

HOUSE GROUP ACTS TO WIN APPROVAL OF CAMBODIAN AID

Appropriation Committee in
Maneuver to Get Around
Senate Unit's Opposition

\$550-MILLION IS VOTED

Administration Is Reported
Threatening a Shift of
Jurisdiction Next Year
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 —

With Administration support, the House Appropriations Committee set in motion today a legislative maneuver around the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to obtain Congressional approval of a large-scale military aid program for Cambodia.

The House approved legislation this evening authorizing \$550-million in supplementary military aid, including \$255-million for Cambodia.

The House Appropriations Committee, however, did not wait for the authorizing legislation before providing the aid funds requested by the Administration for nations in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Under its parliamentary rules, the House cannot normally appropriate money for foreign aid until it has been authorized in separate legislation. The House Appropriations Committee maneuvered to get around such legislative restrictions.

Special Ruling Sought

First, the committee struck out of its bill provisions stating that the funds would not be available until they were authorized. Then the committee went to the Rules Committee—the legislative policeman of the House—to get a special ruling. This would provide that when the bill is called up on the House floor later this week, it would not be subject to a parliamentary objection that the funds had not been authorized.

The target of this parliamentary maneuvering was the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which has jurisdiction over the authorizing legislation. The committee has scheduled hearings starting tomorrow on the Administration's request. But in view of the critical attitude of Senator J. W. Fulbright, the Chairman, there is considerable doubt that the committee will complete action on the authorizing legislation before Congress adjourns.

If the Senate Foreign Relations Committee fails to act, then the House Appropriations Committee action, which the House is considered certain to endorse, will pave the way for Congress to provide the military aid money without authorizing legislation.

The supplementary appropriations bill is scheduled to be taken up in the Senate next Monday, and the expectation is that the Senate Appropriations

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Committee will follow the House committee's lead by including the military aid funds. Once the House has acted, a parliamentary objection cannot be made in the Senate that the funds have not been authorized.

Fulbright Assails Military

Senator Fulbright expressed doubts that he could command the votes in the Senate to block the funds until an authorization bill was passed. "It's just another example of how the military is running things around here," he said in an interview.

Behind the scenes, the Administration was contributing to the pressure on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. According to Senator Fulbright, a high-ranking State Department official called a committee staff member today to warn that in view of the committee's uncooperative attitude, the Administration would move next year to take away the committee's legislative jurisdiction over the military aid program.

Within the Administration, an argument is going on over whether to draft military aid legislation so that in the future it would go to the Senate Armed Services Committee. The State Department official was said to have reported that

the Pentagon was winning the argument in view of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's uncooperative attitude on the supplemental military aid request.

\$990-Million in Aid Funds

The House committee, in opposing a \$1.5-billion supplementary appropriations bill—the final appropriations of the Congressional session—included \$990-million in military aid funds. The amount was \$45-million less than requested by the Administration. But the committee made no cuts in the proposed Cambodian aid program.

Included in the funds approved by the House Committee was \$500-million to guarantee military credit sales to Israel. The Israeli funds have already been authorized by Congress through an amendment to the Military Procurement Act.

In addition, the committee bill would provide \$150-million for South Korea, \$30-million for Jordan, \$5-million for Lebanon, \$3-million for Indonesia, \$20-million for South Vietnam, \$155-million for Cambodia, plus restoration of \$100-million in foreign aid funds that the Administration had already diverted from other programs for Cambodia. These funds have not been authorized by Congress.