

# AGNEW SEES PERIL TO G.I.'S IN VIETNAM IF CAMBODIA FALLS

Says on Plane En Route to  
Asia That U.S. Will Do All  
It Can to Help Lon Nol

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AGANA, Guam, Aug. 23—

Vice President Agnew warned today that it would be impossible for United States combat troops to pull out of South Vietnam if the Communists overthrew the Government of Premier Lon Nol and took over Cambodia.

"We're going to do everything we can to help the Lon Nol Government," the Vice President told newsmen aboard his Air Force plane as he headed toward Asia on his second diplomatic mission there this year.

A dozen hours after he conferred at the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif., with President Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's adviser for national security affairs, the Vice President underlined the importance of a non-Communist Cambodia.

He restated the Administration's desire to withdraw United States troops from Southeast Asia, but added that "the whole subject matter of Cambodia is related to the security of our troops in Vietnam."

## Peril to Pullout Seen

Noting that Cambodia and South Vietnam shared a border 600 miles long, Mr. Agnew said that that fact would make it impossible for the Vietnamization program and the disengagement of American troops to take place if Cambodia falls."

The Vice President refused to speculate about the possibility that the United States might find it necessary to send ground combat units to Cambodia again as it did last spring in a two-month joint assault with the South Vietnamese on Communist border sanctuaries.

He stressed The Administration view that it was concerned chiefly with the threat posed to the safety of withdrawing American forces by a Communist take-over of Cambodia.

But Mr. Agnew appeared to have carried that theme one step beyond previous White House assertions, linking the

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security of the Cambodian Government with the security of the Americans.

He said that members of the United States Senate who have expressed fears that the Nixon Administration was becoming increasingly committed to the preservation of the Government of Premier Lon Nol failed to realize that "we have no commitment to Cambodia, but we do have a commitment to South Vietnam and we have a tremendous moral obligation to our own forces fighting in South Vietnam not to leave them in such a vulnerable and weakened position that they would be unable to extricate themselves."

On his nine-day journey, the Vice President will discuss Cambodia and other issues with leaders in South Korea, Thailand, South Vietnam and Taiwan. His mission consists largely of reassuring the allies that antiwar sentiment in the United States, particularly in the Senate, will not diminish the Administration's ability to replace United States combat troops with other forms of aid.

The allies no doubt will ask him, said the Vice President, about an amendment adopted in the Senate last week to prohibit United States financing of

South Vietnamese, Thai or other allied troops who come to the aid of Cambodia or neighboring Laos.

Mr. Agnew expressed confidence that the House would not go along with the amendment to the pending military procurement appropriations bill.

But even should the amendment become law, he said, "There are many ways to bring about financial assistance to a friendly nation." He implied that rather than subsidize the allied troops directly, the United States could perform a book-keeping shift that would give some other form of "financial relief" and enable the ally to pay for dispatch of the troops out of its own treasury.

The Vice President toned down considerably his criticism of Senate doves at home. Only last Monday he charged that supporters of the plan offered by Senators Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, and George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, for a fixed deadline to withdraw all American troops from South Vietnam were backing a "blueprint for the first defeat in the history of the United States."

Today, as he sat on the arm of a chair and took questions from reporters as Air Force Two flew 35,000 feet above the Pacific for an overnight stop here, Mr. Agnew said Asian

leaders might well be concerned about Senate attitudes. But he said there were encouraging signs—among them the defeat of three attempts to block expansion of the Administration's Safeguard antiballistic missile program—that showed a "weakening of this isolationist sentiment."

## Will Be Frank With Allies

However, the Vice President also stated that he planned to be "very candid" with the Asian leaders and tell them that the United States was reordering its priorities—cutting back on defense spending and increasing domestic budgets. He was unequivocal, for instance, in stating that the decision "will be carried out" to withdraw 20,000 of the American troops stationed in South Korea. The authorized strength for American troops in South Korea is 64,000.

The issue of United States troop reduction is particularly troublesome to the Government of President Chung Hee Park of South Korea, whom Mr. Agnew will meet tomorrow on the first stop of his four-nation tour.

"Steps are being taken to provide increased material assistance" to South Korea in return for the troop pullout, said the Vice President, but he declined to be specific about the aid.

## U.S. Denies Policy Shift

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 23 (UPI)—The White House said today that Vice President Agnew's remarks linking United States interests in Asia to the stability of the Cambodian Government represented no change in the Nixon Administration's policy.