

Agnew Tells Cambodians U.S. Won't Send Troops

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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Aug. 28—Vice President Agnew told Premier Lon Nol of Cambodia today that the United States would supply his country with money and arms but would not send American troops to her defense.

The Vice President spent nearly five hours here, across the swollen Mekong River from an area of Vietcong strength, in a dramatic show of American interest in the newest Indochina battleground.

His presence in Pnompenh—standing beside the Chief of State, Cheng Heng, as a Cambodian military band played a ragged rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner"—represented a high point in United States relations with the Lon Nol Government.

[Mr. Agnew arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, later in the day and dined with Premier Thanon Kittikachorn, The Associated Press reported. He plans to hold meetings with Thai leaders Saturday before returning to the United States.]

Mr. Agnew told reporters before leaving for Bangkok that he had "made no commitments

whatsoever" to expand the American presence in Cambodia.

"If my presence gave a message to the Communists that we are not going to stand idly by in the sense of rendering economic aid and material assistance when free nations are invaded," he said, "that's exactly what we had in mind."

The Vice President flew to Pnompenh from Saigon in a planned, widely expected but unannounced departure from the schedule of his nine-day Asian tour. Soon after his Air Force jet touched down at the airport on the city's outskirts, he strode briskly to one of four waiting United States Army helicopters, each outfitted with a machine gun, for the quick trip to the residence of the Chief of State.

Cambodian soldiers were on nearly every roof and along the main highways of the city. Mr. Agnew's own Secret Service escort, carrying Israeli-made machine pistols, flanked him at all times.

The Vice President's military aide, Gen. John M. Dunn, said

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STOPOVER IN PNOMPENH: Vice President Agnew, at right center, greeting Cambodia's Chief of State, Cheng Heng, yesterday. Mr. Agnew also conferred with Premier Lon Nol. At left, a Secret Service agent carries a machine pistol.

Agnew Bars Use of Troops in Cambodia

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there were "small groups of the enemy very close" to Pnompenh but that they were cut off from the capital both by the heavy security measures and by the flood waters that nearly ringed the city.

Mr. Agnew was the first White House official to visit Cambodia since Richard M. Nixon,

then Vice President, stopped here in 1953. He said that he told Premier Lon Nol that the United States was interested in "a continued nonaligned status for Cambodia; that we would continue to be of help in the military assistance program, as has already been indicated, that we would attempt to help them with the free nations of Asia in any way we could econom-

ically but that we want them to understand that we weren't going to become militarily involved in Cambodia."

His remarks to Premier Lon Nol, Deputy Premier Sirik Matak and other key Cambodian leaders were "extremely guarded," Mr. Agnew said. "I explained that we would not become militarily involved, that the concept of the Nixon doctrine, the fundamental concept, is that we will help free Asian nations to help themselves."

Official American sources here said that the \$40-million in military assistance announced this week by the Administration would be enough to satisfy the current needs of the Cambodian armed forces.

Mr. Agnew said that the Cambodians' requests for military aid were "extremely modest" and that they were not seeking equipment that was costly to operate and required skills not possessed by the country's military force.

He also said that he saw no prospect that the United States would send military advisers into Cambodia, as it did in South Vietnam at the outset of the American involvement there.