

NEW U.S. ARMS AID DUE FOR CAMBODIA

Officials Drafting \$50-Million
Plan—No Heavy Military
Equipment Is Included

JUL 8 1970

By HEDRICK SMITH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 7—The Nixon Administration is drafting plans for a \$50-million program of military aid for Cambodia in the coming year as part of its continuing effort to bolster Premier Lon Nol's Government against Communist forces.

Such a program would be in keeping with the Administration's declared intention to aid the Cambodian Government and encourage other Asian powers to assist it, but without a direct American military commitment to its survival.

Official sources said the White House had not given final approval to a specific aid package but explained that the amount was expected to be several times larger than the \$7.9-million in small arms and other military equipment shipped to Cambodia, or approved for shipment, earlier this year.

They said that interagency planners expected a package of \$50-million, roughly what the White House is said to believe Congress will approve.

Because of sensitivities on

Continued on Page 5, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

Capitol Hill, officials emphasized that American military aid to the Cambodian regime would have to be restricted to small arms, jeeps, trucks, communications equipment, uniforms, tents and other light equipment.

It is not clear whether the entire package will be part of the worldwide military aid program, requiring Congressional approval, or whether part of it will come from general contingency funds subject only to the President's control.

Officials said, however, that the Cambodian request for some heavy military equipment such as helicopters, tactical jet fighters, naval patrol craft and artillery pieces is likely to be turned down. These items were part of the \$500-million in military aid requested by Premier Lon Nol in a message to President Nixon on April 20.

Cambodian Army Expanded

The Cambodian Government requested ample aid to expand its army from 30,000 men to roughly 200,000 but the Nixon Administration questioned its ability to absorb large amounts of technologically advanced equipment. Some high officials also opposed large volumes of American aid because they feared it would lead the United States to the same kind of involvement in Cambodia as in South Vietnam.

Instead, President Nixon approved in June a modest stop-gap military aid program of \$7.9-million to provide 20,000 M-1 rifles and M-2 carbines, some pistols and 30-caliber machine guns, plus ammunition, medical supplies, uniforms and radios.

Previously, the United States had delivered to the Cambodian Army about 6,000 Soviet-designed AK-47 rifles, some 60-MM. and 82-MM. mortars, light and heavy machine guns, antitank rocket launchers and some ammunition for these weapons, all captured from enemy forces in Vietnam.