gain by waiting," he said.

"Sooner or later, peace must come. It can come now through a negotiated settlement that is fair to both sides and humiliates neither. Or it can come months or years from now with both sides having paid the further price of protracted struggle."

The President appealed to Hanoi to "ponder seriously its choice . . . the costs of continued war," while South Vietnam becomes stronger,

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or "the promise of an honorable peace."

Nixon declared that Saigon remains ready "to prevent reestablishment of base areas along South Vietnam's frontier," and "to assist in the evacuation of Vietnamese civilians should it become necessary."

## Bars U.S. Action

But the President barred use of American air support or U.S. advisers on the South Vietnamese operations.

"The primary objective of the South Vietnamese remains Vietnamization within their country," Nixon said. The President apparently was seeking to allay fears that South Vietnam had territorial ambitions of its own in Cambodia.

Nixon said that during this period, when the United States is transferring the burden of the war to South Vietnam and Cambodia, an increase in military and economic assistance will be needed.

He said all the Communist arms captured in Cambodia — enough small arms to equip 74 full strength infantry battalions and enough artillery to equip 25 infantry battalions — would be turned over to the army of Gen Lon Nol.

The President said there would be no U.S. ground personnel in Cambodia except for the regular staff of the embassy in Phnom Penh.

In only one area did Nixon indicate continuing U.S. military involvement in Cambodia, saying: "We will conduct — with the approval of the Cambodian government — air interdiction missions against the enemy efforts to move supplies and personnel through Cambodia toward South Vietnam and to reestablish base areas relevant to the war in Vietnam. We do this to protect our forces in South Vietnam."

He said the U.S. would encourage efforts in keeping with the Nixon doctrine, of other Asian nations to supply Cambodia with the troops and diplomatic support necessary to maintain its independence and neutrality.

The President described his Southeast Asian policy as one of transition, saying: "Increasingly, the United States will look to the countries of the region to assume the primary responsibility for their own security — while America moves gradually from a leading to a supporting role."

Nixon cited the accomplishments of the Cambodian incursion as:

- The elimination of an immediate threat to U.S. forces and to the security of South Vietnam.

- The capture of "massive amounts" of enemy supplies.

- The ending of the concept of immune Cambodian sanctuaries for the enemy which the enemy relied on for five years.

- The dislocation of enemy supply lines, cutting off the Communists from resupply by the sea, and separation of North Vietnam's Communist regular troops from the guerrillas in South Vietnam.

- The bolstering of the morale and self-confidence of the South Vietnamese army.

- The maintenance of U.S. credibility.

Nixon reiterated that U.S. peace proposals were aimed at the removal of all foreign troops from South Vietnam and the creation of "conditions in which all political forces can compete freely and fairly in the future of the country."

The white paper did not specifically mention elections as the way to bring about a political settlement.

To improve the climate for negotiations Nixon reminded Hanoi that the U.S. had already cut back search and destroy mission, cut tactical air operations by more than 20

percent, and announced that 265,000 American troops would be withdrawn by the spring of 1971.

"These are not the actions of a government pursuing a military solution. They are the decisions of a government seeking a just peace at the conference table," said Nixon.

He charged that Hanoi has

"ignored our unilateral gestures and rejected every offer or serious negotiations" and he labled Hanoi's demand for unconditional withdrawal of American troops "a demand for surrender."

"Acceptance of such conditions would assure in advance Communist domination of South Vietnam," the President said.

The white paper did not foreclose the possibility that Cambodia would fall to the Communists, and Nixon reiterated that the United States has no direct commitments to save the Cambodian government.

The President provided a long list of the supplies and equipment seized and said ten major Allied thrusts had resulted in 11,349 enemy

killed and 32328 captured. Both South Vietnamese and American casualties were lighter than they normally are in Vietnam.

Nixon expressed no regret at having launched the operations that touched off demonstrations throughout the U.S.

"Had we stood by and let the enemy act with impunity in Cambodia we would be

facing a truly bleak situation," he said.

Arguing that the venture was a military success, Nixon declared that "we still face substantial problems, but the Cambodian operations will enable us to pursue our goals with greater confidence."

"Now that the Cambodian operation is over, I believe there is a wide measure of

understanding of the necessity for it," he said.

He called on "the steadfastness of the American people to see the war through to an honorable conclusion."

Nixon's Cambodia report, which will be amplified in an hour-long TV appearance tomorrow night, came during a period of increased diplomatic activity that appeared to signal a new effort to move the stalled peace negotiations.

There were indications the President intends to upgrade the Paris peace talks by appointing a successor to Henry Cabot Lodge, the chief American negotiator who quit last December in disgust over lack of progress.