

JOINT PLEA TO AID CAMBODIA IS MADE BY U.S. AND SAIGON

Appeal at Vietnam Meeting
of 6 Allied Nations Brings
No Immediate Response

ROGERS PROMISES HELP

Secretary Pledges Military
and Economic Assistance
—Thais Put Off Decision

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By TAD SZULC

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, July 5—The United States and South Vietnam joined today in appealing to their allies in the Indochina war to provide urgent aid to Cambodia.

But the pleas by Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Premier Tran Thien Kheim brought no immediate response from Thailand, South Korea, Australia or New Zealand—the four other members of the Allied Nations Ministerial Conference who gathered in Saigon for their annual meetings.

While American forces withdrew last week South Vietnamese troops have remained in Cambodia. Mr. Rogers told the allied ministers today that the United States planned to keep up its air strikes against Communist forces on Cambodian territory and to provide military and economic aid.

No Decision by Thailand

United States officials said that Thailand, which they had hoped would send ground combat troops to Cambodia, had so far reached no "political decision" to do so.

The appeals by Mr. Rogers, who spent the second day of the three-day visit to Saigon attending the ministerial conference, and Mr. Khiem were made as reports from Cambodia stressed the gravity of the military situation there, where poorly armed and badly trained Cambodian soldiers faced North Vietnamese and Vietcong invaders.

It was understood that the deteriorating Cambodian situation was described to the ministers during the closed afternoon session at Saigon's Hotel Majestic by Adm. John S. McCain Jr., United States Commander in Chief, Pacific, as part of his over-all briefing on military developments in Asia.

Conference sources said that there was concern among the allied governments over the stability of the Pnompenh Government of Premier Lon Nol.

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the continuing movement of Communist troops throughout Cambodia, and their redevelopment in the country's eastern provinces.

They said that the ministers were in no position to assess on the basis of available information whether Pnompenh was under a direct enemy threat.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the allied conference this morning, Premier Khiem said that "there is no country in the world that deserves" international support better than Cambodia.

Mr. Rogers, who spoke at the afternoon session, was reported to have urged the allied governments to give "serious thought" to what they could do to help Cambodia.

The conference's communiqué was limited, however, to the statement that the ministers "suggested that the free nations examine what assistance they could give to Cambodia in response to its requests."

On Vietnam, the conference pronounced itself satisfied with "the steady improvement of the military situation."

The day-long meeting at the heavily guarded hotel—South Vietnamese soldiers swept the sidewalks around it with mine detectors—produced a series of reports and speeches, but no actual discussion among the ministers.

The conference was in the nature of a ceremonial gathering designed to stress publicly the international support for South Vietnam rather than to seek or reach decisions.

South Vietnamese leaders were evidently concerned that the Nixon Administration might offer new concessions to North Vietnam in order to get the Paris peace talks off dead center.

While United States officials continued for the second day to maintain strict secrecy over discussions yesterday between Mr. Rogers and President Nguyen Van Thieu on the Paris talks, they said today that the two governments agreed on the desirability of exploring any new initiatives to accelerate the negotiating process.

Yesterday it was said that Mr. Rogers and President Thieu

had reached no decision on whether new initiatives were indeed desirable.

United States officials emphatically denied reports that Mr. Rogers and President Thieu failed to reach agreement at their meeting yesterday on the negotiating strategy.

Philippines Not At Parley

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MANILA, July 5 — For the first time since 1966, the Philippines is not attending the annual Vietnam allies conference in Saigon. The Philippines withdrew a 2,000-man civic action group last year after a four-year tour of duty.