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U.S.-Thai Talks on Aid to Cambodia Reported Snagged

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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, July 6—American discussions with Thailand over the possible dispatch of Thai troops to Cambodia are reported to have bogged down over Thai demands that the United States underwrite a large share of the cost.

An American official spent two days in Bangkok last week trying to work out an agreement and left after receiving what was described as a brush-off.

A member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which visited Phnompenh yesterday for a meeting with Premier Lon Nol, expressed deep concern over the Thai attitude.

American officials said that Thailand had seemingly accepted the principle of sending some of her 100,000-man army, completely equipped by the United States, into the threatened northern and western regions of Cambodia near the Thai border, but that she was holding up action until she has received certain American guarantees.

The Thai demands were reported to have been countered with reminders that all American military spending is facing serious budget cuts in the current fiscal year and that in-

line with the Nixon Doctrine on Asian's assumption of greater defense responsibility. Washington expected the Asian nations to do more for themselves and for their region and to count less on the United States.

The United States is reported to have rejected Thai requests that it pay for the dispatch and maintenance of Thai troops in Cambodia in the same manner as it pays for the upkeep of a Thai infantry division in South Vietnam.

The possibility of transferring units of that division to Cambodia appears also to have been rejected because, under terms of the appropriation, the troops can be subsidized only in Thailand or in South Vietnam.

There is reluctance also to give Thailand guarantees that the United States will replace arms and ammunition supplied to her under the military aid program if such material is expended in Cambodia.

Alternative Step Weighed

Some American officials, however, are said to be considering the possibility of circumventing the strict Congressional restrictions on the use of arms supplied to Thailand by replacing those Thailand might expend in a possible combat role in Cambodia through matériel supplied without such

limitations in South Vietnam.

Other officials, however, believe that in the present critical mood of Congress this procedure would be considered as a subterfuge and arouse oppo-

sition. They say that President Nixon favors a thoroughly above-board attitude toward Congress on the use of military aid appropriations.

The officials, angered by the Thai attitude, express the view that Thailand must be persuaded to commit herself to an action vital for her own security without prior assurance that a third power will pick up the tab.

Thailand's reluctance to commit herself to the defense of regions of Cambodia that seem vital to her own security after four months of war and deep penetration by the Vietnamese Communists into the regions near Thailand are causing anguish to Cambodian officials. South Vietnamese officials share Cambodia's impatience with Thai inaction.

So far, Thailand is known only to have established three air control stations in the northwest to provide ground liaison for reconnaissance flights over Cambodia by the Thai Air Force. These posts turn over intelligence gathered by the planes to Cambodian military authorities.

Thailand has also lent Cambodia five T-28 light bombers for use while the United States is overhauling the 15 T-28's of the Cambodian Air Force. In direct aid, Thailand has supplied only items of clothing.