

U.S.I.A. Chief Says Cambodia Drive Hurt U.S. Abroad

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 — Frank Shakespeare, the director of the United States Information Agency, said today that American prestige abroad had suffered as a result of the "traumatic" impact of the United States military incursion into Cambodia last May and June.

He said that confidence in the United States overseas had begun to build up again since the incursion, but he said that "we would be considerably above that point now" had it not been for the action in Cambodia.

Before the incursion, Mr.

Shakespeare asserted, American prestige abroad was high as a result of the Nixon Administration's approach to foreign policy. The military strike into Cambodia jarred that prestige, he said.

"There was a traumatic reaction in the world at large, particularly at the time it occurred," he said.

Agrees With Poll

Mr. Shakespeare's remarks, made on "Issues and Answers," an American Broadcasting Company television program, coincided with the conclusions of a commercial opinion poll commissioned by the U.S.I.A. last July that indicated that American prestige had suffered significantly in Western Europe

and Japan as a result of the Cambodia incursion.

The results of the poll have never been made public because of the Administration's policy of classifying such studies as secret, but portions of the findings were made public last August by Representative Allard K. Lowenstein, Democrat of Nassau County.

Although Mr. Shakespeare did not refer to the poll today, an aide said his assessment of United States prestige abroad was based on that and similar studies. The aide said a survey taken in November, 1969, had provided the basis for Mr. Shakespeare's assertion that confidence in the United States had "zoomed all over the world" before the Cambodian incursion.

In answer to a question, Mr. Shakespeare said he had been advised in advance of the plans to send American troops into Cambodia. He declined to say whether his advice had been

sought on the impact such a move would have on world opinion, although he said the Administration had taken this factor into account.

President Nixon announced last April 30 that he was sending United States troops into Cambodia to destroy enemy sanctuaries near the South Vietnamese border. Up to 18,000 American troops took part in the operation, which stopped at the end of June.