

# U.S. and Cambodia Sign Military Assistance Pact

## Washington Agrees to Supply Light Arms Reportedly Valued at \$50-Million, in Effect Rejecting Bigger Request

By **TERENCE SMITH** **AUG 21 1970**

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — The United States has agreed to provide Cambodia with substantial new supplies of small arms and military equipment in an effort to bolster the five-month-old Government of Premier Lon Nol.

The State Department confirmed today that an agreement was concluded yesterday in Phnompenh, the Cambodian capital.

But the spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey, declined to specify the size of the new agreement or explain whether the program would be financed out of existing funds or would require new legislation.

He refused to comment on press reports that the aid would total \$50-million worth of small arms, ammunition, jeeps, trucks,

communication systems and other light military equipment. The agreement, he said, provided for a "modest but meaningful program which can be put into the hands of the Cambodian armed forces very swiftly."

The new program will cover the military assistance to be given to Cambodia during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971. Last May and June the United States provided provided \$8.9-million in military aid on an emergency basis to help the Lon Nol Government in its struggle against Communist forces.

In agreeing to provide light military equipment the United States is essentially turning

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down a larger Cambodian request for about \$500-million worth of heavy military equipment, such as tactical jet fighters, helicopters, naval patrol craft and artillery pieces. Premier Lon Nol submitted the request to President Nixon on April 20, 10 days before the American and South Vietnamese incursion into eastern Cambodia.

### Congress to Be Briefed

Mr. McCloskey said the details of the new agreement were being withheld while members of Congress were consulted about the size and specifics of the aid. He indicated that a more complete announcement would be made on Monday.

The issue is a touchy one, because of Congressional criticism of military aid programs for Thailand and South Vietnam.

In an effort to placate critics in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, Marshall Green, will brief the committee tomorrow. Earlier in the week, Mr.

Green attempted to see several Senators privately to outline the agreement, but when he came to J. W. Fulbright, the committee chairman, Mr. Fulbright balked and insisted that the assistant secretary appear before a formal session of the committee.

The Senator is also likely to express concern about what he and others see as a deepening United States commitment to the preservation of the Lon Nol Government.

Speaking to that point today, Mr. McCloskey asserted

that the aid program included no new commitments. He noted that the aid would be administered by the United States embassy rather than American military advisors.

The formal arrangements governing the agreement were contained in an exchange of notes on Thursday between the United States charge d'affaires, Lloyd Rives, and Cambodian officials. They include the customary safeguards against use of the arms for offensive purposes or sale to third countries.