

U.S. PLANS TO AID THAIS WHO FIGHT INSIDE CAMBODIA

Tentative Accord Reached
—Senator Church Terms
Step Abuse of Power

By ROBERT M. SMITH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 — The State Department confirmed today that the United States had reached a tentative agreement on American aid to the 5,000 troops being recruited or trained in Thailand for service in Cambodia.

Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department's press spokesman, said that "no final, overall agreements have yet been reached," but acknowledged in response to questions that tentative agreement had been reached. Mr. McCloskey also indicated that some of the troops "would go or be prepared to go" to Cambodia about the end of this month.

Senator Is Critical

The State Department acknowledgement followed a report from Bangkok yesterday that Premier Thanom Kittikachorn had said the United States had agreed to finance the troops. The confirmation brought an immediate charge by Senator Frank E. Church, Democrat of Idaho, that the agreement was "another instance of the abuse that flows from unchecked executive power."

Senator Church is the sponsor, together with Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, of legislation that would prevent further American military operations in Cambodia without the approval of Congress. It would also prohibit the hiring of foreign troops to fight in Cambodia.

The legislation, in the form of an amendment to the foreign military sales bill, has been passed by the Senate and is now before a Senate-House conference committee.

Church Sees 'Urgency'

Senator Church argued that today's development emphasized the "urgency" for Congressional acceptance of the amendment. He said that if the amendment were now in effect, the announcement "would represent the second violation within a week's time."

"The first," he continued, "was the disclosure that direct American air support is now being extended to Cambodian troops."

There have been recurrent reports that the Thais were negotiating with the United States over financial assistance for any troops they sent to Cambodia.

The Thais are now training

Continued on Page 8, Column 4

U.S. Tentatively Agrees to Aid Thais Being Sent to Cambodia

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

3,000 ethnic Cambodians living in Thailand as well as the first contingent of an eventual force of 2,000 Cambodian soldiers who are to be sent to Thailand for training.

Aid Is Defended

State Department officials said today that, while there is no actual agreement, United States officials have made it clear to the Thais that they will get aid for the troops. One problem, according to the officials, is that the aid must come out of American military assistance to Cambodia.

The officials say that, since the size of military aid to Cambodia for this fiscal year has not been decided, it is difficult to discuss what the Thais can be given.

State Department officials say that the ethnic Cambodian soldiers whom the Thais will provide will be eligible for American assistance if they are integrated into the Cambodian army.

One reportedly unresolved question is whether the Thais will allow the ethnic Cambodians to come under Cambodian military control.

In response to a question, Mr. McCloskey said that it was not yet clear whether the Administration would have to ask Congress for special legislation to authorize the aid.

He also said that it would be possible for troops recruited or trained in Thailand to enter Cambodia at the end of the month whether or not a final agreement on American aid was reached by then.

Defense Department testimony before a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee last November disclosed that, under a secret agreement made in 1967, the United States has been paying Thailand \$50-million a year for sending a combat division to South Vietnam. To encourage Thailand to send the unit, the United States also agreed to increase its military assistance by \$30-million for two years and to supply Thailand with a battery of antiaircraft missiles.